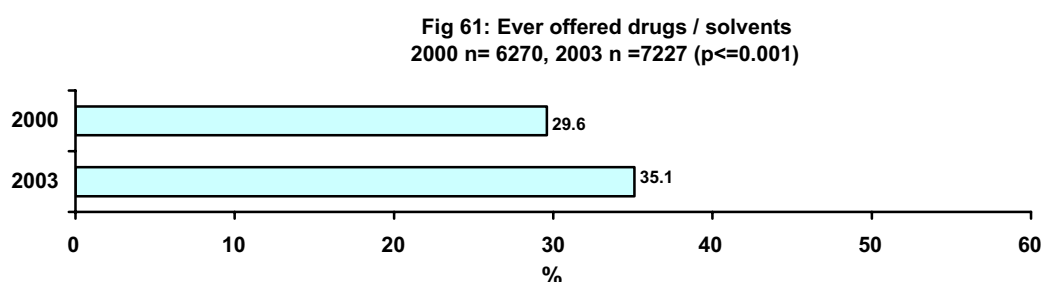


### 3 COMPARISONS BETWEEN 2000 AND 2003

This section of the report compares the findings between the 2000 and 2003 surveys. The results are based on weighted data for both surveys and the analysis has been restricted to those questions which are similar in structure and content in both surveys.

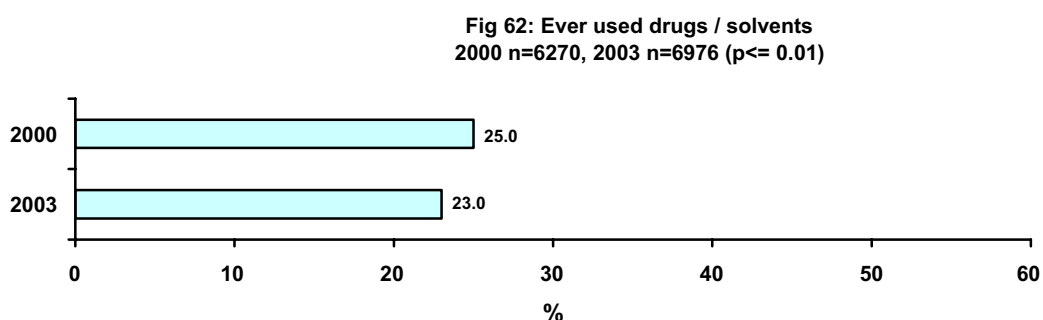
#### 3.1.1 Ever Offered Drugs Or Solvents

A comparative analysis between the two survey years, found a statistically significant increase between 2000 and 2003 in the proportion of pupils reporting that they had been offered either drugs or solvents i.e. from 30% to 35% (Figure 61).



#### 3.1.2 Ever Used Drugs Or Solvents

The proportion of pupils saying that they had used drugs or solvents, was also found to have decreased significantly from 25% in 2000 to 23% in 2003 (Figure 62).



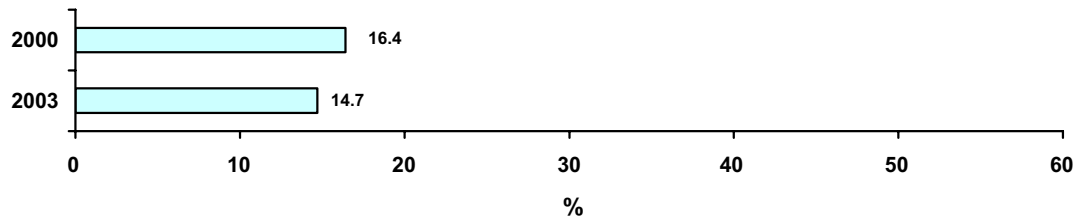
Further analysis shows that there has been a reduction in the proportion of pupils reporting that they had used solvents only, with a slight reduction in the proportion saying that they had used hard drugs. However, the use of cannabis only among pupils appears to have increased between the two survey years (Table 3.1).

Table 3.1 Ever used drugs / solvents by survey year						
	Solvents only	Cannabis only	Soft drug combinations	Hard drugs	Never used	n
	%	%	%	%	%	
2000	7.1	4.7	10.1	3.2	75.0	6270
2003	3.5	8.0	8.6	2.9	77.0	6976
(X <sup>2</sup> , P<0.001)						

### 3.1.3 Presently Using Drugs

The 2003 survey estimated that 15% of all respondents were presently using drugs. This represents a statistically significant decrease on the figure of 16% recorded in 2000 (Figure 63).

Fig 63: Presently using drugs / solvents  
2000 n=6270, 2003 n=6982 (p<=0.01)



Further analysis shows that the proportion of pupils who reported that they were using solvents at the time of each survey more than halved from 3.4% to 1.6%, however there was a slight increase in the proportion of pupils indicating that they were using cannabis between 2000 and 2003 i.e. an increase of 2 percentage point from 5% to 7% (Table 3.2).

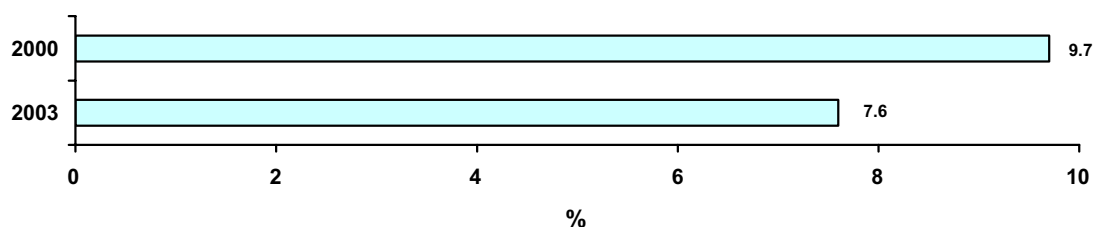
	Solvents only	Cannabis only	Soft drug combinations	Hard drugs	Not using	n
	%	%	%	%	%	
2000	3.4	5.1	5.9	2.0	83.6	6270
2003	1.6	7.3	3.9	1.9	85.3	6983

(X<sup>2</sup>, P<0.001)

### 3.1.4 Used Drugs in Last Month (Last Month Prevalence)

Amongst those who had ever used drugs, there was a statistically significant reduction in the proportions of pupils who reported using drugs in the month prior to being surveyed (6% in 2000 compared with 4% in 2003) (Figure 64).

Fig 64: Use drugs in last month by Year  
2000 n=6271, 2003 n=6982 (p<=0.01)



Again among those who had ever used drugs, there was reduction between 2000 and 2003 in the proportion saying that they had used solvents only in the month prior to being surveyed. Reductions were also recorded for soft drug combinations (Table 3.3).

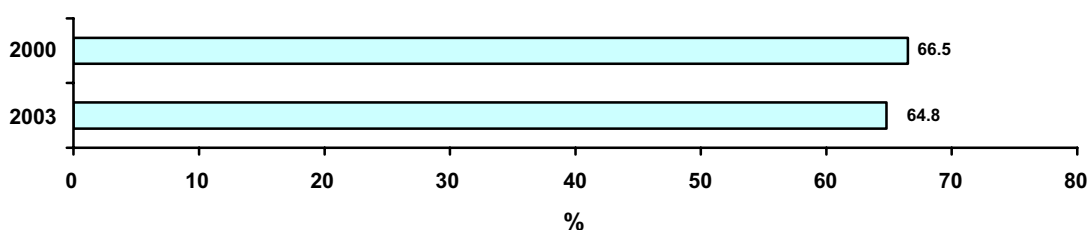
	Use drugs or solvents in last month ?					n
	Solvents only	Cannabis only	Soft drug combinations	Hard drugs	Did not use in last month	
	%	%	%	%	%	
2000	1.5	4.3	2.8	1.1	90.3	6271
2003	0.8	4.4	1.5	1.0	92.4	6981

( $X^2$ ,  $P < 0.001$ )

### 3.1.5 Drug Status Now If Ever Used Drugs

Among those who had ever used drugs, similar proportions in both survey years (2000: 67%; 2003: 65%) said that they were still using them (Figure 65).

**Fig 65: Currently using drugs if ever used drugs**  
2000 n=1568, 2003 n=1611



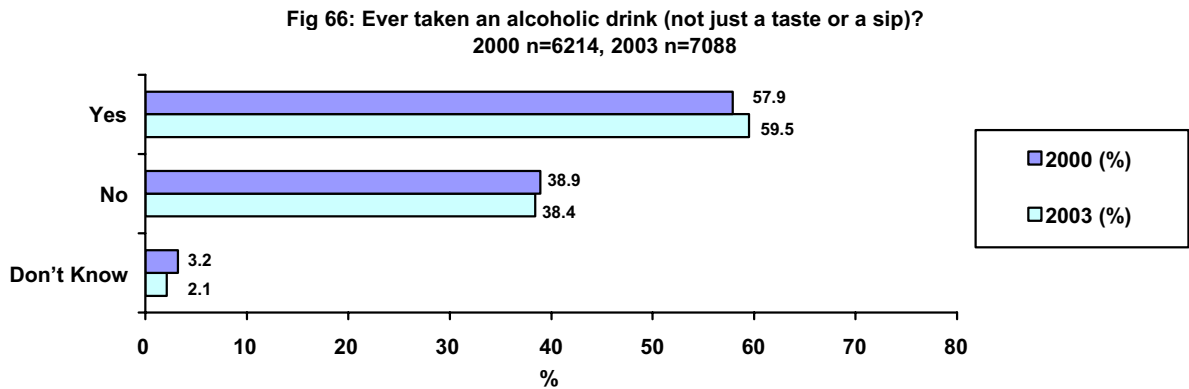
The table below shows that those who had ever used drugs in 2000 were more likely to say that they had stopped using solvents, whereas those who had stopped using in 2003 were more likely to report having stopped using cannabis (Table 3.4).

	If ever used drugs have you stopped using drugs ?					n
	Stopped Solvents	Stopped Cannabis	Stopped Soft drug combinations	Stopped Hard drugs	Still using	
	%	%	%	%	%	
2000	16.6	7.1	8.7	1.1	66.5	1568
2003	9.4	15.7	8.4	1.7	64.8	1611

( $X^2$ ,  $P < 0.001$ )

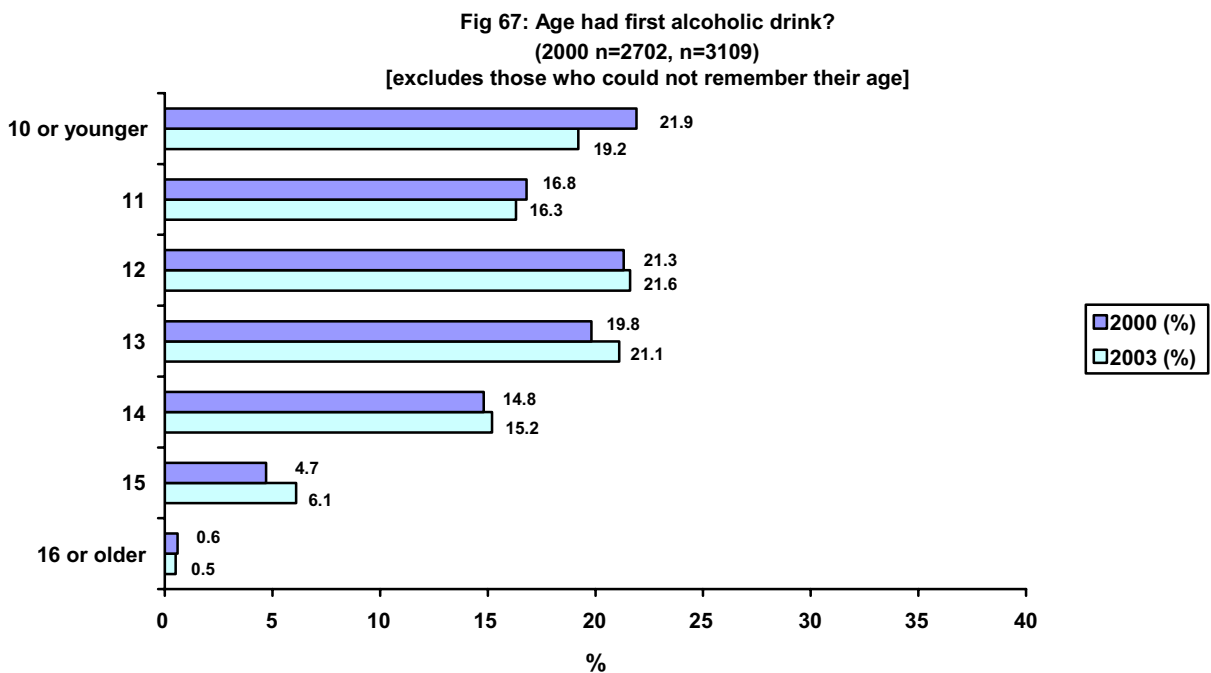
### 3.2 Ever Consumed An Alcoholic Drink

The proportion of pupils reporting that they had ever taken an alcoholic drink, was found to have increased significantly from 58% in 2000 to 60% in 2003 (Figure 66).



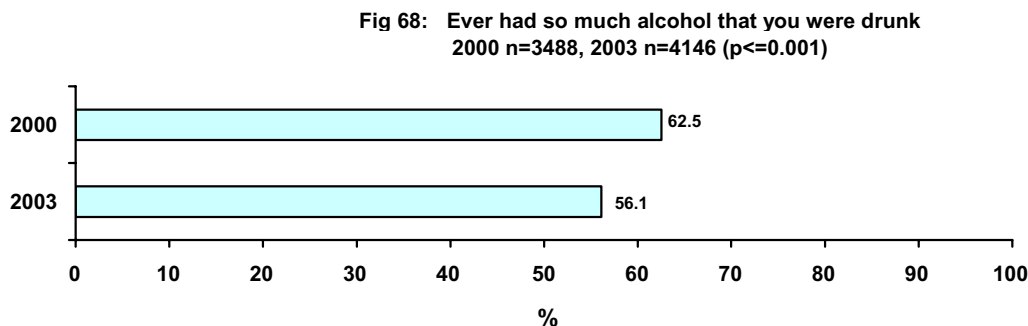
#### 3.2.1 Age First Consumed First Alcoholic Drink

Among those who had ever had an alcoholic drink, there was no significant variation between 2000 and 2003 with regards to the age of having had a first alcoholic drink (Figure 67).



### 3.2.2 Ever Drunk

In both surveys the majority of pupils who had ever drunk alcohol, reported to have been drunk at least once, although a comparison between 2000 and 2003 shows a statistically significant reduction from 63% to 56% (Figure 68).



### 3.2.3 Reasons For Drinking Alcohol

There were some significant differences in the reasons for drinking alcohol between the two survey years, with the 2003 sample more likely to say that they drank alcohol because they liked the taste, whereas respondents in 2000 were more likely to say that they drank alcohol for the following reasons: because their friends do; to celebrate; liking the effects; and because it cheers them up (Table 3.5).

<b>Table 3.5 Reasons for drinking alcohol by survey year</b>			
	2000	2003	
	%	%	n
Like the taste***	82.2	85.8	7642
To celebrate**	86.6	83.8	7586
To find out what it is like	60.1	62.3	7543
To feel relaxed	60.1	58.4	7573
It cheers me up***	60.5	55.7	7557
To get drunk	52.5	51.6	7571
To be sociable	44.7	42.8	7503
To escape problems	39.2	41.1	7555
Because my friends do**	41.5	37.8	7555
To be confident	38.5	37.1	7534
I like the effects***	43.5	36.7	7514
Because I'm under pressure	25.4	26.0	7528
Because my parents / family do	16.3	17.6	7518

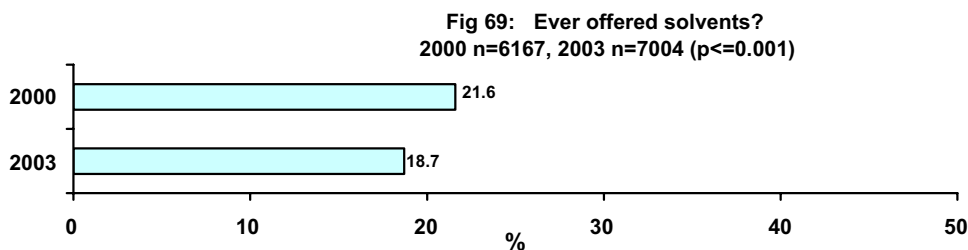
\* ( $X^2$ , p<0.05); \*\* ( $X^2$ , p<0.01); \*\*\* ( $X^2$ , p<0.001)

### 3.3 Solvents

It should be noted that the questions relating to solvents were structured differently in both surveys. However, appropriate comparators were constructed, although it should be noted that the differences between question structure may account for some of the variation in response between the two survey years.

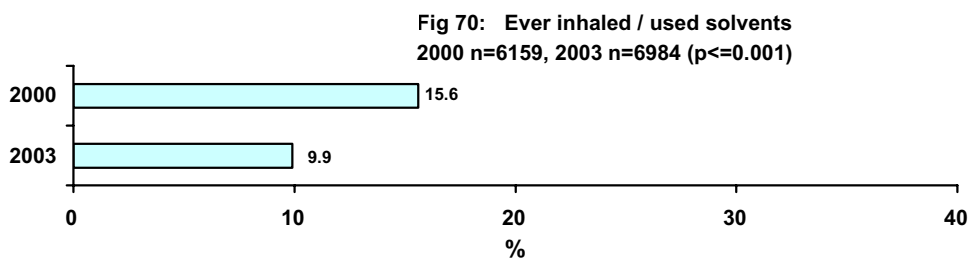
#### 3.3.1 Ever Offered Solvents

Based on the caveat cited previously, the analysis found that the proportion of pupils who had ever been offered solvents has declined significantly from 22% in 2000 to 19% in 2003 (Figure 69).



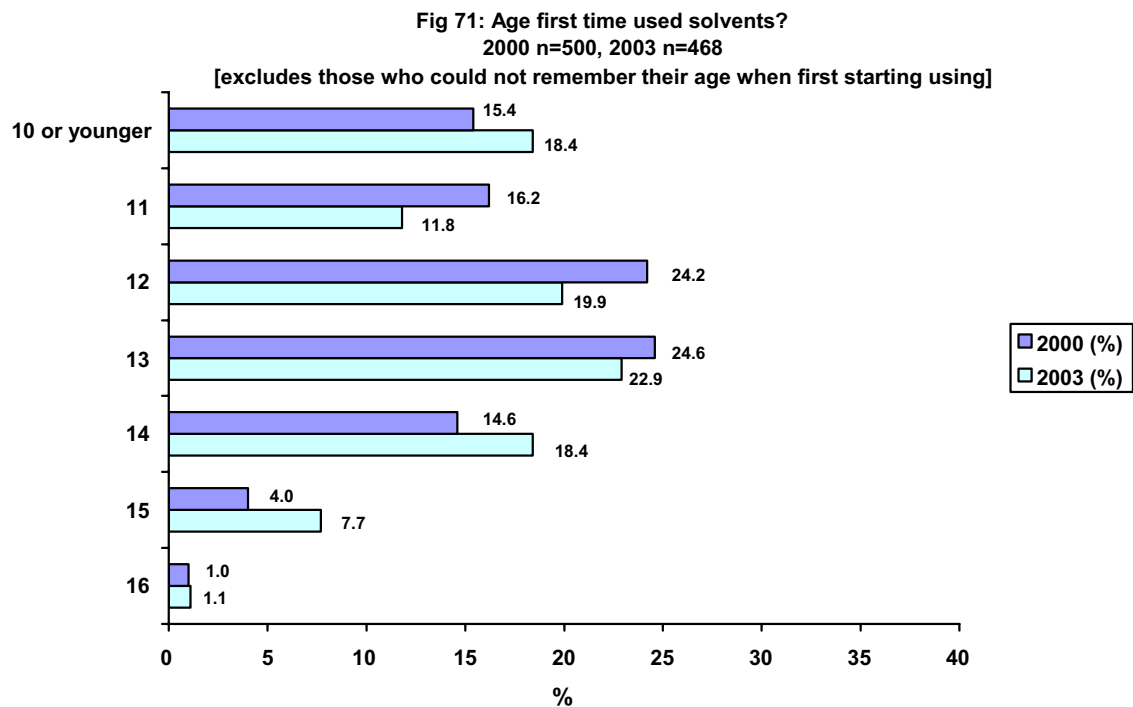
#### 3.3.2 Ever Inhaled / Used Solvents

Between the two survey years, there was a significant reduction in the proportions of respondents who said that they had ever used solvents (i.e. from 16% in 2000 to 10% in 2003 (Figure 70).



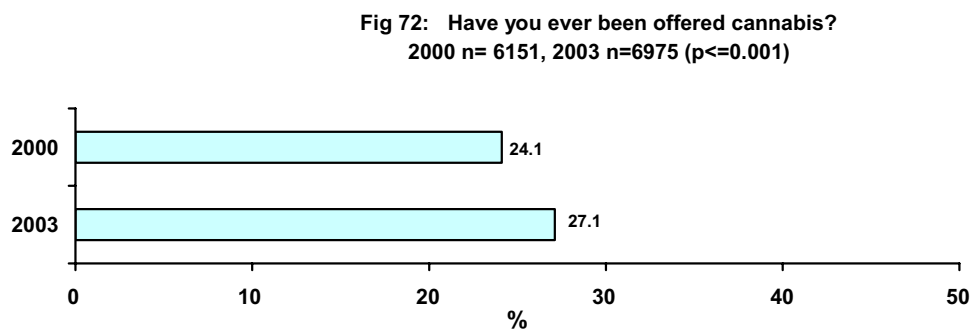
### 3.3.3 Age First Started Using Solvents

Among those who could remember what age they started using solvents, there was no significant variation in age first used between 2000 and 2003 (Figure 71).



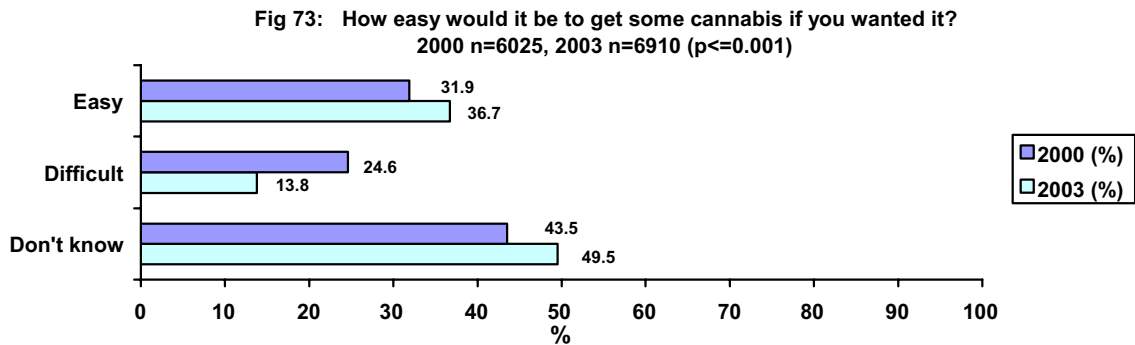
### 3.4 Ever Offered Cannabis

The proportion of pupils reporting having used cannabis was found to have increased significantly from 24% in 2000 to 27% in 2003 (Figure 72).



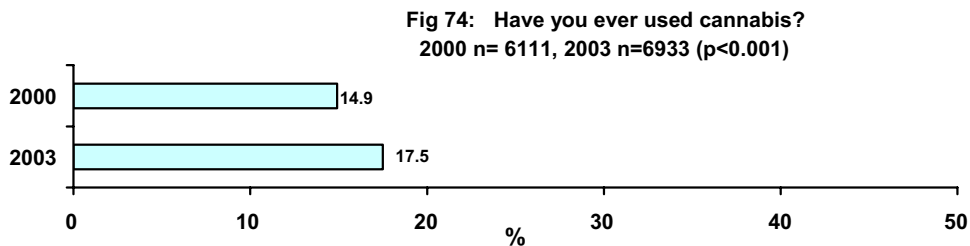
### 3.4.1 Ease Of Getting Cannabis

Compared with the 2000 sample, a greater proportion of pupils in the 2003 sample, a greater proportion of pupils in the 2003 survey felt that it would be easy to get cannabis if they wanted (37% vs. 32%) (Figure 73).



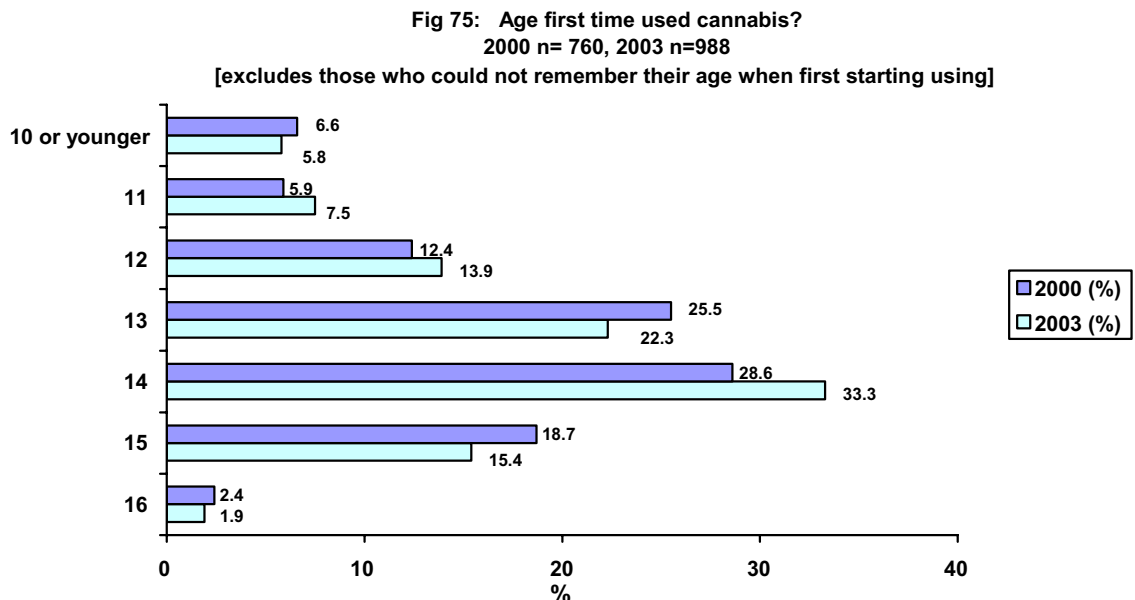
### 3.4.2 Using Cannabis

The use of cannabis was found to have increased significantly between the two survey years, with 18% of pupils using in 2003 compared with 15% in 2000 (Figure 74).



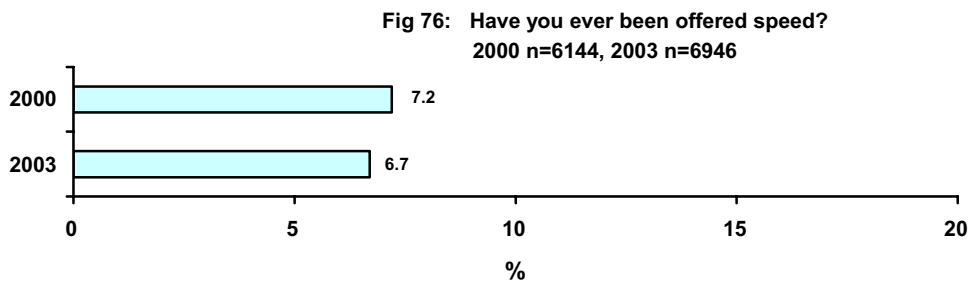
### 3.4.3 Age First Started Using Cannabis

Among those who could remember what age they started using cannabis, there was no significant difference between 2000 and 2003 in relation to age pupils first starting using this drug (Figure 75).



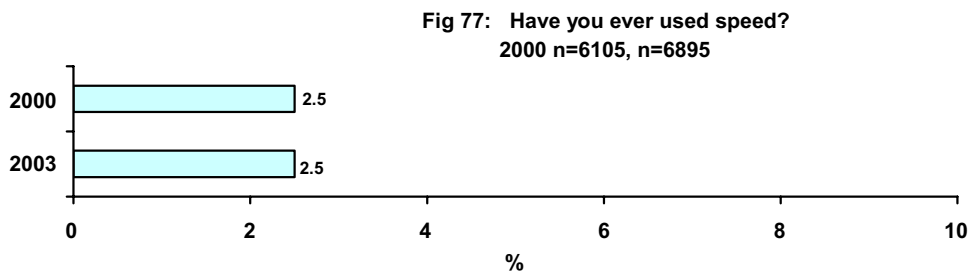
### 3.5 Ever Offered Speed

There was no significant difference in the proportions of pupils who had been offered speed in 2000 and 2003 (Figure 76).



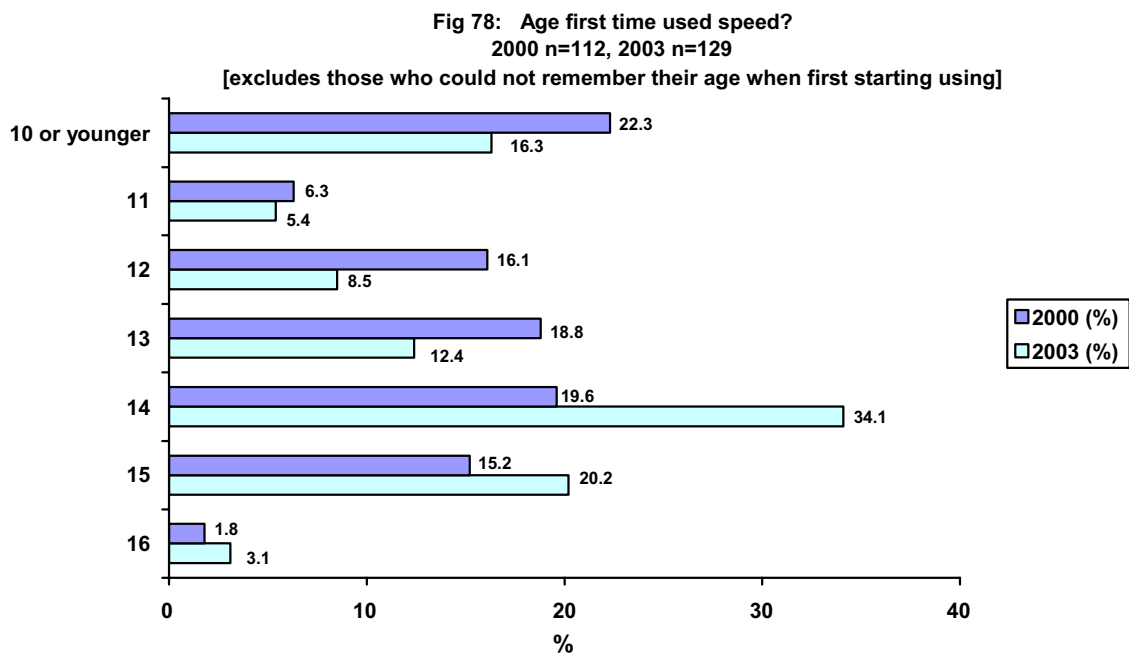
#### 3.5.1 Using Speed

As with being offered speed, there was no variation in the proportions of pupils who said that they used this drug (2.5% in each survey year) (Figure 77).



#### 3.5.2 Age First Started Using Speed

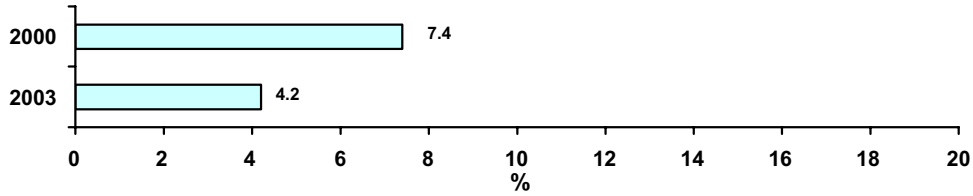
Among those who could remember what age they started using cannabis, there was no significant difference between 2000 and 2003 in relation to age pupils first starting using this drug (Figure 78).



### 3.6 Ever Offered LSD

Between 2000 and 2003, the proportion of pupils who said they had been offered LSD fell from 7% in 2000 to 4% in 2003 (Figure 79).

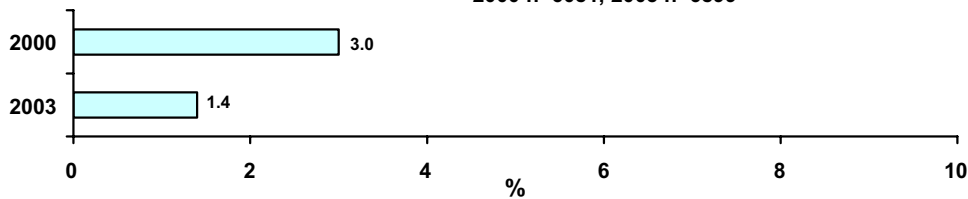
**Fig 79: Have you ever been offered LSD?**  
2000 n=6129, 2003 n=6933 (p<=0.001)



#### 3.6.1 Using LSD

There was a significant difference in reported level of LSD use between 2000 and 2003, with 3% of pupils in 2000 reporting having used this drug compared with 1% in 2003 (Figure 80).

**Fig 80: Have you ever used LSD?**  
2000 n=6081, 2003 n=6899

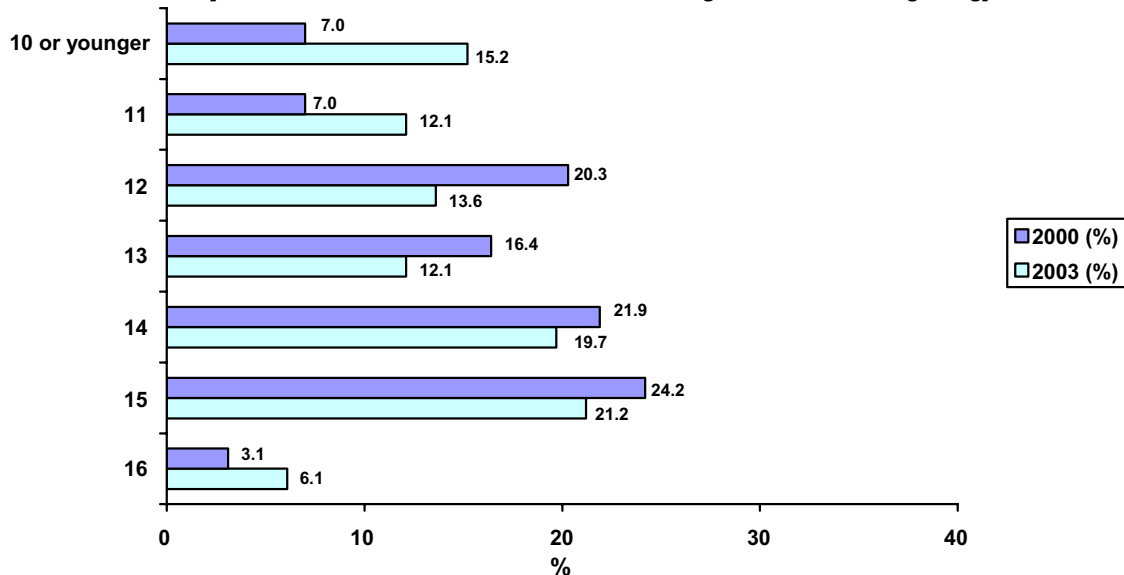


#### 3.6.2 Age First Started Using LSD

There was no significant difference between the 2000 and 2003 in relation to the age pupils first started using LSD (Figure 81).

**Fig 81: Age first time used LSD?**  
2000 n=128, 2003 n=66

[excludes those who could not remember their age when first starting using]



### 3.7 Ever Offered Ecstasy

The proportion of pupils who had ever been offered ecstasy, was found to have fallen significantly from 11% in 2000 to 9% in 2003 (Figure 82).

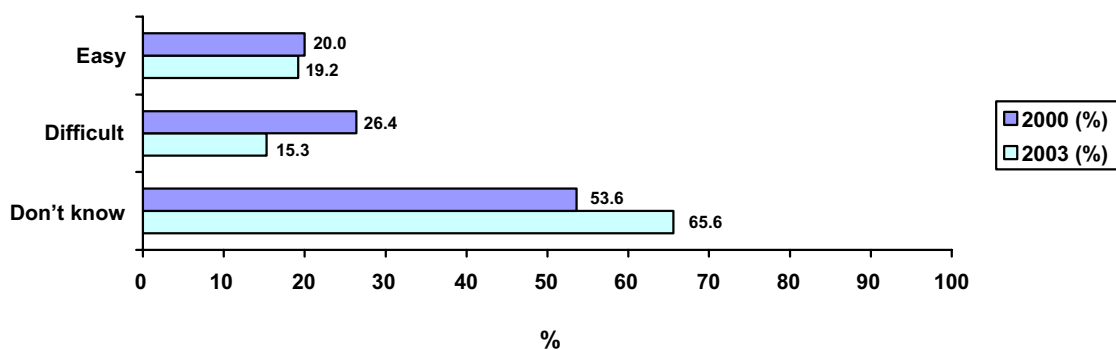
Fig 82: Have you ever been offered ecstasy?  
2000 n=6118, 2003 n=6926 (p<=0.01)



#### 3.7.1 Ease Of Getting Ecstasy

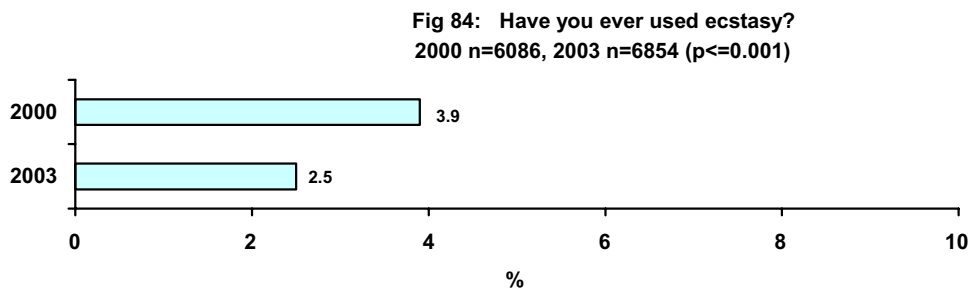
Although there was a significant difference in response to the question of how easy it would be to get ecstasy if pupils wanted to, this may be explained by the increase in the proportion of pupils recording don't know to this question from 54% in 2000 to 66% in 2003 (Figure 83).

Fig 83: How easy would it be to get ecstasy if you wanted it?  
2000 n=5984, 2003 n=6839 (p<=0.001)



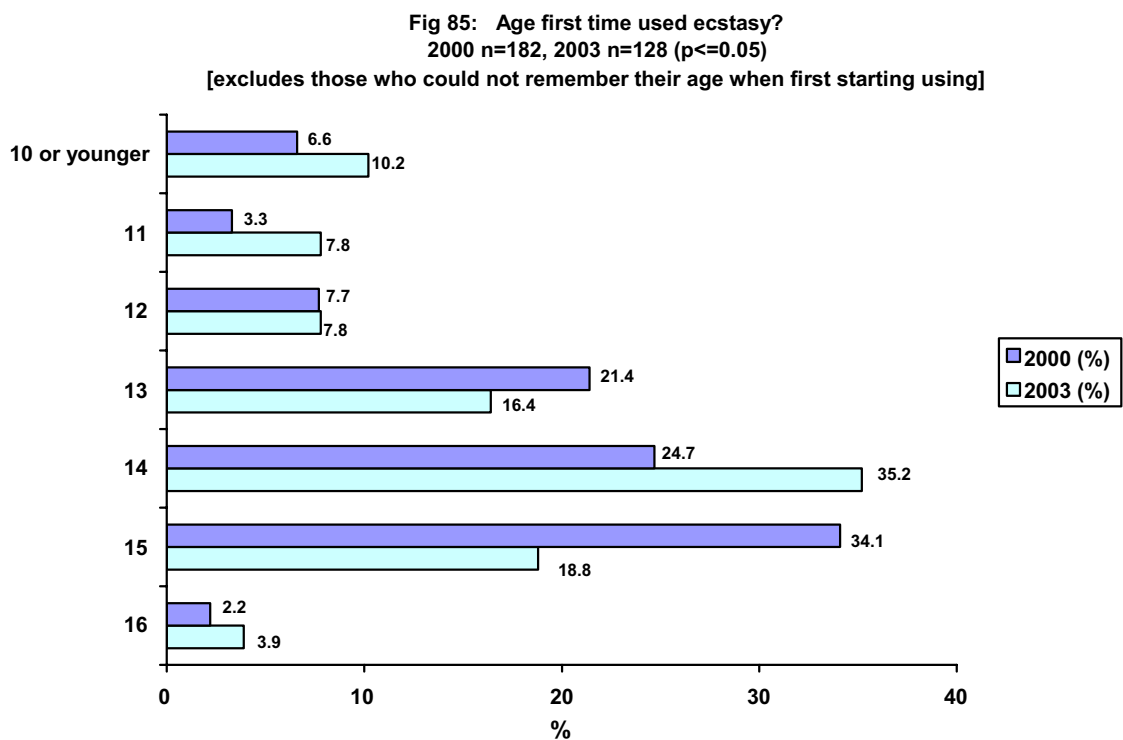
### 3.7.2 Using Ecstasy

The 2003 data showed a significant reduction in the proportion of pupils saying that they had used ecstasy (2.5%), compared with the 3.9% recorded in 2000 (Figure 84).



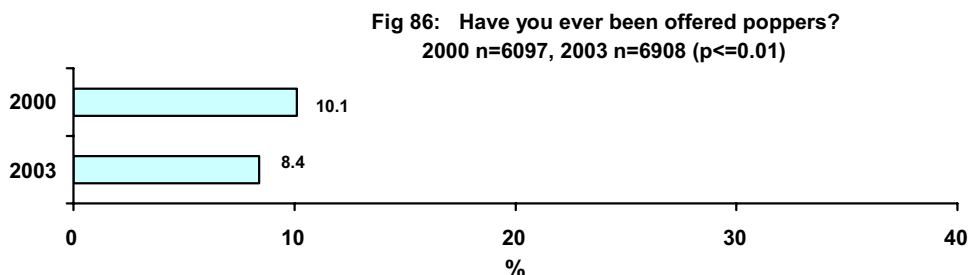
### 3.7.3 Age First Started Using Ecstasy

Among those who could remember what age they started using ecstasy, there was only a moderate significant variation (p<0.05) in age first used this drug and survey year (Figure 85).



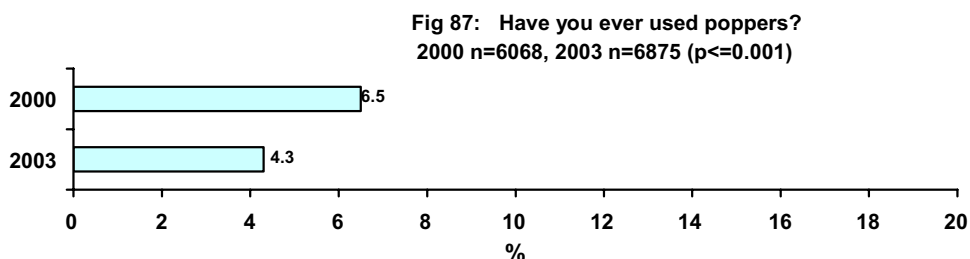
### 3.8 Ever Offered Poppers

The analysis shows a significant reduction between 2000 and 2003 in the proportion of pupils who had been offered poppers (Figure 86).



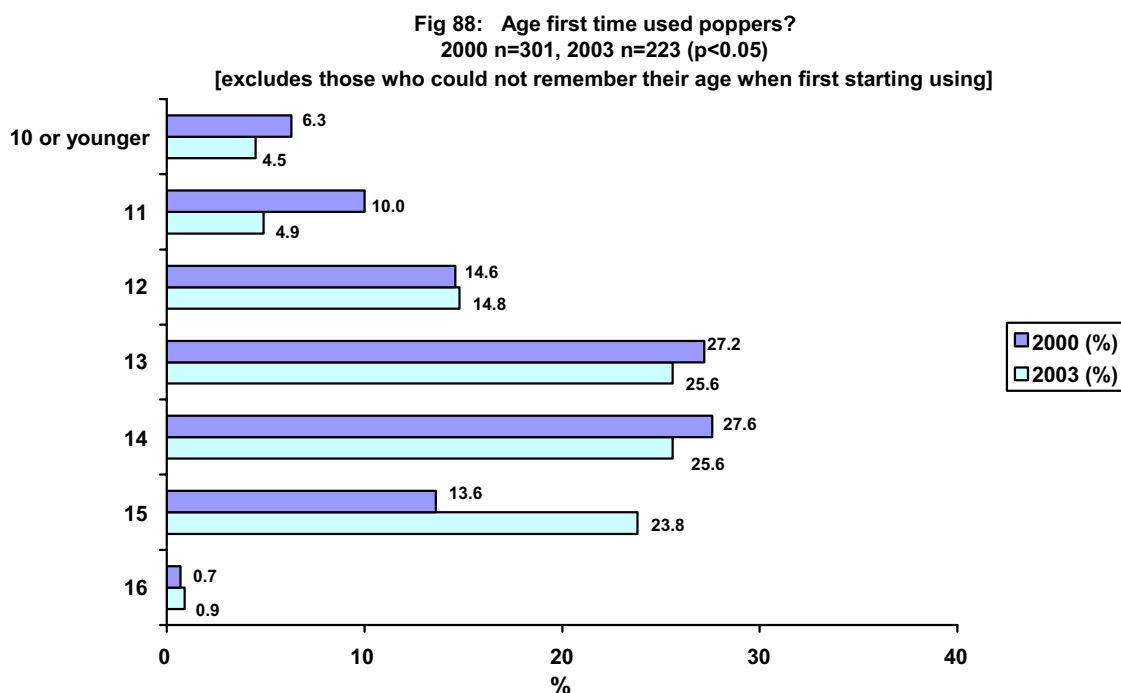
#### 3.8.1 Using Poppers

Use of poppers also found to have reduced significantly between 2000 and 2003, from 7% to 4%) (Figure 87).



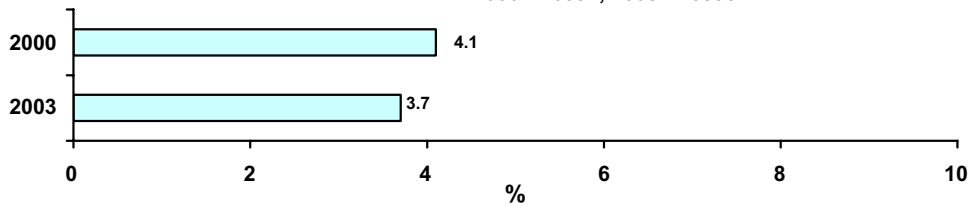
#### 3.8.2 Age First Started Using Poppers

The difference in age that pupils first started using poppers was found to be significant between 2000 and 2003, but only moderately (p<=0.05) (Figure 88).



### 3.9 Ever Offered Tranquilisers

Fig 89: Have you ever been offered tranquilisers?  
2000 n=6094, 2003 n=6898

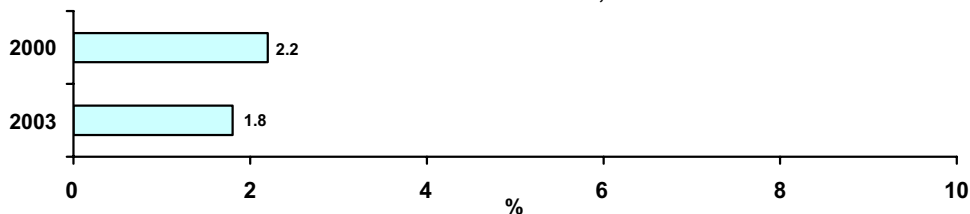


The likelihood of being offered tranquilisers, was found not be significantly associated with survey year (Figure 89).

#### 3.9.1 Using Tranquilisers

As with being offered tranquilisers, using them was not found to differ significantly between 2000 and 2003 (Figure 90).

Fig 90: Have you ever used tranquilisers?  
2000 n=6051, 2003 n=6881

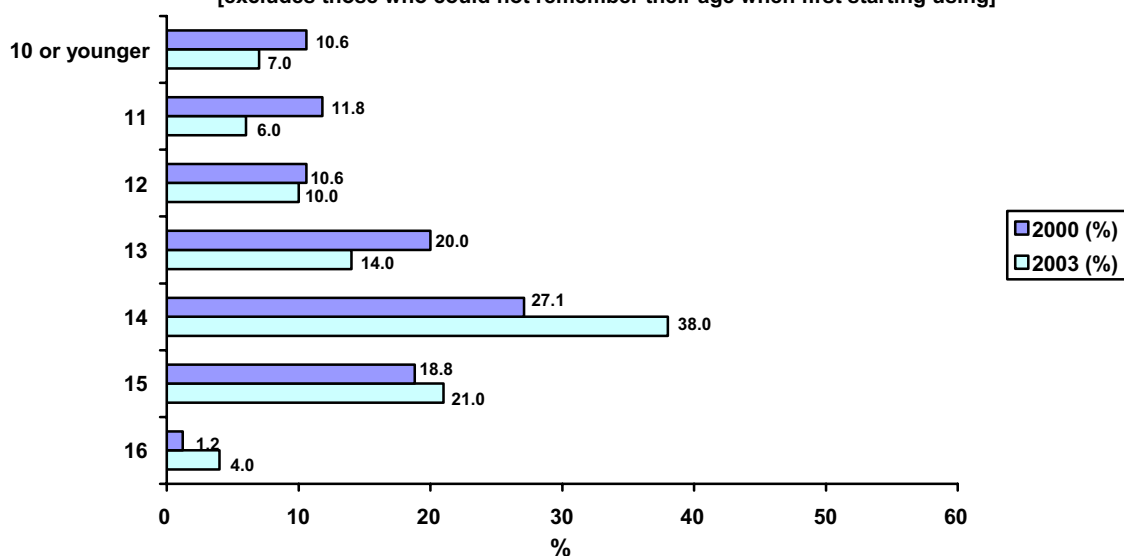


#### 3.9.2 Age First Started Using Tranquilisers

There was no significant variation in age first used tranquilisers and survey year (Figure 91).

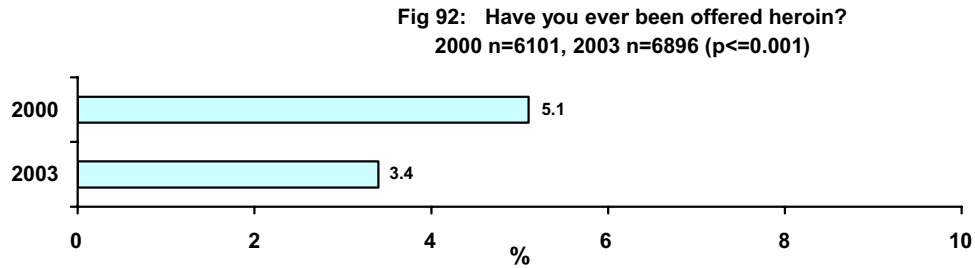
Fig 91: Age first time used tranquilisers?  
2000 n=85, 2003 n=100

[excludes those who could not remember their age when first starting using]



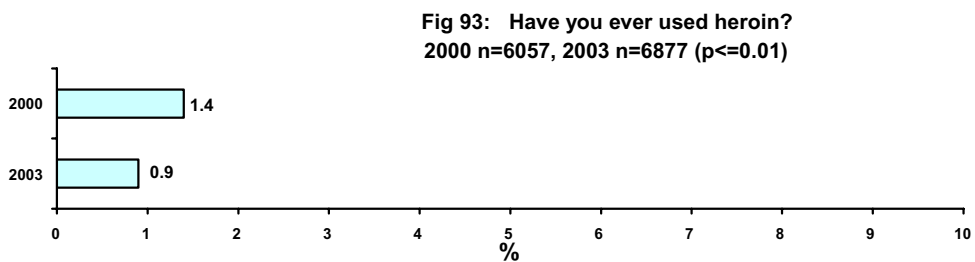
### 3.10 Ever Offered Heroin

Significantly fewer pupils in 2003 (3%) said that they had been offered heroin, compared with pupils in the 2000 sample (5%) (Figure 92).



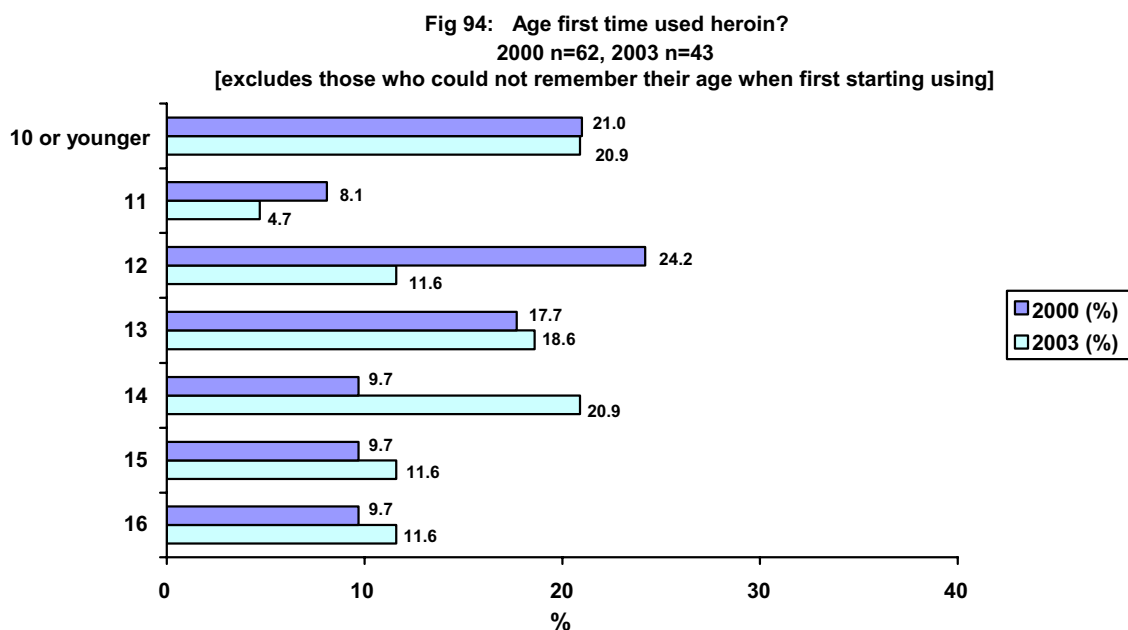
#### 3.10.1 Using Heroin

Although the overall proportions of pupils reporting heroin use in both 2000 and 2003 is low at 1%, the difference between the two survey years is statistically significant at the 99% level (Figure 93).



#### 3.10.2 Age First Started Using Heroin

There was no variation between 2000 and 2003 in terms of age pupils first started using heroin (Figure 94).

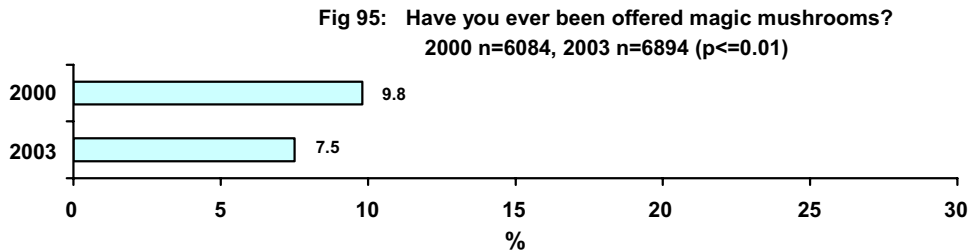


### 3.11 Magic Mushrooms

The following section presents the results from those questions relating to magic mushrooms, which includes the term psilocybin.

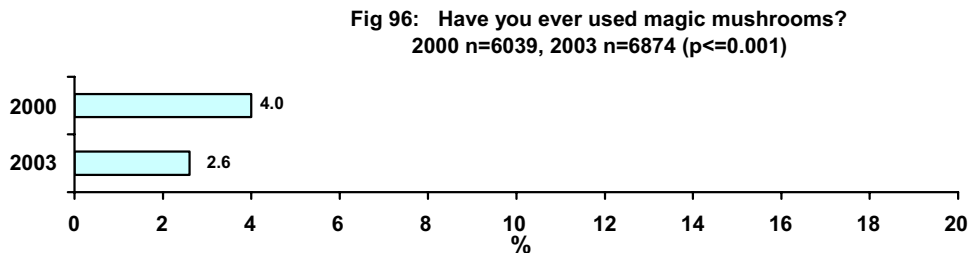
#### 3.11.1 Ever Offered Magic Mushrooms

The likelihood of having been offered magic mushrooms, declined significantly between the figure of 10% of all pupils recorded in 2000, compared with the figure of 8% in 2003 (Figure 95).



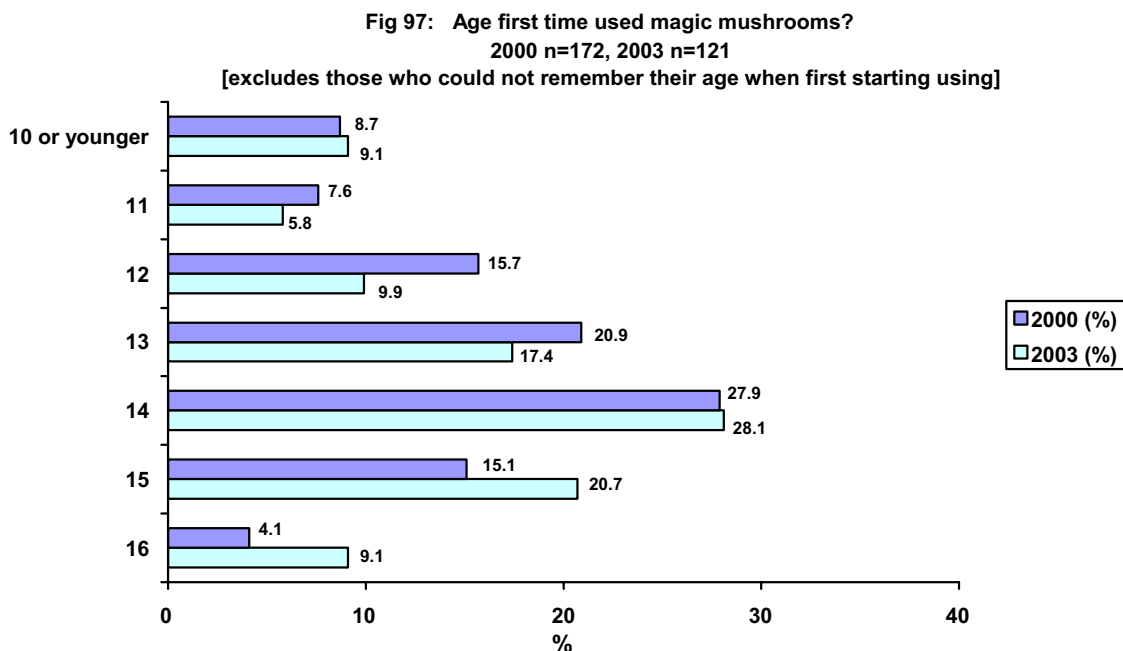
#### 3.11.2 Using Magic Mushrooms

As with being offered magic mushrooms, their usage was also found to have reduced significantly among pupils between 2000 and 2003 (Figure 96).



#### 3.11.3 Age First Started Using Magic Mushrooms

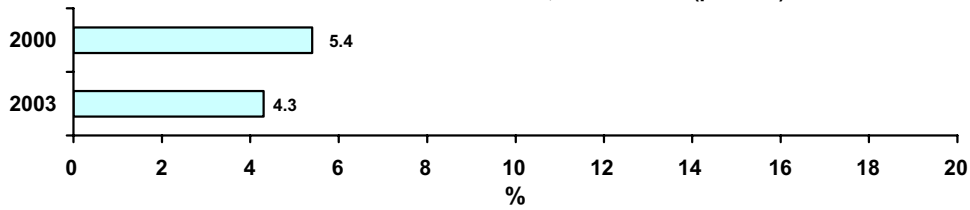
The analysis found no significant variation between 2000 and 2003 with regard to the age magic mushrooms users first used the drug (Figure 97).



### 3.12 Ever Offered Crack

There was a significant decrease in the proportion of pupils who had been offered crack, from 5% in 2000 to 4% in 2003 (Figure 98).

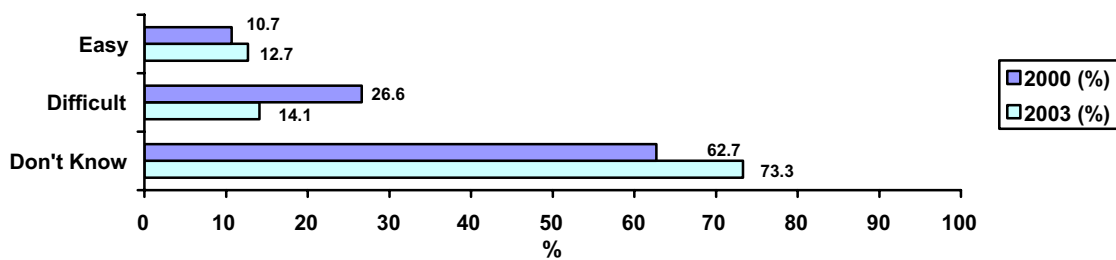
Fig 98: Have you ever been offered crack?  
2000 n=6076, 2003 n=6882 (p<=0.01)



#### 3.12.1 Ease Of Getting Crack

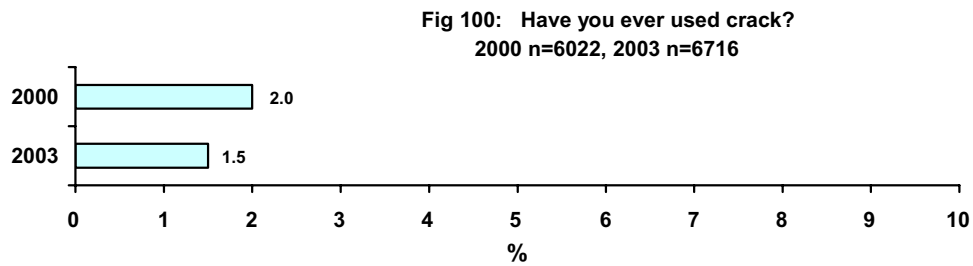
There was a significant shift between 2000 and 2003 in the proportion of pupils who recorded 'don't know when asked if it would be easy or difficult to get crack if they wanted (63% to 73%) (Figure 99).

Fig 99: How easy would it be to get crack if you wanted it?  
2000 n=5930, 2003 n=6803 (p<=0.001)



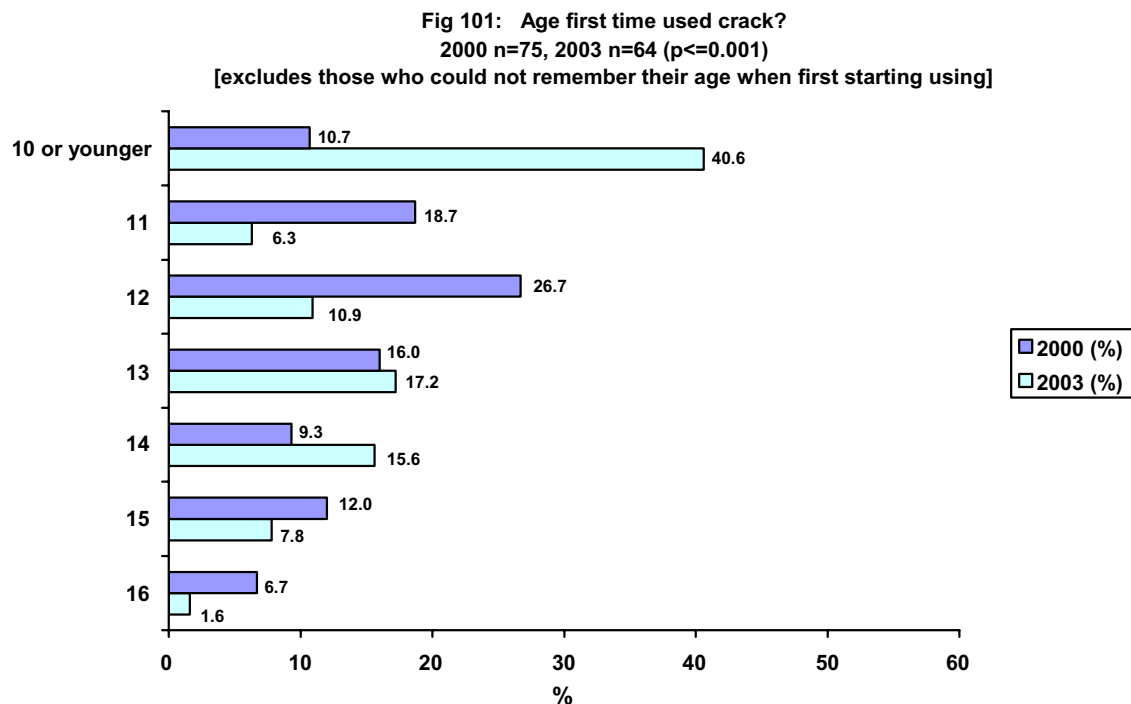
### 3.12.2 Using Crack

There was no significant difference in the level of reported crack used between pupils in 2000 and 2003 (Figure 100).



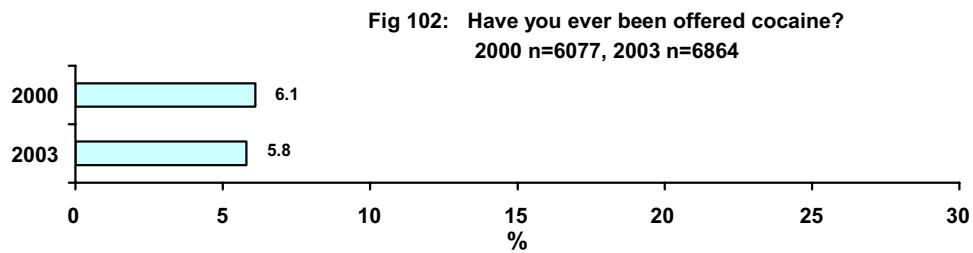
### 3.12.3 Age First Started Using Crack

The age that users of crack first started using the drug was found to differ significantly between 2000 and 2003, with much of this difference accounted for by the difference among those aged 10 and younger. It is likely that this finding relates to over reporting within this age group, and as such any interpretation or extrapolation should be treated with caution (Figure 101).



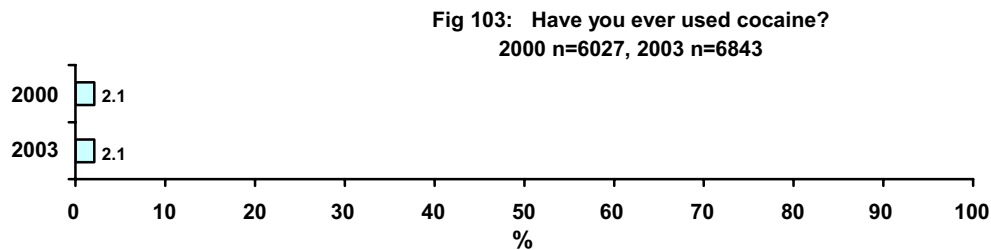
### 3.13 Ever Offered Cocaine

There was no significant variation in the proportion of pupils indicating that they had been offered cocaine between the two survey years (Figure 102).



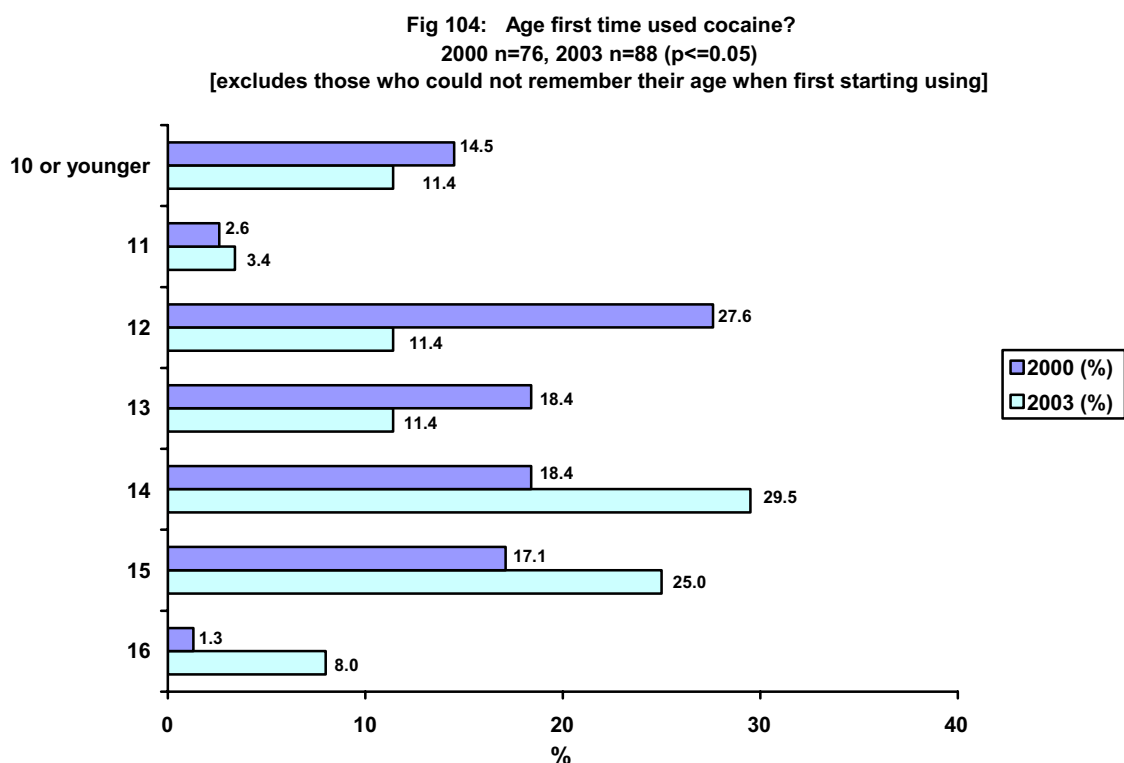
#### 3.13.1 Using Cocaine

The level of reported cocaine usage among pupils was identical (2.1%) in both 2000 and 2003 (Figure 103).



#### 3.13.2 Age First Started Using Cocaine

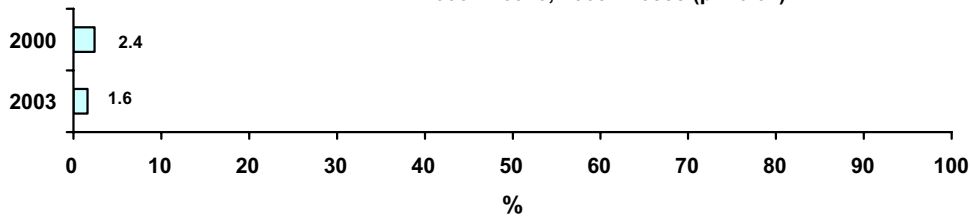
The difference in report age that pupils first started using cocaine, was found to be moderately significant between 2000 and 2003 (Figure 104).



### 3.14 Ever Offered Anabolic Steroids

Although the difference was statistically significant, similar proportions of pupils in each survey reported being offered anabolic steroids (Figure 105).

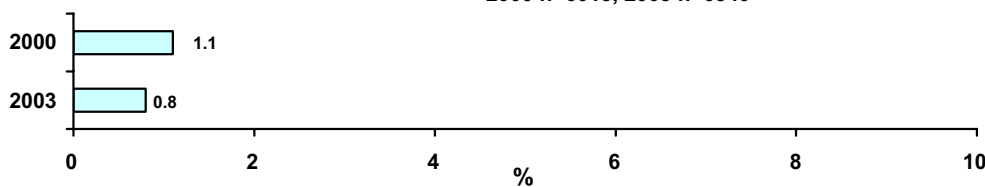
Fig 105: Have you ever been offered anabolic steroids?  
2000 n=6070, 2003 n=6858 (p<=0.01)



#### 3.14.1 Using Anabolic Steroids

There was no significant association between survey year and having used anabolic steroids (Figure 106).

Fig 106: Have you ever used anabolic steroids?  
2000 n=6015, 2003 n=6840

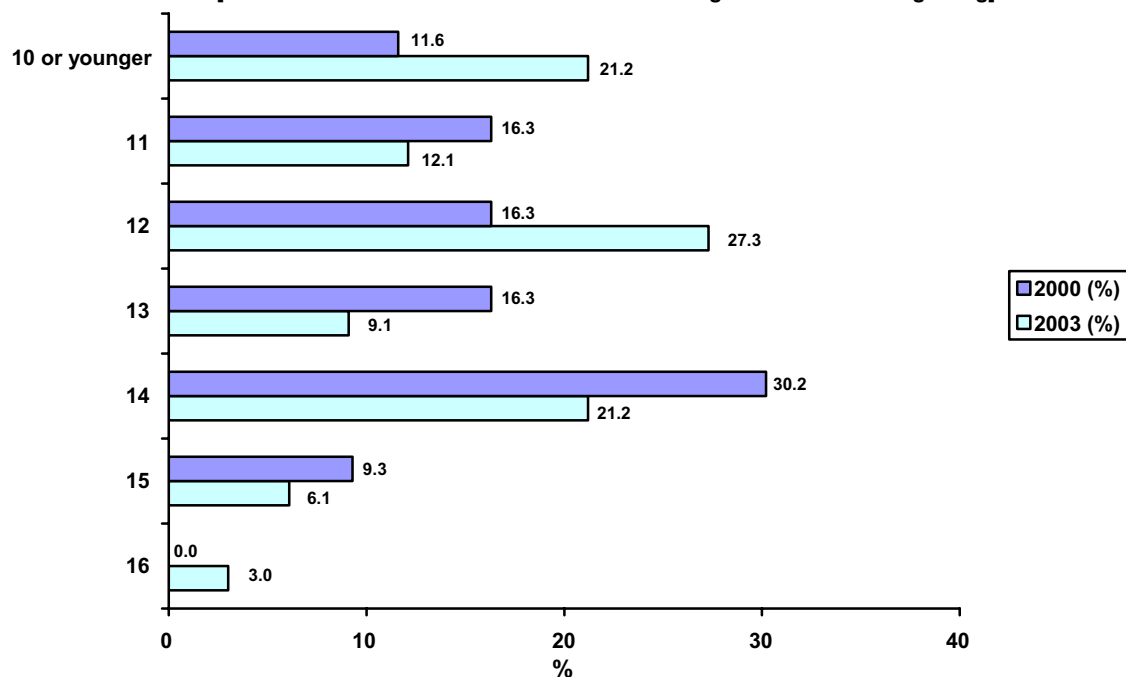


#### 3.14.2 Age First Started Using Anabolic Steroids

The age at which users of anabolic steroids first used the drug did not differ significantly between survey years (Figure 107).

Fig 107: Age first time used anabolic steroids?  
2000 n=43, 2003 n=33

[excludes those who could not remember their age when first starting using]



### 3.15 Ever Offered Drugs (Excluding Solvents)

Age of pupil on the first occasion offered drugs was found to differ significantly, although the table below shows that the largest variation relates to the proportions who could not remember their age i.e. 9% in 2000 compared with 7% in 2003 (Table 3.6).

	2000	2003
	%	%
10 or younger	2.1	1.9
11	2.6	2.4
12	3.8	4.2
13	4.6	5.9
14	4.4	4.9
15	2.1	2.4
16	0.2	0.2
Can't remember	9.0	6.9
Never offered drugs	71.3	71.2
n	5948	6582
(X <sup>2</sup> , p<0.001)		

#### 3.15.1 Who Offered Drugs To You The First Time

Between 2000 and 2003, there was an increase in the proportion of pupils who said that a friend or person around their own age and whom they knew, was the first to offer them drugs (51% to 61%) (Table 3.7).

	2000	2003
	%	%
A friend or other person around my own age I knew	51.0	61.4
Someone my own age I didn't really know	23.2	20.2
An adult I did not know	10.4	8.6
An adult I knew	8.1	4.1
A relative (e.g. brother, sister, uncle, cousin etc)	5.2	4
No one offered me drugs, I got them myself	2.1	1.7
n	1588	1800
(X <sup>2</sup> , p<0.001)		

### 3.15.2 Where Were You First Time Offered Drugs

In 2003 pupils who had been offered drugs were more likely to say that the first offer had been somewhere outside such as a park, street, in an entry, under a bridge etc (59%), and were less likely to say that their first offer of drugs had occurred at a rave, disco club or concert (9%) (Table 3.8).

	2000	2003
	%	%
Outside	47.6	58.8
Someone Else's House	13.1	12.2
Rave Disco	12.8	8.6
Party	11.6	8.5
School	4.5	4.4
Somewhere Else	5.4	4.4
In My Own House	3.5	2.5
Pub	1.1	0.5
Don't Know	0.4	0.1
n	1677	1832
$(X^2, p<0.001)$		

### 3.15.3 Ever Offered Drugs (Not Counting Solvents) To Someone Else

In both 2000 and 2003, one in twenty (5%) pupils said that they had offered drugs (not counting solvents) to someone else (Figure 108).

**Fig 108: Have you ever offered drugs (not counting solvents) to someone else?**  
2000 n=5908, 2003 n=6755



### 3.16 Knowledge Of The Effects /Risks Of Taking Drugs

Knowledge about the effects / risks of taking drugs appears to have improved between 2000 and 2003, with 74% of pupils in 2003 saying that they either 'know a lot' or 'quite a bit' about the effects / risks of taking drugs, compared with 70% in 2000 (Table 3.9).

	How much do you know about the effects / risks of taking drugs?			
	Know a lot / quite a bit	Know some	Know very little / nothing	n
	%	%	%	
2000	69.7	20.1	10.2	5874
2003	74.4	16.7	8.9	6725
$(X^2, p<0.001)$				

### 3.16.1 Education On Use Of Alcohol

Compared with the 2000 sample, pupils in 2003 were significantly more likely to report that they had received education on the use of alcohol and / or drugs in school and at a youth facility (82% and 30% respectively). Both these differences were found to be highly significant ( $p \leq 0.001$ ) (Figure 109).

Fig 109: Any education on the use of alcohol and / or drugs (e.g. talks/lessons, packs, leaflets, drama workshops, TV ads) in the last year?

