

2 FINDINGS FROM THE 2003 YPBAS

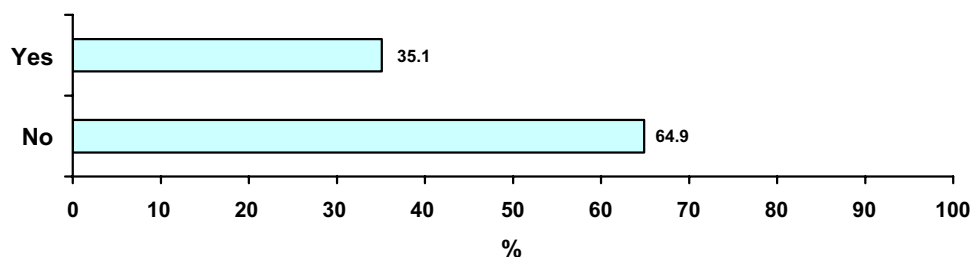
2.1 General Drug Use Patterns

The following paragraphs present an analysis of general drug use patterns amongst pupils in the 2003 survey. It should be noted that both drugs and solvents have been combined into a single category and any references to drugs should be understood to mean both drugs and solvents.

2.1.1 Ever Offered Drugs Or Solvents

The survey revealed that more than one in three pupils (35%) had been offered drugs or solvents, with the likelihood of being offered drugs or solvents increasing significantly with age. Boys (38%), compared with girls (32%), those entitled to free school meals (39%), and pupils in the BELB area (43%) were also significantly more likely to have been offered either drugs or solvents (Figure 1, Table 2.1).

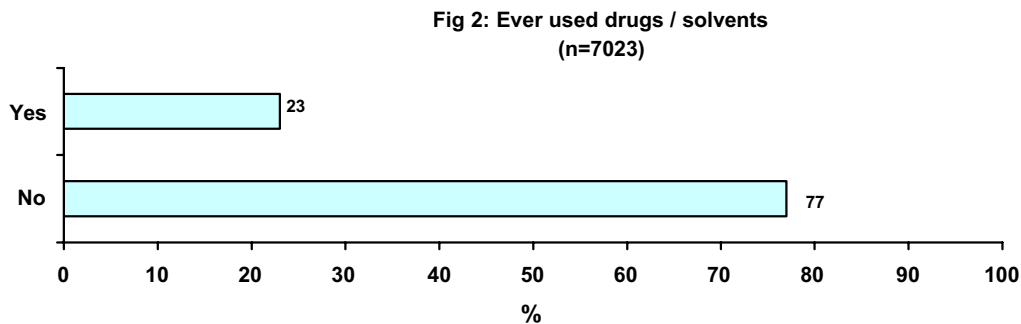
Fig 1: Ever offered drugs / solvents? (n=7227)



		Yes	No	n
		%	%	
All Respondents		35.1	64.9	7227
Age***	12 or younger	16.6	83.4	1481
	13	22.4	77.6	1288
	14	33.9	66.1	1352
	15	50.4	49.6	1422
	16 or older	56.7	43.3	1167
Sex***	Male	37.7	62.3	3686
	Female	32.4	67.6	3542
School	Secondary	35.2	64.8	4527
	Grammar	35.1	64.9	2700
Education & Library Board***	BELB	43.1	56.9	1393
	WHSSB	31.6	68.4	1296
	NEELB	33.9	66.1	1671
	SEELB	39.9	60.1	1251
	SELB	28.6	71.4	1615
Eligible for Free School Meals**	Yes	38.9	61.1	1454
	No	34.2	65.8	5764
* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)				

2.1.2 Ever Used Drugs Or Solvents (Lifetime Prevalence)

Almost one in four (23%) pupils said that they had used or tried illegal drugs or solvents (Figure 2).

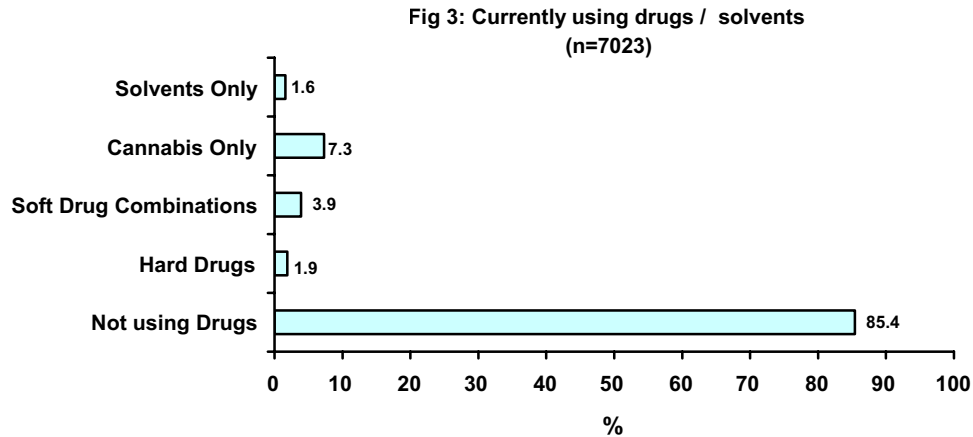


The likelihood of having used drugs or solvents was found to be significantly associated with pupil age, gender, school type and entitlement to free school meals. Those more likely to have used drugs or solvents were older, male, attending secondary schools, be entitled to free school meals and be attending schools in the BELB area (Table 2.2).

		Yes	No	n
		%	%	
All Respondents		23.0	77.0	7023
Age***	12 or younger	9.5	90.5	1408
	13	14.5	85.5	1259
	14	21.1	78.9	1327
	15	33.2	66.8	1405
	16 or older	37.7	62.3	1152
Sex***	Male	26.1	73.9	3530
	Female	19.9	80.1	3493
School**	Secondary	24.2	75.8	4332
	Grammar	21.1	78.9	2690
Education & Library Board***	BELB	29.8	70.2	1300
	WHSSB	20.4	79.6	1266
	NEELB	22.1	77.9	1635
	SEELB	26.6	73.4	1234
	SELB	17.7	82.3	1586
Eligible for Free School Meals***	Yes	27.3	72.7	1375
	No	22.0	78.0	5639
* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)				

2.1.3 Current Drug Use (Ever Used Drugs and Still Using Them)

Amongst all pupils in the survey, 15% were found to be currently using drugs or solvents. Seven percent were using cannabis only, with 4% using different soft drug combinations and a further 2% using hard drugs. The use of solvents only was recorded by 2% of pupils (Figure 3).

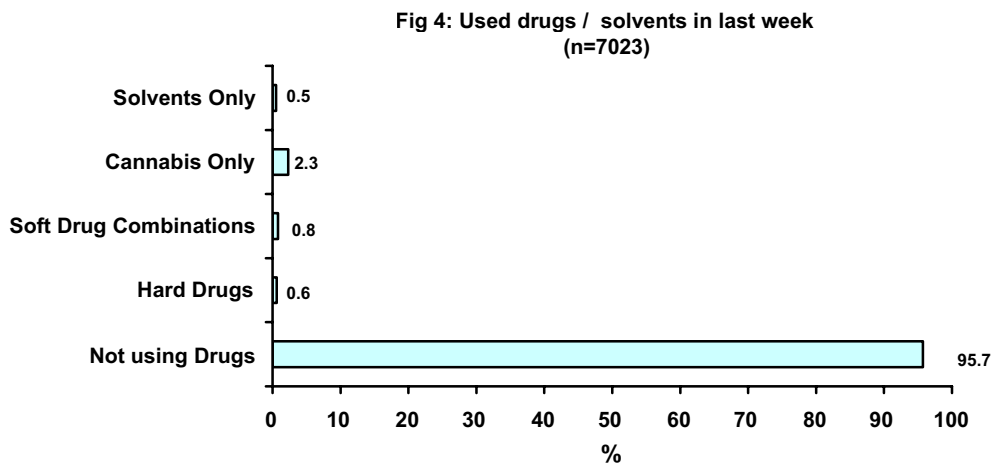


The likelihood of being a current drug user was significantly associated with age, sex, school type and eligibility for free school meals. Although just 5% of those aged 12 or under said they were currently using drugs, this increased to more than one quarter (27%) of those aged 16+. Proportionately more boys (17%), compared with girls (12%), also reported to be using drugs in 2003. Those attending secondary schools (16%), entitled to free school meals (18%), and attending schools in the BELB area (20%), were also more likely to be currently using drugs (Table 2.3).

Table 2.3 Currently using drugs or solvents by pupil characteristics				
		Yes	No	n
		%	%	
All Respondents		14.6	85.4	7023
Age***	12 or younger	4.6	95.4	1408
	13	8.7	91.3	1260
	14	12.5	87.5	1326
	15	21.8	78.2	1405
	16 or older	26.7	73.3	1151
Sex***	Male	17.0	83.0	3530
	Female	12.3	87.7	3493
School**	Secondary	15.6	84.4	4333
	Grammar	13.1	86.9	2690
Education & Library Board***	BELB	19.8	80.2	1300
	WHSSB	12.0	88.0	1266
	NEELB	14.6	85.4	1636
	SEELB	16.1	83.9	1233
	SELB	11.3	88.7	1586
Eligible for Free School Meals***	Yes	17.9	82.1	1376
	No	13.8	86.2	5640
* (X ² , p<0.05); ** (X ² , p<0.01); *** (X ² , p<0.001)				

2.1.4 Drug Use In The Last Week

In the week before the survey, 4% of all pupils said that they had used drugs, with 2% using cannabis, 1% hard drugs and 1% combinations of soft drugs (Figure 4).



The likelihood of having used drugs or solvents in the week before being surveyed was found to be significantly associated with pupil age, gender, school type, education and library board area and entitlement to free school meals. Those more likely to report having used drugs in this period were more likely to be older (aged 16 or older, 10%), male (6%), attending secondary schools (5%), be entitled to free school meals (7%) and attending schools in the BELB area (6%) (Table 2.4).

Table 2.4 Used drugs or solvents in last week by pupil characteristics				
		Yes	No	n
		%	%	
All Respondents		4.3	95.7	7023
Age***	12 or younger	1.4	98.6	1408
	13	3.3	96.7	1260
	14	2.3	97.7	1327
	15	5.1	94.9	1404
	16 or older	9.5	90.5	1152
Sex***	Male	5.9	94.1	3530
	Female	2.6	97.4	3493
School***	Secondary	5.1	94.9	4332
	Grammar	2.9	97.1	2691
Education & Library Board***	BELB	6.4	93.6	1393
	WHSSB	2.6	97.4	1296
	NEELB	4.0	96.0	1671
	SEELB	4.5	95.5	1251
	SELB	3.3	96.7	1615
Eligible for Free School Meals***	Yes	6.9	93.1	1375
	No	3.6	96.4	5639

* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)

2.1.5 Ever Used Drugs, Solvents Or Alcohol (Lifetime Prevalence)

The table below presents the lifetime prevalence rates for drug, solvent and alcohol use among pupils in the 2003 survey. Where possible, the lifetime prevalence rates are also compared between 2003 and 2000. The lifetime prevalence rates for use of any illegal drug were found to differ significantly among some groups, with those more likely to have used any illegal drug being: male, aged 16+, attending secondary schools, living in the Belfast Education and Library Board area, and be entitled to free school meals. Analysis by survey year also found that respondents in the 2003 survey were significantly less likely to have used any illegal drug compared with those in 2000 (Table 2.5).

Table 2.5 Lifetime Prevalence (%) by pupil characteristics (2003) and by survey year						
		Any illegal drug ¹	Solvents	Cannabis	Ecstasy	Alcohol
		%	%	%	%	%
All Respondents		23.0	9.9	17.5	2.5	59.5
Sex	Male	26.1***	10.8*	19.8***	2.6	60.4**
	Female	19.9	9.1	15.2	2.4	58.7
Age	12 or younger	9.5***	6.2***	3.0***	0.6***	29.6***
	13	14.5	9.1	7.6	1.8	50.7
	14	21.1	9.1	15.0	1.7	61.2
	15	33.2	12.0	28.3	3.5	76.9
	16 or older	37.7	12.9	34.1	4.8	82.9
School	Secondary	24.2**	11.2***	18.2	3.0**	61.4***
	Grammar	21.1	7.9	16.4	1.7	56.5
Education & Library Board	BELB	29.8***	11.4*	25.0***	3.7*	62.9***
	WHSSB	20.4	9.4	13.8	2.1	58.3
	NEELB	22.1	10.5	16.9	2.7	57.4
	SEELB	26.6	10.5	21.7	1.9	65.8
	SELB	17.7	8.2	11.8	2.2	55.0
Eligible for Free School Meals	Yes	27.3***	12.1**	21.2	3.5*	63.2***
	No	22.0	9.4	16.6	2.3	58.7
Survey Year	2000	25.0**	15.6***	14.9***	3.9***	57.9**
	2003	23.0	9.9	17.5	2.5	59.5

¹ For the purposes of this study, illegal drug use refers to the use of cannabis, speed, LSD, Ecstasy, Poppers, Tranquilisers, Heroin, Magic Mushrooms, Crack, Cocaine, Anabolic Steroids and Solvents

The table also shows a similar pattern of response for solvents, with those more likely to have ever used being: male, aged 16+, attending secondary schools, living in the Belfast Education and Library Board area, and be entitled to free school meals. Respondents in the 2000 survey were also more likely to have used solvents compared with those in the 2003 survey.

Those more likely to have ever used cannabis included: boys, those aged 16+, and, those pupils attending schools in the Belfast Education and Library Board area.

Lifetime usage of ecstasy was also associated with school type in addition to age, sex and education and library board area, with those more likely to have used being: aged 16 or older; attending secondary schools; attending schools in the Belfast Education and

Library Board area; and, be entitled to free school meals. Note also that the 2003 survey recorded a significant reduction in the lifetime prevalence of ecstasy compared with the 2000 survey.

Finally, ever having used alcohol was found to be significantly associated with all of the key background variables in the survey, with those more likely to have used being: male; aged 16+; attending secondary schools; attending schools in the Belfast Education and Library Board area; and, be entitled to free school meals. Note also that lifetime prevalence of alcohol in the 2003 survey was significantly less than that recorded in the 2000 survey.

2.1.6 Drug, Solvent And Alcohol Use In The Last Year (Last Year Prevalence)

With the exception of survey year, the likelihood of having used any illegal drug in the year prior to being surveyed was found to be significantly associated with all of the key background questions, with those more likely to have used in the previous year being: male, aged 16+, attending secondary schools, attending schools in the Belfast Education and Library Board area, and be entitled to free school meals. Not also that the last year prevalence of using any illegal drug or solvent was found to have reduced significantly between 2000 and 2003.

Table 2.6 Last Year Prevalence (%) by pupil characteristics (2003) and by survey year						
		Any illegal drug ¹	Solvents	Cannabis	Ecstasy	Alcohol
		%	%	%	%	%
All Respondents		9.6	5.7	14.2	1.8	33.3
Sex	Male	12.0***	5.9	16.2***	2.0	33.9
	Female	7.1	5.4	12.1	1.7	32.7
Age	12 or younger	2.6***	3.3***	1.4***	0.3***	9.2***
	13	5.8	5.8	5.8	1.1	19.8
	14	6.8	5.1	11.9	0.8	31.9
	15	14.4	6.4	23.6	2.3	49.2
	16 or older	19.4	7.2	28.6	4.2	58.8
School	Secondary	10.3**	6.2*	14.8	2.1*	33.8
	Grammar	8.4	4.8	13.2	1.4	32.6
Education & Library Board	BELB	13.2***	6.5	19.6***	2.9*	35.3**
	WHSSB	7.3	4.8	11.2	1.5	31.6
	NEELB	9.8	6.0	14.2	1.8	32.5
	SEELB	9.3	6.5	17.3	1.6	36.9
	SELB	8.4	4.6	9.7	1.5	31.2
Eligible for Free School Meals	Yes	11.6**	6.1	17.7***	2.7**	33.2
	No	9.1	5.5	13.3	1.6	33.4
Survey Year	2000	11.5 ***	Nc ²	13.0	3.1***	Nc
	2003	9.6	Nc	14.2	1.8	Nc

¹ For the purposes of this study, illegal drug use refers to the use of cannabis, speed, LSD, Ecstasy, Poppers, Tranquilisers, Heroin, Magic Mushrooms, Crack, Cocaine, Anabolic Steroids and Solvents
² Nc: No Comparator

Having used solvents in the last year was found to be significantly associated with pupil age and school type, with those aged 16+, as well as those attending secondary schools, more likely to have used in the previous year.

The likelihood of having used cannabis in the previous year was significantly associated with pupil age, sex and entitlement to free school meals, with users more likely to be male, aged 16+ and be entitled to free school meals.

Use of ecstasy in the previous 12 months was found to be significantly associated with age, school type, entitlement to free school meals, education and library board area, and survey year. Users of alcohol were more likely to be: aged 16+, attending secondary schools, living in the Belfast Education and Library Board area, and, be entitled to free school meals. The last year prevalence of ecstasy use was found to be lower in 2003 compared with 2000.

Finally, with regard to alcohol use in the previous 12 months, those most likely to have used were: aged 16+; and, be attending schools in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area.

2.1.7 Drug, Solvent And Alcohol Use (Last Month Prevalence)

Overall 8% of all pupils reported using illegal drugs in the month before being surveyed. Use of any illegal drugs in the previous month (Last Month Prevalence) was found to be significantly associated with pupil age, sex, school type, education and library board area, and entitlement to free school meals. Those young people most likely to have used illegal drugs in the previous month were more likely to be: male, aged 16+, attending secondary schools, attending schools in the Belfast Education and Library Board area, and be entitled to free school meals.

Table 2.7 Last Month Prevalence (%) by pupil characteristics (2003) and by survey year						
		Any illegal drug ¹	Solvents	Cannabis	Ecstasy	Alcohol
		%	%	%	%	%
All Respondents		7.6	2.4	9.2	1.1	25.6
Sex	Male	9.6***	2.8	10.7***	1.3	25.7
	Female	5.5	2.1	7.7	0.9	25.4
Age	12 or younger	1.8***	1.7	0.9***	0.1***	5.5***
	13	4.8	2.9	3.2	0.7	13.8
	14	5.2	2.3	7.5	0.4	21.8
	15	11.5	2.6	16.2	1.2	39.3
	16 or older	15.5	2.4	19.8	2.6	49.3
School	Secondary	8.4**	2.8*	10.5***	1.3*	27.1***
	Grammar	6.2	1.8	7.3	0.7	23.1
Education & Library Board	BELB	10.8***	2.3	13.4***	1.9**	27.6***
	WHSSB	5.6	2.1	6.0	0.6	24.0
	NEELB	7.6	2.6	9.1	1.2	25.1
	SEELB	7.3	2.7	12.0	1.0	29.5
	SELB	6.7	2.3	6.4	0.6	22.7
Eligible for Free School Meals	Yes	10.0***	2.9	12.2***	1.6*	26.9
	No	7.0	2.3	8.5	0.9	25.3
Survey Year	2000	9.7 ***	Nc ²	9.7	1.7**	Nc
	2003	7.6	Nc	9.2	1.1	Nc

¹ For the purposes of this study, illegal drug use refers to the use of cannabis, speed, LSD, Ecstasy, Poppers, Tranquillisers, Heroin, Magic Mushrooms, Crack, Cocaine, Anabolic Steroids and Solvents
² Nc: No Comparator

The likelihood of having using solvents in the previous month was significantly associated with school type, with those attending secondary schools more likely to report usage.

Cannabis use in the previous month was found to differ significantly by pupil age, sex, school type, education and library board area and entitlement to free school meals, with those more likely to have used being: male, aged 16+, attending secondary schools, attending schools in the Belfast Education and Library Board area, and be entitled to free school meals.

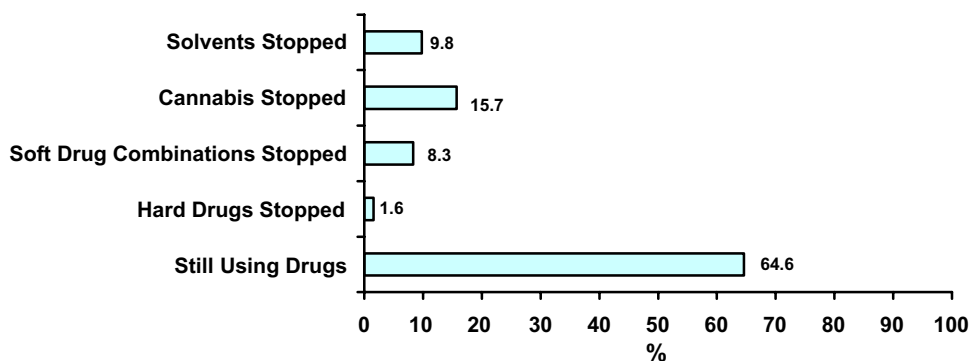
Use of ecstasy in the month prior to being surveyed was found to be higher among those: aged 16+, attending secondary schools, attending schools in the Belfast Education and Library Board area, and be entitled to free school meals. The last month prevalence of ecstasy use was found to be lower in 2003 compared with 2000.

Finally, in relation to alcohol use in the last month, those more likely to have used were: aged 16+, attending secondary schools, and attending schools in the South Eastern Education and Library Board area.

2.1.8 Current Drug Status Amongst Those Who Had Ever Used Drugs

The survey found that almost two out of three pupils (65%) who had ever used drugs or solvents, were still using them (Figure 5).

Fig 5: Current drug use amongst those who had ever used drugs (n=1616)



Analysis by the various pupil background characteristics found that among those who had ever used drugs or solvents, those aged 12 or younger were more likely to say that they had stopped using them (51%). Note that there were no significant differences in response to this question among other groupings (Table 2.8).

Table 2.8 Current drug use among all pupils who had ever used drugs by pupil characteristics				
		Stopped	Still Using	n
		%	%	
All Respondents		35.4	64.6	1616
Age***	12 or younger	50.7	49.3	134
	13	39.6	60.4	182
	14	39.6	60.4	280
	15	34.0	66.0	467
	16 or older	28.3	71.7	434
Sex	Male	33.7	66.3	921
	Female	37.8	62.2	696
School	Secondary	34.4	65.6	1049
	Grammar	37.2	62.8	567
Education & Library Board	BELB	33.3	66.7	387
	WHSSB	39.1	60.9	258
	NEELB	33.3	66.7	363
	SEELB	37.8	62.2	328
	SELB	34.9	65.1	281
Eligible for Free School Meals	Yes	34.1	65.9	375
	No	35.8	64.2	1240
* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)				

2.1.9 Age First Started Using Drugs, Alcohol And Solvents

The analysis also focused on whether or not there were differences between 2000 and 2003 in the age at which young people first started using drugs, alcohol and solvents. The table below shows that between 2000 and 2003 the mean age at which young people first used either drugs or solvents increased significantly from 12.29 years in 2000 to 12.50 years in 2003. Although the average age at which young people started taking drugs (excluding solvents) had increased slightly between 2000 and 2003, the difference was not statistically significant. Looking at solvents on their own, found that the average age of first taking them had fallen, although the difference was not statistically significant. There was also no significant change between 2000 and 2003 regarding the mean age young people first started using ecstasy and cannabis, although the survey did reveal that young people in 2003, compared with those in 2000, were significantly older when they had their first alcoholic drink (11.90 years in 2003 compared with 11.72 years in 2000) (Table 2.9).

Table 2.9 Mean age at which respondents first used drugs, solvents and alcohol by survey year			
	2000	2003	n
	Mean Age	Mean Age	
Any drug or solvent**	12.29	12.50	2486
Any drug only	12.89	12.89	1747
Any solvent only	12.19	12.03	1396
Cannabis	13.20	13.12	1746
Ecstasy	13.39	12.96	311
Alcohol**	11.72	11.90	5810
* ($p < 0.05$); ** ($p < 0.01$); *** ($p < 0.001$)			

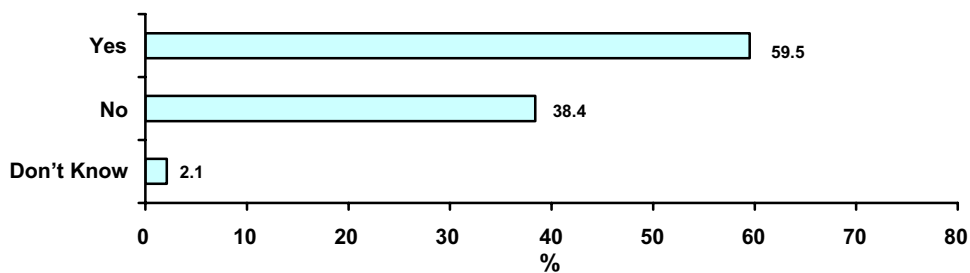
2.2 Alcohol

This section of the report presents the findings for those questions relation to alcohol.

2.2.1 Ever Consumed An Alcoholic Drink

Overall six out of ten (60%) respondents reported ever having taken an alcoholic drink (not just a taste or a sip), with likelihood of ever having taken an alcoholic drink significantly associated with age, sex, school type, education and library board area and eligibility for free school meals (Figure 6).

Fig 6: Ever taken an alcoholic drink (not just a taste or a sip)? (n=7088)



The likelihood of having taken an alcoholic drink was found to increase with age, with a slightly greater proportion of boys (60%) compared with girls (59%), having taken an alcoholic drink. Also those attending secondary schools (61%), those eligible for free school meals (63%), and those attending schools in the SEELB area were more likely to report ever having taken an alcoholic drink (Table 2.10).

Table 2.10 Ever taken an alcoholic drink by pupil characteristics					
		Yes	No	Don't know	n
		%	%	%	
All Respondents		59.5	38.4	2.1	7088
Age***	12 or younger	29.6	66.4	4.0	1428
	13	50.7	46.3	3.0	1265
	14	61.2	36.9	1.9	1337
	15	76.9	22.6	0.6	1409
	16 or older	82.9	16.9	0.2	1159
Sex**	Male	60.4	37.1	2.5	3583
	Female	58.7	39.7	1.6	3505
School***	Secondary	61.4	36.3	2.4	4399
	Grammar	56.5	41.9	1.6	2690
Education & Library Board***	BELB	62.9	34.9	2.2	1335
	WHSSB	58.3	39.6	2.0	1269
	NEELB	57.4	40.7	1.9	1653
	SEELB	65.8	31.8	2.4	1245
	SELB	55.0	43.1	1.9	1587
Eligible for Free School Meals***	Yes	63.2	33.6	3.1	1397
	No	58.7	39.5	1.8	5682

* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)

2.2.2 Age First Consumed First Alcoholic Drink

Among those who had ever had an alcoholic drink, most reported having had a drink by the age of 12 (57%) (Figure 7).

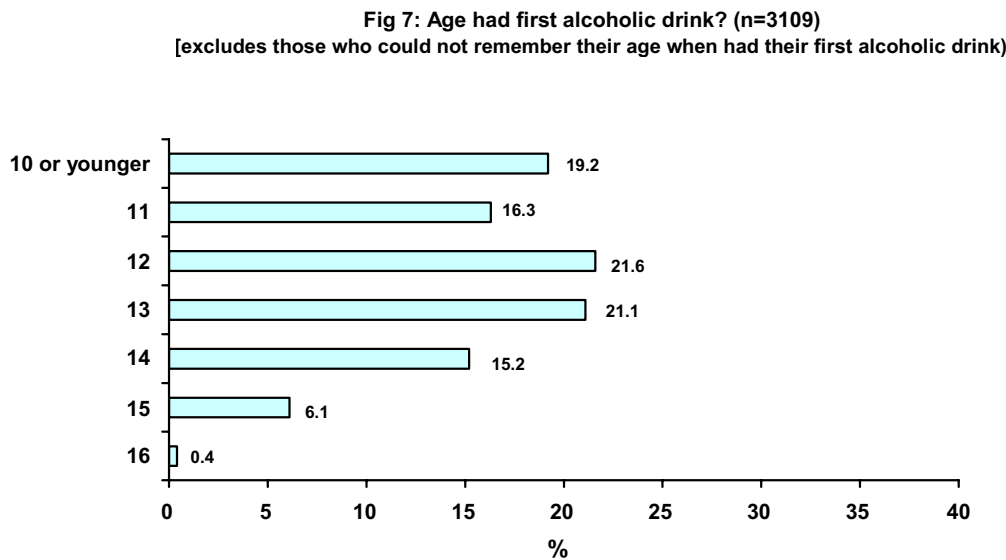


Table 2.5 shows that age at which respondents had their first alcoholic drink is significantly associated with age and sex. For example, a greater proportion of boys (63%), compared with girls (51%), had their first alcoholic drink by the age of 12 (Table 2.11).

		Age of first alcoholic drink							n
		10 or younger	11	12	13	14	15	16	
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
All Respondents		19.2	16.3	21.6	21.1	15.2	6.1	0.4	3109
Age***	12 or younger	56.1	32.7	11.2					303
	13	28.2	29.0	34.0	8.8				476
	14	16.6	13.1	26.5	33.5	10.3			573
	15	9.5	11.2	21.1	29.0	23.7	5.5		797
	16 or older	9.6	6.7	15.0	21.0	26.9	19.0	1.9	748
Sex***	Male	25.5	17.7	19.6	17.8	13.5	5.4	0.4	1637
	Female	12.2	14.6	23.8	24.9	17.1	6.9	0.5	1472
* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$) NB: Respondents who could not remember the age they had their first alcoholic drink were excluded from the analysis as were those who recorded 'don't know' when asked if they had ever taken an alcoholic drink.									

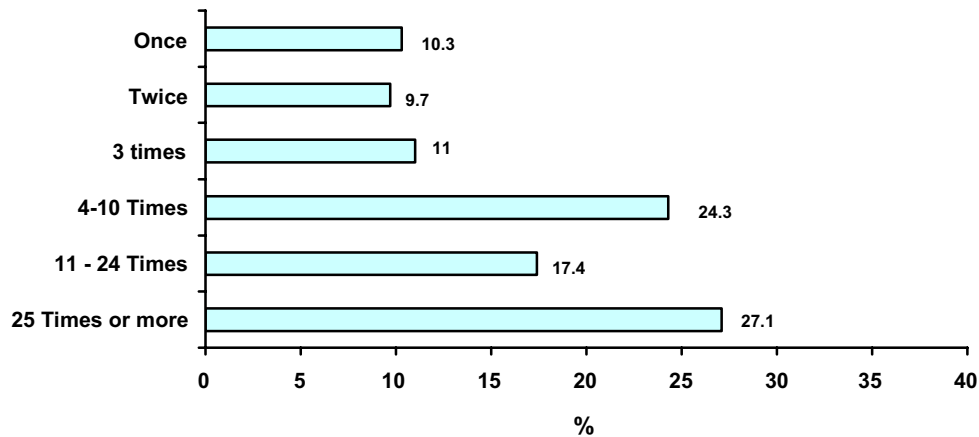
2.2.3 Number Of Times Had An Alcoholic Drink

Among those who had ever had an alcoholic drink, one in ten (10%) said that they had drunk only once, with more than one in four (27%) having had an alcoholic drink on at least 25 occasions.

2.2.4 Number Of Times Had An Alcoholic Drink By Pupil Characteristics

Among those pupils who had consumed an alcoholic drink, 10% had consumed alcohol only once, with 44% having consumed alcohol on more than 10 occasions (Figure 8).

Fig 8: Number of times had an alcoholic drink (n=4181)



Among drinkers, the likelihood of having consumed alcohol on more than 10 occasions was significantly associated with respondent age and gender, with older pupils and boys more likely to say that they had consumed alcohol on more than 10 occasions (Table 2.12).

		Number of times had an alcoholic drink				n
		once	2-3 Times	4-10 Times	> 10 Times	
		%	%	%	%	
All Respondents		10.3	20.8	24.3	44.6	4181
Age***	12 or younger	25.1	33.7	24.3	16.9	415
	13	16.6	30.6	28.4	24.4	634
	14	8.8	25.5	29.7	36.1	809
	15	7.0	14.3	23.8	54.9	1081
	16 or older	4.8	10.5	18.7	66.0	954
Sex**	Male	10.9	18.7	23.7	46.6	2139
	Female	9.7	22.9	24.9	42.5	2043

* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)
 NB: Respondents who could not remember the age they had their first alcoholic drink were excluded from the analysis as were those who recorded 'don't know' when asked if they had ever taken an alcoholic drink.

2.2.5 Obtaining Last Alcoholic Drink

On the last occasion that pupils drank, friends were cited as the most common way of getting alcohol (32%), with parents mentioned in 15% of cases (Table 2.13).

Table 2.13 How did you get the alcoholic drink the last time you drank?	
	%
Friends bought it for me/gave it to me	31.9
My Mother/Father offered/gave it to me	14.5
I took it without permission	9.1
I bought it myself from an off licence	9.0
I got it myself at a party/wedding etc	8.6
Another relative offered/gave it to me	7.7
I bought it myself in a club/disco	5.3
My Brother/Sister offered/gave it to me	5.2
I bought it myself in a pub	4.5
Other	4.1
n	3926

2.2.6 Location Where Last Drank Alcohol

On the last occasion that pupils drank alcohol, just over one fifth (22%) drank in locations outside their home (e.g. park, street, entry etc), with similar numbers (21%) drinking at home, and at someone else's house (20%) (Table 2.14).

Table 2.14 Where were you the last time you drank alcohol?	
	%
Somewhere outside such as the park, street, in an entry etc.	22.4
At home	20.7
At someone else's house	19.5
At a party	14.3
At a rave, disco, club or concert	9.7
Somewhere else	7.0
At a pub	6.3
At school	0.2
n	4065

2.2.7 Alone Or With Someone On Last Occasion You Drank Alcohol

On the last occasion that pupils had drank alcohol, the majority reported drinking with a group of friends (51%), with just 3% drinking alone (Table 2.15).

Table 2.15 Who were you with the last time you drank alcohol?	
	%
With a group of friends	51.0
With a friend	14.9
With parents	13.2
With relatives	11.6
With brother(s) and/or sister(s)	3.8
By myself	3.4
With someone else	2.2
n	4058

2.2.8 Regularity Of Drinking Alcohol

Those who had consumed alcohol at least once were asked how often at present they drink anything alcoholic, such as beer, wine, cider, Alco pops or spirits like Gin, Vodka or Whiskey. In response, just 2% of drinkers said that at present they drink alcohol on a daily basis, with just under half (45%) saying that they either drink alcohol rarely (24%) or 'not any more' (21%) (Table 2.16).

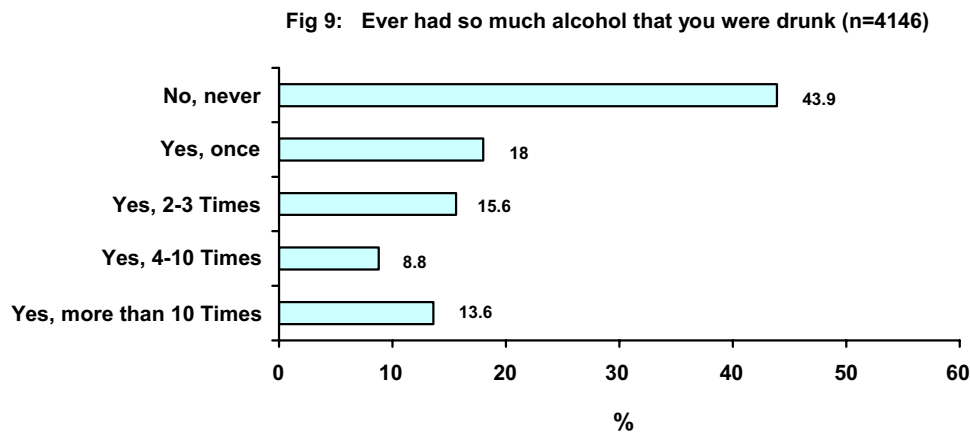
	%
Daily	1.6
A few times a week	13.2
A few times a month	27.5
A few times a year	12.9
Rarely	24.1
Not any more	20.7
n	4153

Analysis by pupil age found that almost one quarter (23%) of sixteen year olds in the survey drank at least weekly, compared with just 8% of those aged 12 or younger. Amongst those who had ever had an alcoholic drink, the survey found no significant association between sex of pupil and regularity of drinking (Table 2.17).

		At present how often do you drink anything alcoholic?			
		Daily or a few times a week	Less than weekly	Not anymore	n
		%	%	%	
All Respondents		14.8	64.4	20.7	4153
Age***	12 or younger	7.6	51.6	40.8	409
	13	9.7	60.2	30.1	628
	14	11.4	65.8	22.8	807
	15	15.8	69.4	14.8	1076
	16 or older	22.9	66.7	10.4	953
Sex	Male	15.7	63.9	20.4	2123
	Female	13.9	65.0	21.1	2030
* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)					

2.2.9 Ever Drunk

The majority of pupils (56%) who had ever drunk alcohol, reported to have been drunk on at least one occasion, with 44% saying that they had never been drunk (Figure 9).



The table below shows that amongst those who had ever drunk alcohol, the likelihood of ever having been drunk increased significantly with age. Note that there was no association between likelihood of ever having been drunk and gender (Table 2.18).

		Ever had so much alcohol that you were drunk?		
		Yes	No	n
		%	%	
All Respondents		56.1	43.9	4146
Age***	12 or younger	23.6	76.4	407
	13	42.6	57.4	634
	14	51.5	48.5	809
	15	64.8	35.2	1069
	16 or older	73.9	26.1	946
Sex	Male	55.7	44.3	2107
	Female	56.6	43.4	2039
* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)				

2.2.10 Number Of Times Drunk In Last Month

Those pupils who ever had so much alcohol that they were drunk, were asked how many times they had been drunk in the month before the survey. In response, almost two out of three reported being drunk (65%) on at least one occasion, with more than one third (36%) having been drunk on more than one occasion in the previous month (Table 2.19).

	%
None	34.9
Once	28.7
2 - 3 times	24.2
4 - 10 times	8.7
More than 10 times	3.5
n	2318

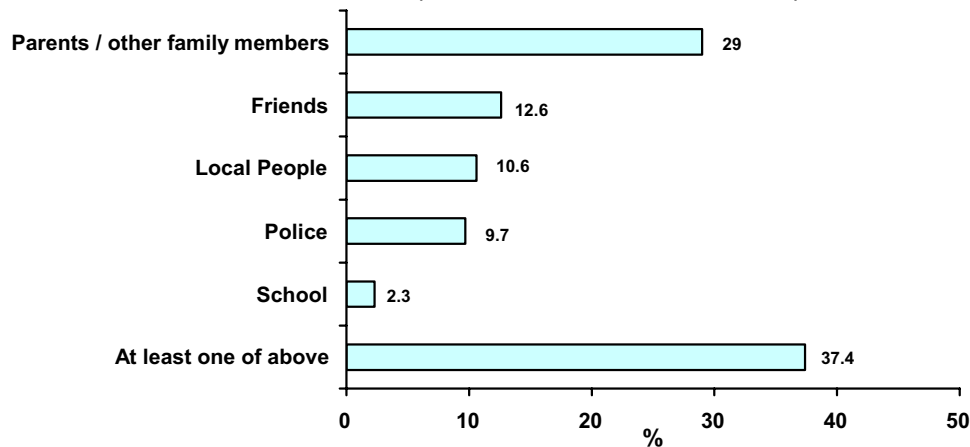
Among those who had ever been drunk, older pupils and girls were significantly more likely to report having been drunk in the month prior to being surveyed (Table 2.20).

		Have you been drunk in the last month?		
		Yes	No	n
		%	%	
All Respondents		65.1	34.9	2318
Age***	12 or younger	39.6	60.4	96
	13	55.8	44.2	267
	14	61.5	38.5	416
	15	65.8	34.2	691
	16 or older	74.4	25.6	698
Sex*	Male	63.1	36.9	1164
	Female	67.1	32.9	1154
* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)				

2.2.11 Getting Into Trouble Because Of Drinking Alcohol

Pupils were most likely to get into trouble with their parents (29%) because of drinking alcohol, with friends mentioned by 13% of pupils and local people mentioned by 11% of pupils. More than one third (37%) of pupils who had ever taken an alcoholic drink, said that they had got into trouble at least once (i.e. parents / family; friends; local people; Police; or school) as a result of drinking (Figure 10).

Fig 10: Ever been in trouble with any of the following because of drinking alcohol (n=those who had ever drank alcohol)



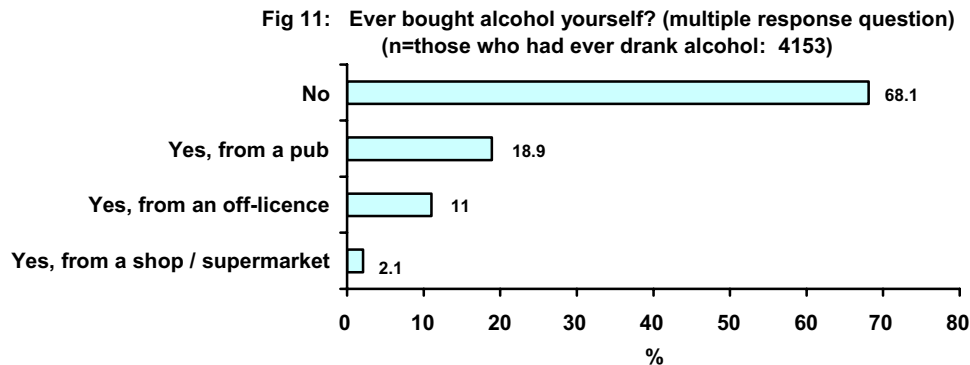
Parents/other family members n=4059, Friends n=3784, Local People n=3765, Police n=3795, School n=3719, At least one of above n=4220

Analysis by age and sex found that the likelihood of pupils getting into trouble (e.g. parents, school etc) because of drinking alcohol, increased significantly with age, with girls (39%) compared with boys (36%), also significantly more likely to report having got into trouble as a result of drinking alcohol (Table 2.21).

Table 2.21 Been in trouble because of drinking alcohol by pupil characteristics				
		Been in trouble with any of the following because of drinking alcohol?		
		Yes %	No %	n
All Respondents		37.4	62.6	4220
Age***	12 or younger	19.4	80.6	423
	13	29.2	70.8	640
	14	34.1	65.9	818
	15	44.5	55.5	1084
	16 or older	46.2	53.8	961
Sex*	Male	35.6	64.4	2163
	Female	39.2	60.8	2057
* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$) Base=all respondents who have ever had an alcoholic drink				

2.2.12 Ever Bought Alcohol

Almost one third (32%) of pupils who had ever drunk alcohol, said that they had bought alcohol themselves, with most (68%) saying that they had never having bought alcohol themselves (Figure 11).



Among pupils who had drunk alcohol, the likelihood of having bought alcohol themselves was found to increase significantly with age, with the majority of drinkers aged 16 or older (57%) indicating that they had bought alcohol themselves, compared with just 6% of pupils aged 12 year or younger. The survey recorded no significant difference between in response to this question between boys and girls (Table 2.22).

Table 2.22 Ever bought alcohol yourself by pupil characteristics				
		Have you ever bought alcohol yourself?		
		Yes	No	n
		%	%	
All Respondents		31.9	68.1	4153
Age***	12 or younger	5.7	94.3	407
	13	10.1	89.9	631
	14	20.0	80.0	812
	15	42.0	58.0	1072
	16 or older	57.1	42.9	947
Sex	Male	31.6	68.4	2112
	Female	32.3	67.7	2041
* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)				

2.2.13 Reasons For Drinking Alcohol

Among pupils who had ever drunk alcohol, the most common reasons for doing so were that they 'liked the taste' (86%) and 'to celebrate' (84%). At the other end of the spectrum, just 18% said they drank 'because my parents / family do', with just over one quarter (26%) drinking because they were 'under pressure' (Table 2.23).

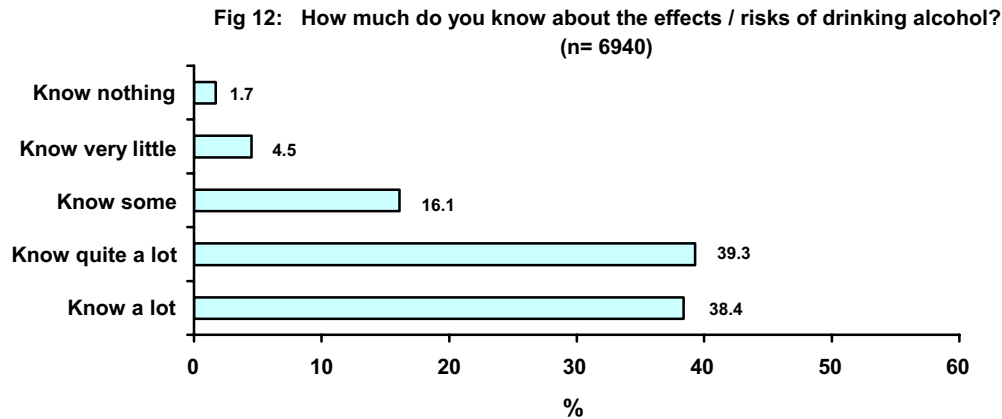
	True	False	n
	%	%	
Like the taste	85.8	14.2	4120
To celebrate	83.8	16.2	4072
To find out what it is like	62.2	37.8	4048
To feel relaxed	58.4	41.6	4063
It cheers me up	55.7	44.3	4054
To get drunk	51.6	48.4	4062
To be sociable	42.8	57.2	4019
To escape problems	41.1	58.9	4054
Because my friends do	37.7	62.3	4050
To be confident	37.1	62.9	4036
I like the effects	36.7	63.3	4026
Because I'm under pressure	26.0	74.0	4028
Because my parents / family do	17.6	82.4	4026

The survey also revealed a range of significant differences between reasons for drinking alcohol and pupil age and sex. For example, age was found to be significantly associated with all of the reasons listed for drinking alcohol. With regard to gender, girls compared with boys were more likely to say that they drank alcohol because 'they liked the taste', 'to be confident' and 'to celebrate'. Conversely boys were more likely to cite the following reasons for drinking alcohol: 'to feel relaxed'; 'to get drunk'; 'because my friends do'; 'because my parents / family do'; 'like the effects'; and 'to find out what it is like'. Note that the differences cited above are statistically significant to at least the 95% level of significance (i.e. $p < 0.05$) (Table 2.24).

	All	Age Group					Sex	
		<=12	13	14	15	16	M	F
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Like the taste	85.8	77.8	86.4	85.1	89.2	87.4	83.5	88.2
To celebrate	83.8	72.5	80.4	83.5	87.4	87.4	81.8	85.8
To find out what it is like	62.2	66.0	67.8	66.1	61.6	53.2	64.2	60.3
To feel relaxed	58.4	43.6	56.4	54.8	62.2	65.7	60.9	55.8
It cheers me up	55.7	37.2	48.2	51.2	63.8	65.3	55.7	55.7
To get drunk	51.6	31.4	46.7	47.6	55.5	60.9	54.7	48.3
To be sociable	42.8	21.5	33.0	37.4	49.7	56.6	44.6	41.0
To escape problems	41.1	34.0	45.1	37.6	41.6	42.6	40.0	42.3
Because my friends do	37.7	29.8	41.0	39.9	41.2	33.4	40.3	35.1
To be confident	37.1	23.8	34.9	29.8	43.3	45.5	34.5	39.8
I like the effects	36.7	19.5	25.0	31.5	43.0	48.8	41.6	31.7
Because I'm under pressure	26.0	24.5	33.2	22.9	25.6	25.0	25.5	26.5
Because my parents / family do	17.6	20.9	22.3	15.2	18.4	12.6	20.7	14.4

2.2.14 Knowledge About The Effects / Risks Of Drinking Alcohol

More than three out of four pupils (78%) reported that they either 'know quite a lot' (38%) or 'know a lot' (39%) about the effects / risks of drinking alcohol, with 7% indicating that they 'know nothing' (2%) or 'know very little' (5%) about the effects / risks associated with drinking alcohol (Figure 12).



There were some differences in self-reported knowledge of the effects / risks of drinking alcohol and some of the respondent background characteristics. In relation to age for example, older pupils were more likely to say that they 'know a lot / quite a bit' about the effects and risks, with boys (7%) more likely to suggest that they 'know little or nothing'. School type was also found to be significant, with pupils attending grammar schools compared with those attending secondary schools more likely to report 'knowing a lot / quite a bit' about the effects and risks associated with drinking alcohol (83% vs. 75%) (Table 2.25)

		How much do you know about the effects / risks of drinking alcohol?			
		Know a lot / quite a bit	Know some	Know little / nothing	n
		%	%	%	
All Respondents		77.8	16.1	6.2	6940
Age***	12 or younger	74.4	16.3	9.3	1373
	13	74.8	17.5	7.7	1255
	14	77.6	18.1	4.3	1322
	15	80.1	15.4	4.6	1400
	16 or older	84.2	13.1	2.7	1138
Sex***	Male	78.0	14.7	7.2	3474
	Female	77.4	17.5	5.1	3467
School***	Secondary	74.8	17.0	8.2	4254
	Grammar	82.5	14.6	2.9	2686

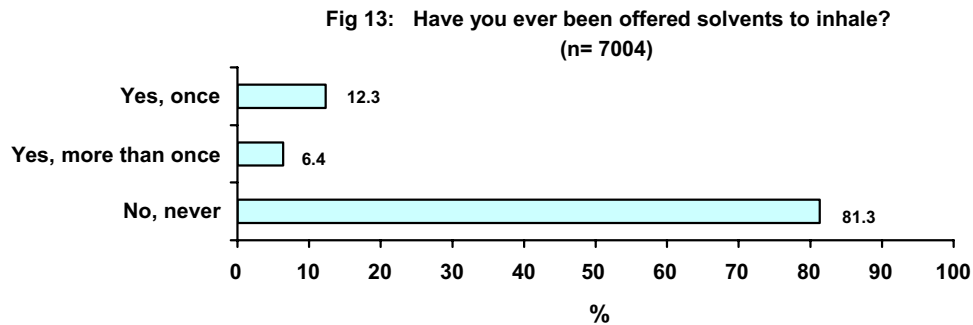
* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)

2.3 Solvents

The survey included a set of questions on solvents which were defined as ‘things that people inhale to get high (like glue, lighter fuel, petrol, gas etc)’.

2.3.1 Ever Offered Solvents To Inhale

Almost one in five (18.7%) pupils had been offered solvents to inhale, with 12% offered solvents only once and 6% offered them more than once (Figure 13)



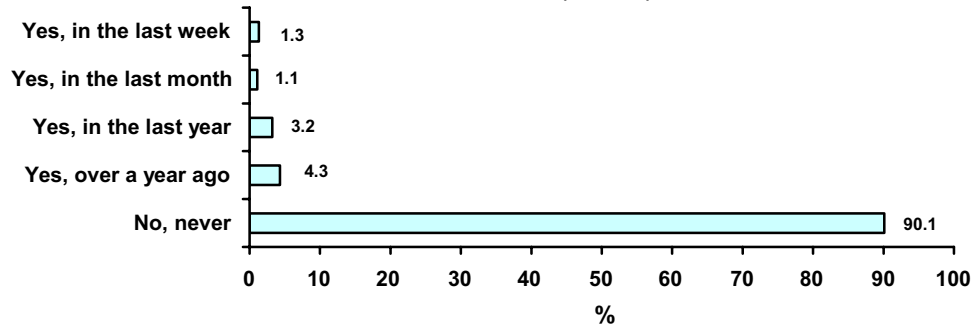
The likelihood of having been offered solvents to inhale increased significantly with age, with pupils aged 16 years or older almost three times (29%) more likely to have been offered solvents, compared with pupils aged 12 years or younger (11%). Boys (20%), compared with girls (17%), were also more likely to have been offered solvents, as were pupils who were eligible for free school meals (22% vs. 18%) and pupils attending schools in the BELB area (Table 2.26).

		Have you been offered solvents to inhale?		
		Yes %	No %	n
All Respondents		18.7	81.3	7004
Age***	12 or younger	10.8	89.2	1400
	13	13.1	86.9	1258
	14	18.0	82.0	1327
	15	23.4	76.6	1404
	16 or older	29.2	70.8	1147
Sex**	Male	20.1	79.9	3515
	Female	17.4	82.6	3488
School	Secondary	19.3	80.7	4312
	Grammar	17.8	82.2	2692
Education & Library Board***	BELB	23.2	76.8	1299
	WHSSB	17.6	82.4	1263
	NEELB	18.4	81.6	1631
	SEELB	20.0	80.0	1228
	SELB	15.4	84.6	1584
Eligible for Free School Meals***	Yes	22.3	77.7	1365
	No	17.9	82.1	5631
* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)				

2.3.2 Inhaling Solvents

One in ten (10%) pupils had ever inhaled solvents, with 6% having inhaled them in the year before the survey (Figure 14).

Fig 14: Have you ever inhaled solvents?
(n= 6984)



The survey revealed some significant differences between the likelihood of having inhaled solvents and pupil's background characteristics, with those more likely to have used solvents being older, male, attending grammar schools, being eligible for free school meals and attending schools in the BELB area (Table 2.27).

Table 2.27 Ever inhaled solvents by pupil characteristics				
		Have you ever inhaled solvents?		
		Yes %	No %	n
All Respondents		9.9	90.1	6984
Age***	12 or younger	6.2	93.8	1388
	13	9.1	90.9	1257
	14	9.1	90.9	1323
	15	12.0	88.0	1400
	16 or older	12.9	87.1	1147
Sex*	Male	10.8	89.2	3506
	Female	9.1	90.9	3479
School***	Secondary	11.2	88.8	4296
	Grammar	7.9	92.1	2688
Education & Library Board*	BELB	11.4	88.6	1293
	WHSSB	9.4	90.6	1262
	NEELB	10.5	89.5	1630
	SEELB	10.5	89.5	1222
	SELB	8.2	91.8	1578
Eligible for Free School Meals**	Yes	12.1	87.9	1352
	No	9.4	90.6	5623
* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)				

2.3.3 Regularity Of Using Solvents

Among those who had ever used solvents, 6% reported using them on a daily basis with a further 3% saying that they used them a few times a week. However, in the majority of cases (61%), those who had ever used solvents said that they no longer use them (Table 2.28).

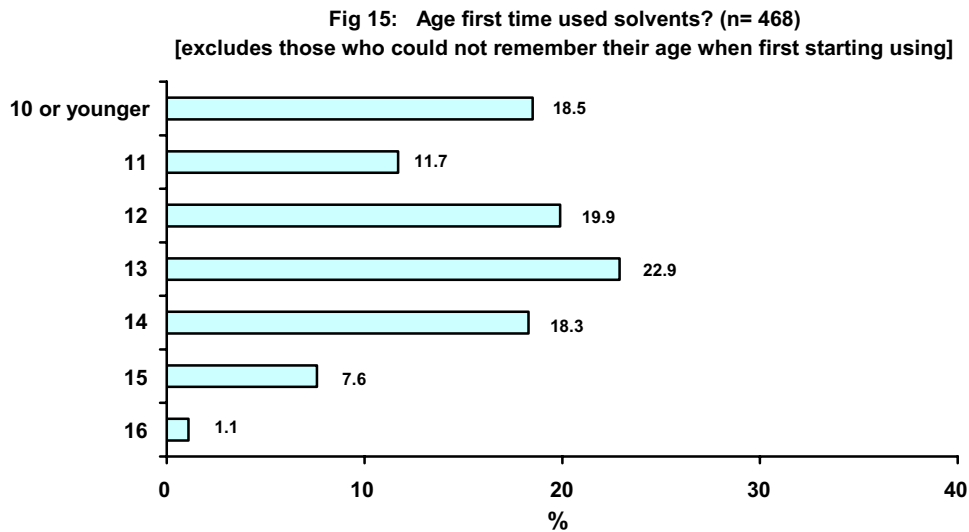
	%
Daily	6.3
A few times a week	2.9
A few times a month	5.1
A few times a year	5.7
Rarely	18.8
Not any more	61.1
n	688

Analysis by age and sex found that among solvent users, 13 year old pupils (23%), and boys (17%) compared with girls (11%), were more likely to be using them at least on a monthly basis (Table 2.29).

		How often do you use solvents?			
		At least monthly	Less than monthly / Rarely	Not any more	n
		%	%	%	
All Respondents		14.3	24.6	61.1	688
Age*	12 or younger	11.8	32.9	55.3	85
	13	22.8	18.4	58.8	114
	14	10.8	32.5	56.7	120
	15	13.3	19.9	66.9	166
	16 or older	11.1	23.6	65.3	144
Sex*	Male	17.4	23.6	59.0	373
	Female	10.8	25.7	63.5	315
* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)					

2.3.4 Age First Started Using Solvents

Among those who could remember what age they started using solvents, nearly three out of four (73%) had started using by age 13 (Figure 15).



Among those who had ever used solvents, 60% of 16 year olds were aged 14 or older before they started using, with one quarter (25%) of boys saying they first started using at the age of 10 or younger compared with 11% of girls (Table 2.30).

Table 2.30 Age first starting using solvents by pupil background characteristics									
		Age first starting using solvents							n
		10 or younger	11	12	13	14	15	16	
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
All Respondents		18.5	11.7	19.9	22.9	18.3	7.6	1.1	468
Age***	12 or younger	65.3	26.5	8.2					49
	13	32.1	28.2	32.1	7.7				78
	14	7.4	11.8	30.9	39.7	10.3			68
	15	5.9	2.5	16.8	42.0	28.6	4.2		119
	16 or older	9.7	4.4	12.4	13.3	37.2	18.6	4.4	113
Sex**	Male	24.7	13.3	19.2	20.0	15.7	6.7	0.4	255
	Female	11.3	9.9	20.3	26.4	21.7	8.5	1.9	212

* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)

2.3.5 Number Of Times Used Solvents

Users of solvents were asked how many times they had used solvents in their lifetime. In response, 39% had used solvents only once, with a further 20% having used solvents on two occasions and 14% reporting having used solvents more than 10 times in their lifetime (table 2.31).

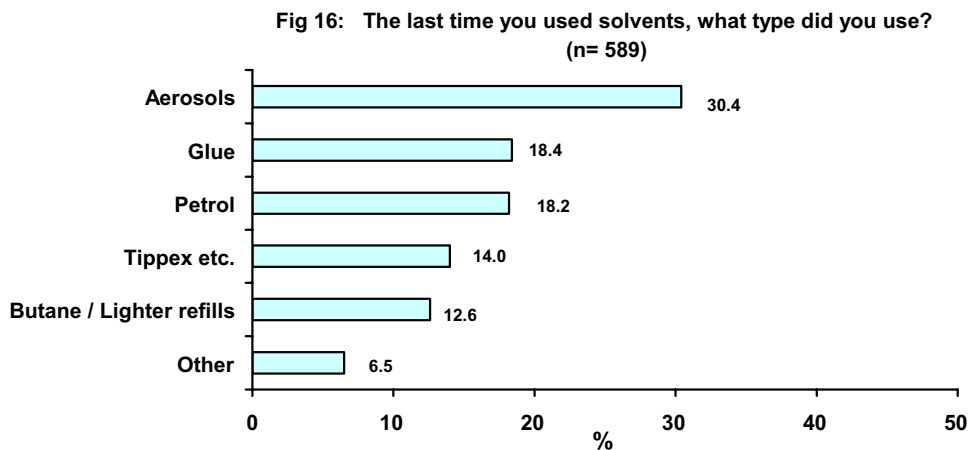
	%
Once	39.3
Twice	20.4
3 times	13.2
4-10 times	13.0
11-24 times	5.5
25 times or more	8.5
n	680

Again among solvent users, those aged 12 or younger were more likely (48%) to have used solvents only once compared with other age groups. Girls (38%), compared with boys (41%), were also more likely to have used solvents only once (Table 2.32).

		Number of times used solvents				
		Once	2-3	4-10	>10	n
		%	%	%	%	
All Respondents		39.3	33.7	13.0	14.0	680
Age*	12 or younger	48.2	25.3	13.3	13.3	83
	13	39.3	28.6	8.0	24.1	112
	14	39.8	39.8	12.7	7.6	118
	15	36.1	36.1	12.0	15.7	166
	16 or older	36.1	34.7	17.7	11.6	147
Sex*	Male	40.8	29.1	14.9	15.2	368
	Female	37.8	39.1	10.6	12.5	312
* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)						

2.3.6 Type Of Solvents Last Used

On the last occasion that pupils used solvent, aerosols (30%) were found to be the most common used, with glue and petrol cited by the same proportion of users (18%) (Figure 16).



There were some differences between solvent users and the types of solvents they had last used. For example, older pupils (aged 16) were more likely to have used aerosols (40%) whereas younger pupils were more likely to have used glue (42%). Also with regard to gender, girls were more likely to report using aerosols whereas boys were more likely to report using petrol and other substances (Table 2.33).

		Type of solvent used last time used solvents						n
		Butane %	Aerosols %	Glue %	Tippex %	Petrol %	Other %	
All Respondents		12.6	30.4	18.4	14.0	18.2	6.5	589
Age***	12 or younger	1.4	8.7	42.0	27.5	17.4	2.9	69
	13	6.4	20.2	21.3	28.7	18.1	5.3	94
	14	12.0	24.0	25.0	14.0	23.0	2.0	100
	15	12.9	42.6	12.3	8.4	18.7	5.2	155
	16 or older	21.3	40.2	6.6	3.3	18.0	10.7	122
Sex*	Male	12.0	26.3	18.4	15.2	19.3	8.9	316
	Female	13.5	35.0	18.2	12.8	16.8	3.6	274

* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)

2.3.7 Getting Solvents (Last Time Used)

On the last occasion that pupils had used solvents, almost one in three (32%) had got them from 'a friend / other person around my age I knew', with almost a quarter (24%) getting 'them myself'. Just over one fifth (22%) said that they had got solvents from a shop (Table 2.34).

	%
I got them from a friend/other person around my age I knew	32.2
I got them myself	24.0
I bought them in a shop	21.7
I got them from someone my own age I didn't really know	4.7
I got them from a relative (e.g. brother,sister,uncle,cousin)	3.3
I got them from an adult I knew	2.6
I got them from an adult I didn't know	1.7
Other	9.8
n	632

2.3.8 Who Were Pupil's With The Last Time They Used Solvents

In approximately seven out of ten cases (72%), pupils were with either a group of friends (42%) or a friend (30%) the last time they used solvents, with approximately one in five (21%) by themselves (Table 2.35).

	%
With a group of friends	41.7
With a friend	29.8
By myself	20.9
With parents	2.9
With someone else	2.5
With relatives	1.4
With brother(s) and/or sister(s)	0.8
n	647

On the last occasion using solvents, younger pupils were found to be more likely to have used solvents on their own compared with older pupils, as were boys (25%) compared with girls (16%) (Table 2.36).

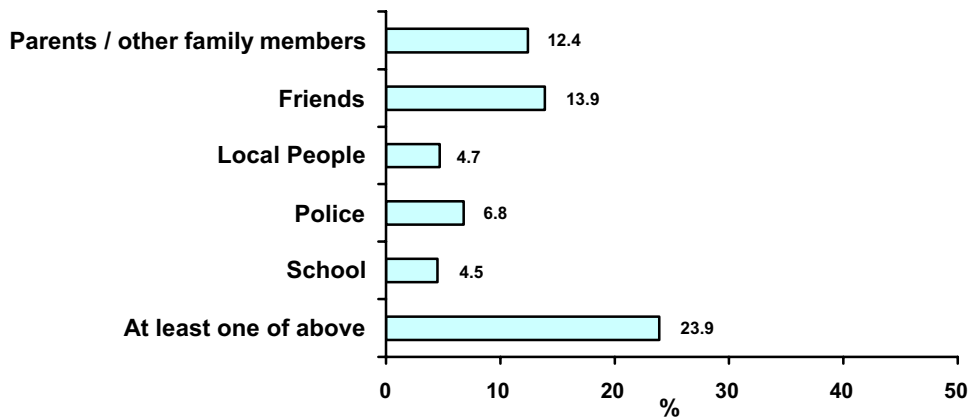
		Who with the last time used solvents ?			n
		Myself %	Friend(s) %	Other %	
All Respondents		20.9	71.5	7.6	647
Age**	12 or younger	27.6	53.9	18.4	76
	13	26.7	66.7	6.7	105
	14	23.9	66.4	9.7	113
	15	16.6	79.1	4.3	163
	16 or older	16.4	77.1	6.4	140
Sex*	Male	24.9	67.2	7.9	341
	Female	16.4	76.4	7.2	305

* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)

2.3.9 Getting Into Trouble As A Result Of Using Solvents

Pupils were most likely to get into trouble with friends (14%) because of taking solvents, with friends with parents and family mentioned by 12% of pupils. Almost one in four (24%) pupils who had ever taken solvents, said that they had got into trouble at least once (i.e. parents / family; friends; local people; Police; or school) as a result of taking them. The survey found no significant differences between likelihood of getting into trouble as a result of solvent use and either pupil age or sex (Figure 17).

Fig 17: Ever been in trouble with any of the following because of taking solvents?
(n=those who had ever taken solvents)

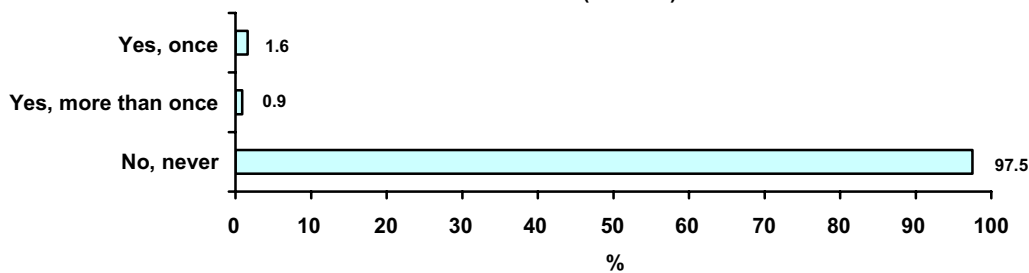


Parent n=637, Friend n=619, Local People n=613, Police n=619, School n=607, At least one of the above n=694

2.3.10 Ever Offered Solvents To Anyone Else

Just 3% of all pupils said that they had offered solvents to someone else, with 2% of all pupils having offered solvents to someone else on more than one occasion (Figure 18).

Fig 18: Have you ever offered solvents to anyone else?
(n= 6794)

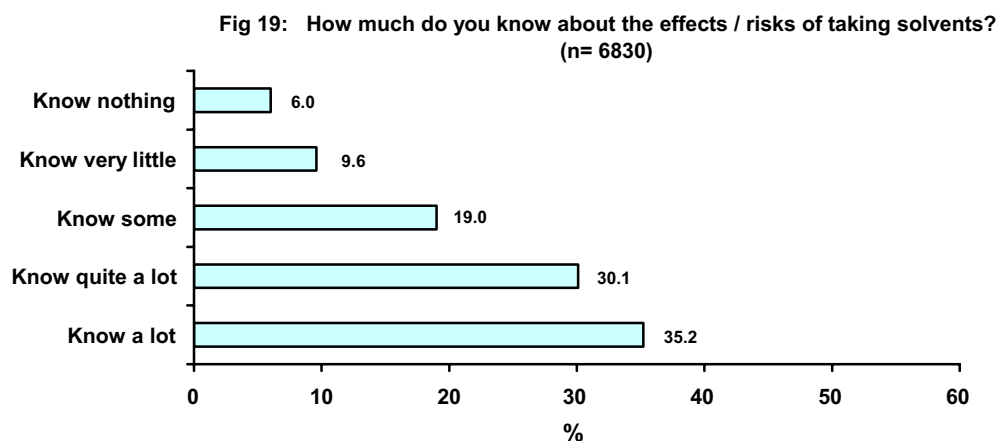


The survey found no significant difference between the likelihood of offering solvents to others and pupil age, although pupil sex, school type and eligibility for free school meals were all found to be significant, with boys (3%), pupils attending secondary schools (3%), those eligible for free school meals and pupils attending SEELB schools more likely to have offered solvents to others (Table 2.37).

Table 2.37 Ever offered solvents to anyone else by pupil characteristics				
		Ever offered solvents to anyone else?		
		Yes	No	n
		%	%	
All Respondents		2.5	97.5	6794
Age	12 or younger	1.6	98.4	1363
	13	1.7	98.3	1222
	14	2.6	97.4	1287
	15	2.4	97.6	1358
	16 or older	3.0	97.0	1122
Sex**	Male	3.1	96.9	3383
	Female	1.9	98.1	3411
School***	Secondary	3.2	96.8	4133
	Grammar	1.4	98.6	2660
Education & Library Board*	BELB	2.8	97.2	1237
	WHSSB	2.4	97.6	1230
	NEELB	2.2	97.8	1583
	SEELB	3.6	96.4	1199
	SELB	1.8	98.2	1545
Eligible for Free School Meals**	Yes	3.6	96.4	1311
	No	2.3	97.7	5475
* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)				

2.3.11 Knowledge About The Effects / Risks Of Taking Solvents

Approximately two out of three (65%) pupils reported that they either 'know quite a lot' (30%) or 'know a lot' (35%) about the effects / risks of taking solvents, with 16% indicating that they 'know nothing' (6%) or 'know very little' (10%) about taking solvents (Figure 19).



Self-reported knowledge about the effects and risks associated with solvent use was found to be significantly associated with age, sex and school type, with those saying that they know 'a lot / quite a bit' more likely to be older, male and attending grammar schools (Table 2.38).

Table 2.38 How much do you know about the effects / risks of taking solvents by pupil characteristics					
		How much do you know about the effects / risks of taking solvents?			
		A lot / quite a bit	Know some	Very little / nothing	n
		%	%	%	
All Respondents		65.4	19.0	15.6	6830
Age**	12 or younger	64.1	17.8	18.1	1366
	13	64.2	19.4	16.3	1230
	14	65.8	21.3	13.0	1297
	15	65.5	20.3	14.2	1370
	16 or older	68.6	17.9	13.5	1124
Sex**	Male	66.4	17.5	16.1	3406
	Female	64.4	20.6	15.1	3425
School***	Secondary	64.1	18.0	18.0	4170
	Grammar	67.4	20.7	11.9	2660
* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)					

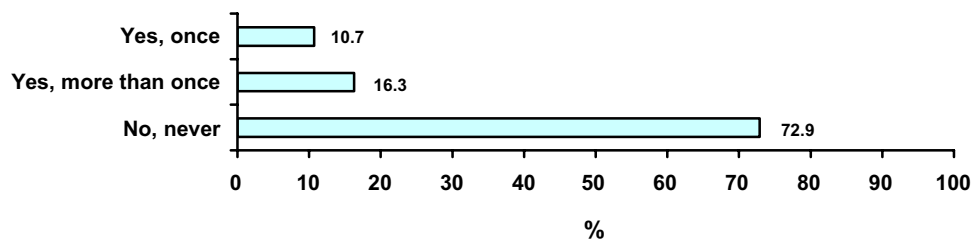
2.4 Cannabis

The survey also included a range of questions on cannabis which was defined as: Marijuana; Dope; Pot; Blow; Hash; Black; Grass; Draw; Ganja; Spliff; Joints; Smoke; and Weed.

2.4.1 Ever Offered Cannabis

More than one in four pupils (27%) had been offered cannabis, with 11% offered cannabis only once and 16% offered them more than once (Figure 20).

Fig 20: Have you ever been offered cannabis? (n= 6975)



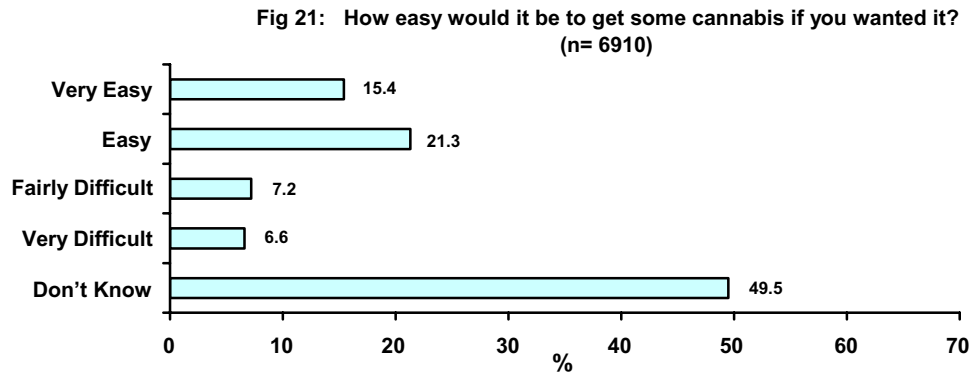
The likelihood of having been offered cannabis increased significantly with age, with pupils aged 16 or older almost nine times (52%) more likely to have been offered cannabis compared with pupils aged 12 or younger (6%). Boys (30%), compared with girls (24%), were also more likely to have been offered cannabis, as to were pupils eligible for free school meals (30% vs. 26%) and those attending BELB schools (37%) (Table 2.39).

		Have you been offered cannabis?		
		Yes	No	n
		%	%	
All Respondents		27.1	72.9	6975
Age***	12 or younger	6.0	94.0	1394
	13	13.6	86.4	1248
	14	24.5	75.5	1319
	15	42.3	57.7	1403
	16 or older	51.6	48.4	1146
Sex***	Male	29.8	70.2	3491
	Female	24.4	75.6	3484
School	Secondary	26.9	73.1	4286
	Grammar	27.4	72.6	2689
Education & Library Board***	BELB	37.3	62.7	1288
	WHSSB	23.0	77.0	1259
	NEELB	26.0	74.0	1626
	SEELB	31.2	68.8	1221
	SELB	19.9	80.1	1581
Eligible for Free School Meals*	Yes	29.7	70.3	1362
	No	26.4	73.6	5604

* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)

2.4.2 Ease Of Getting Cannabis

Overall 37% of pupils felt that it would be either 'very easy' (16%) or 'easy' (21%) to get some cannabis if they wanted to, with 14% of the view that it would be either fairly difficult (7%) or very difficult (7%). Half of all pupils (50%) recorded 'don't know' in response to this question (Figure 21).

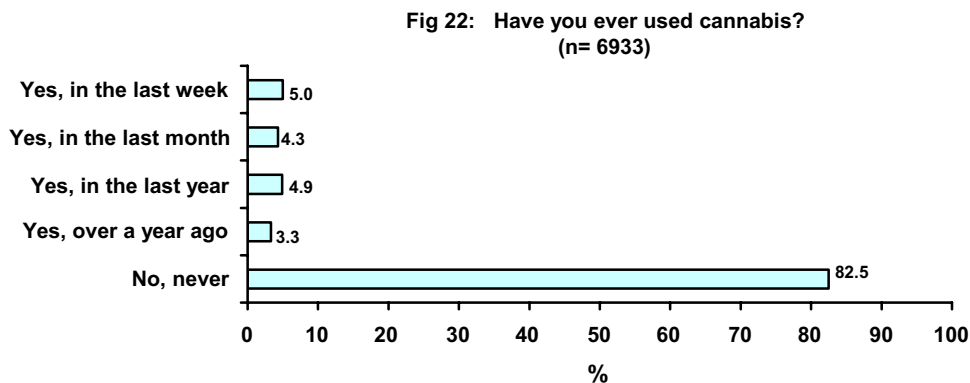


There were some difference in the perception of how easy or difficult it would be to get cannabis, with those of the view that it would be easy more likely to be older, male and attending grammar schools (Table 2.40).

Table 2.40 How easy would it be to get some cannabis if you wanted it by pupil characteristics					
		Easy	Difficult	Don't know	n
		%	%	%	
All Respondents		36.7	13.8	49.5	6910
Age***	12 or younger	12.7	17.6	69.6	1367
	13	22.7	15.2	62.0	1246
	14	35.8	14.8	49.4	1309
	15	52.3	11.9	35.8	1395
	16 or older	64.3	9.0	26.7	1140
Sex***	Male	39.7	14.0	46.3	3449
	Female	33.7	13.6	52.7	3460
School***	Secondary	34.0	14.1	51.9	4227
	Grammar	40.8	13.4	45.8	2683
* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)					

2.4.3 Using Cannabis

Eighteen percent (18%) of all pupils said that they had used cannabis, with 14% having used the drug in the year before being surveyed (Figure 22).



The survey revealed some significant differences between the likelihood of ever having used cannabis and pupil's background characteristics, with those more likely to have used cannabis being older, male, attending grammar schools, being eligible for free school meals and attending schools in the BELB area (Figure 2.41).

Table 2.41 Ever used cannabis by pupil characteristics				
		Ever used cannabis?		
		Yes	No	n
		%	%	
All Respondents		17.5	82.5	6933
Age***	12 or younger	3.0	97.0	1381
	13	7.6	92.4	1245
	14	15.0	85.0	1312
	15	28.3	71.7	1397
	16 or older	34.1	65.9	1140
Sex***	Male	19.8	80.2	3462
	Female	15.2	84.8	3471
School	Secondary	18.2	81.8	4252
	Grammar	16.4	83.6	2681
Education & Library Board***	BELB	25.0	75.0	1278
	WHSSB	13.8	86.2	1256
	NEELB	16.9	83.1	1619
	SEELB	21.7	78.3	1210
	SELB	11.8	88.2	1570
Eligible for Free School Meals***	Yes	21.2	78.8	1348
	No	16.6	83.4	5576
* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)				

2.4.4 Regularity Of Using Cannabis

Among those who had ever used cannabis, 7% reported use it on a daily basis with a further 10% saying that they use cannabis a few times a week. In a minority of cases (32%), those who had ever used cannabis said that they no longer use it (Table 2.42).

	%
Daily	7.3
A few times a week	10.3
A few times a month	16.5
A few times a year	9.7
Rarely	23.8
Not any more	32.4
n	1201

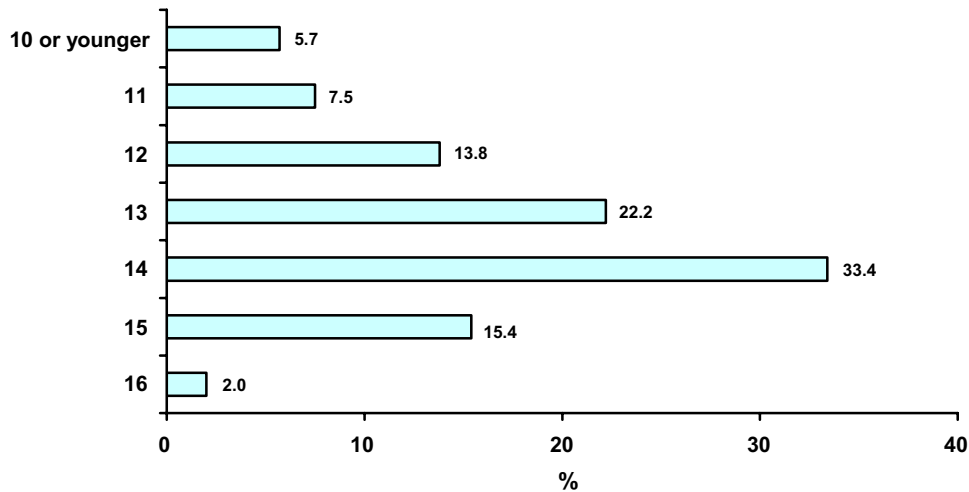
Analysis by age found that among those who had ever used cannabis, the likelihood of using the drug at least monthly, increased significantly with age, with boys also more likely to be using the drug on a monthly basis (Table 2.43).

		How often do you use cannabis?			
		At least monthly	Less than monthly / Rarely	Not any more	n
		%	%	%	
All Respondents		34.1	33.5	32.4	1201
Age***	12 or younger	19.0	26.2	54.8	42
	13	28.7	36.2	35.1	94
	14	24.2	36.9	38.9	198
	15	34.9	33.3	31.8	393
	16 or older	42.2	32.1	25.6	386
Sex***	Male	39.1	30.6	30.3	677
	Female	27.5	37.3	35.2	523
* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)					

2.4.5 Age First Started Using Cannabis

Among those who could remember what age they started using cannabis, almost half (49%) had started using by age 13 (Figure 23).

Fig 23: Age first time used cannabis? (n= 988)
[excludes those who could not remember their age when first starting using]



Among 16 year olds who had ever used cannabis, almost four out of ten (38%) were aged 14 when they first started using, with more than twice as many boys (35%) first starting to use cannabis by age 12 compared girls (17%) (Table 2.44).

		Age first starting using cannabis							n
		10 or younger	11	12	13	14	15	16	
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
All Respondents		5.7	7.5	13.8	22.2	33.4	15.4	2.0	988
Age***	12 or younger	57.7	34.6	7.7					26
	13	15.9	30.2	42.9	11.1				63
	14	7.4	6.1	26.4	48.5	11.0			163
	15	1.8	3.1	9.8	24.5	46.9	13.8		326
	16 or older	3.0	6.8	6.2	11.9	37.7	28.8	5.6	337
Sex**	Male	5.1	12.1	17.9	22.9	27.4	13.9	0.7	554
	Female	6.7	1.6	8.7	21.4	40.9	17.2	3.4	435
* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)									

2.4.6 Number Of Times Used Cannabis

Users of cannabis were asked how many times they had used cannabis in their lifetime. In response, 22% had used cannabis only once, with a further 11% having used cannabis on two occasions and 34% reporting having used cannabis more than 10 times in their lifetime (Table 2.45).

	%
Once	22.0
Twice	10.6
3 times	12.1
4-10 times	20.9
11-24 times	12.2
25 times or more	22.2
n	1198

Amongst those who had ever used cannabis, older pupils were more likely to have used it on more occasions (e.g. 45% of 16 year olds having used cannabis on 25+ occasions). Similarly, boys (41%) who had ever used cannabis were more likely to have used the drug on 10 or more occasions compared with girls (26%) (Table 2.46).

		Number of times used cannabis				n
		Once	2-3	4-10	>10	
		%	%	%	%	
All Respondents		22.0	22.7	20.9	34.3	1198
Age***	12 or younger	50.0	21.4	16.7	11.9	42
	13	35.2	24.2	16.5	24.2	91
	14	24.1	28.7	22.1	25.1	195
	15	20.8	21.8	22.8	34.7	395
	16 or older	16.9	18.8	19.8	44.5	384
Sex***	Male	19.9	20.1	19.5	40.5	677
	Female	24.7	26.1	22.8	26.4	522
* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)						

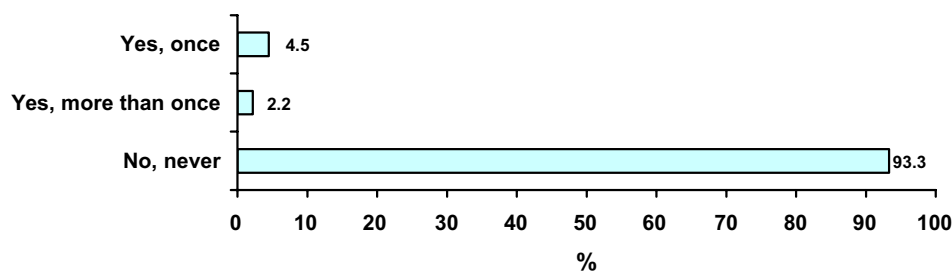
2.5 Speed

The survey also included a range of questions on the drug speed, which was defined as: amphetamines, uppers, whizz, sulphate and billy.

2.5.1 Ever Offered Speed

Seven percent (7%) of pupils had been offered speed, with 5% offered this drug only once and 2% offered it more than once (Figure 24).

Fig 24: Have you ever been offered speed? (n= 6946)



The likelihood of being offered speed increased significantly with age, with pupils aged 16 or older more than six times (13%) more likely to have been offered speed compared with pupils aged 12 or younger (2%). The survey revealed no significant differences in the likelihood of being offered speed by pupil gender or school type, although those availing of free school meals were significantly more likely to report having been offered speed compared with pupils who were entitled to free school meals (8.5% vs. 6.3%). Note also that pupils attending schools in the SEELB area (9%) were also more likely to report being offered cannabis (Table 2.47).

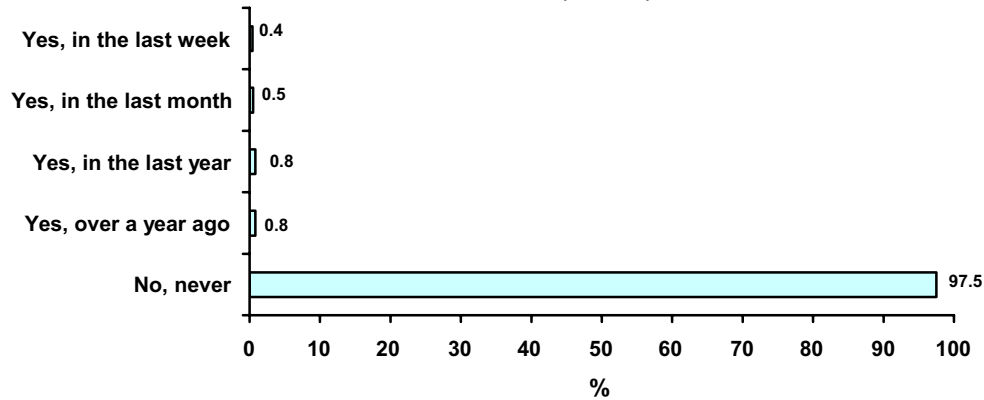
Table 2.47 Ever offered speed by pupil characteristics				
		Have you been offered speed?		
		Yes	No	n
		%	%	
All respondents		6.7	93.3	6946
Age***	12 or younger	1.8	98.2	1386
	13	3.7	96.3	1248
	14	4.8	95.2	1317
	15	10.6	89.4	1397
	16 or older	12.7	87.3	1140
Sex	Male	6.8	93.2	3463
	Female	6.7	93.3	3483
School	Secondary	7.2	92.8	4257
	Grammar	6.0	94.0	2689
Education & Library Board***	BELB	7.8	92.2	1276
	WHSSB	4.4	95.6	1255
	NEELB	7.7	92.3	1626
	SEELB	8.6	91.4	1214
	SELB	5.3	94.7	1575
Eligible for free school meals*	Yes	8.5	91.5	1358
	No	6.3	93.7	5580

* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)

2.5.2 Using Speed

The proportion of all pupils who had ever used speed was recorded at 3%, with 1% having used the drug within one month of being surveyed (Figure 25).

Fig 25: Have you ever used speed?
(n= 6895)



Although the overall level of use of speed was low, older pupils were more likely to report usage, as were boys, those pupils entitled to free school meals and those attending schools in the NEELB area (Table 2.48).

Table 2.48 Ever used speed by pupil characteristics				
		Ever used speed?		
		Yes	No	n
		%	%	
All Respondents		2.5	97.5	6895
Age***	12 or younger	0.8	99.2	1367
	13	1.6	98.4	1240
	14	1.9	98.1	1310
	15	3.5	96.5	1395
	16 or older	4.8	95.2	1128
Sex***	Male	2.9	97.1	3437
	Female	2.1	97.9	3458
School	Secondary	2.9	97.1	4223
	Grammar	1.8	98.2	2673
Education & Library Board**	BELB	3.0	97.0	1265
	WHSSB	1.6	98.4	1249
	NEELB	3.4	96.6	1617
	SEELB	2.2	97.8	1202
	SELB	1.9	98.1	1561
Eligible For Free School Meals***	Yes	3.4	96.6	1339
	No	2.2	97.8	5547
* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)				

2.5.3 Regularity Of Using Speed

Among those who had ever used speed, 8% reported using it on a daily basis, with most (66%) either using it rarely (33%) or not using it anymore (33%) (Table 2.49).

	%
Daily	8.4
A few times a week	11.0
A few times a month	8.4
A few times a year	6.9
Rarely	32.5
Not any more	32.8
n	167

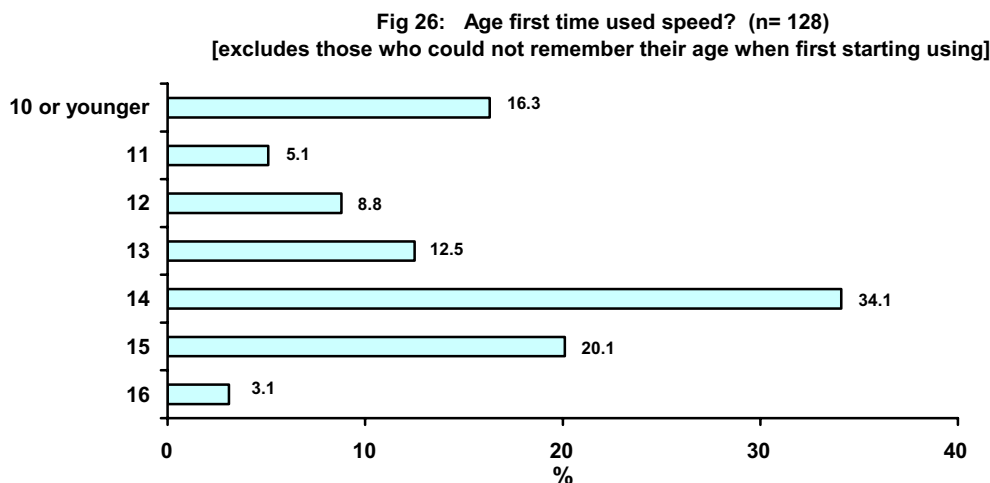
Amongst those who had ever used speed, older aged pupils (16 and older, 33%) and boys (32%), were more likely to use the drug at least monthly (Table 2.50).

		How often do you use speed?			
		At least monthly	Less than monthly / Rarely	Not any more	n
		%	%	%	
All Respondents		27.8	39.4	32.8	167
Age***	12 or younger	30.0	50.0	20.0	10
	13	28.6	33.3	38.1	21
	14	19.2	53.8	26.9	26
	15	17.0	38.3	44.7	47
	16 or older	33.3	37.0	29.6	54
Sex***	Male	32.0	38.1	29.9	97
	Female	21.4	41.4	37.1	70

* (X^2 , $p < 0.05$); ** (X^2 , $p < 0.01$); *** (X^2 , $p < 0.001$)

2.5.4 Age First Started Using Speed

Among those who could remember what age they started using speed, 42% had started using by age 13 (Figure 26).



2.5.5 Number Of Times Used Speed

Users of speed were asked how many times they had used the drug in their lifetime. In response, the majority of users (59%) had used the drug only once (42%) or twice (17%) (Table 2.51).

	%
Once	41.7
Twice	16.8
3 times	10.7
4-10 times	16.1
11-24 times	7.9
25 times or more	6.9
n	166