

# Drug use, smoking and drinking among young people in England in 2003

## Headline Figures

*National Centre for Social Research/National Foundation for Educational Research*

### Summary

This document contains headline results from a major national survey of secondary schoolchildren aged 11-15 published today by the Department of Health. The National Centre for Social Research (NatGen) and the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) carried out the survey for the Department of Health. Over 10,000 pupils in 321 schools in England completed questionnaires in the 2003 autumn term. The main report on the survey will be published in autumn 2004. The survey is the most recent in a series that began in 1982. Some of the 2002 results have been revised, see note 2.

The preliminary key findings for 2003 data are set out below.

- Twenty-one percent of pupils had taken drugs in the last year in 2003, an increase from 20% in 2002 and 2001;
- Twelve percent of pupils had taken drugs in the last month in 2003, the same proportion as in 2002 and 2001.
- Nine percent of pupils aged 11-15 were regular smokers in 2003, a decrease from 10% in 2002;
- The proportion of pupils who drank in the last week was 25% in 2003, there was no significant change from last year (24% in 2002);

### Drug use

The government's Updated Drug Strategy (December 2002) states that "the most effective way of reducing the harm drugs cause is to persuade all potential users, but particularly the young, not to use drugs" and that government will be "targeting action on the most dangerous drugs and patterns of drug use and the most vulnerable young people" (see note 4). Key measures of this survey include the proportions of pupils who have taken specific types of drugs (including particular Class A drugs) in the last month and the last year. The individual drugs / categories of drugs covered in the questionnaire are: amphetamines, anabolic steroids, cannabis, cocaine, crack, ecstasy, heroin, LSD, magic mushrooms, methadone, poppers, tranquillisers, volatile substances such as gas, glue and other solvents, and 'other' drugs (not obtained from a doctor or chemist).

Prevalence of taking drugs had increased slightly between 1998 and 2000. A revised method of measuring prevalence of taking or using drugs was introduced in 2001 (see Note 9). The new questions introduced in 2001 provide estimates of drug use that are not strictly comparable with results from previous surveys, although it is likely that drug use either stayed the same or increased slightly between 2000 and 2001 (see Note 9).

The survey provides estimates of the prevalence of drug use in 2003. The main findings include:

- Prevalence of taking drugs was relatively stable between 2001 and 2003. Prevalence of taking drugs in the last month was 12% in 2001, 2002 and 2003, while prevalence of taking drugs in the last year was 20% in 2001 and 2002 and 21% in 2003.
- There was no significant difference between the proportion of boys and the proportion of girls who took drugs in the last month or in the last year in 2003. In 2003, among boys, 13% took drugs in the last month and 22% took drugs in the last year – the equivalent percentages for girls were 12% and 20%.

This is in contrast to previous years where boys had always been slightly more likely than girls to take drugs.

- 8% of 11 year olds had taken drugs in the last year, while 38% of 15 year olds had done so, this increase with age was also found in previous years.
- One percent of pupils took drugs most days, a further 2% took drugs at least once a week, and a further 3% took drugs once or twice a month.

(Tables 1-3, Figures 1-3)

Findings on taking individual drugs include:

- In 2003, as in previous years of the survey, cannabis was by far the most likely drug to have been taken – 13% of pupils aged 11-15 had taken cannabis in the last year. Prevalence of taking cannabis in the last year was slightly higher among boys (14%) than girls (12%). Prevalence of taking cannabis increased sharply with age: 1% of 11 year olds had taken the drug in the last year compared with 31% of 15 year olds;
- Eight percent reported taking volatile substances in the last year in 2003, compared with 7% in 2001 and 6% in 2002.
- Four percent reported sniffing poppers in the last year in 2003, compared with 3% in 2001 and 4% in 2002.
- Among 11 and 12 year olds, misuse of volatile substances in the last year was more common than taking cannabis. Six percent of 11 year olds had sniffed volatile substances in the last year and 1% had taken cannabis. The equivalent figures for 12-year-olds were 7% and 3%.
- 1% of 11-15 year olds had taken heroin in the last year and 1% had taken cocaine in the last year. In total, 4% had taken Class A drugs in the last year.

(Tables 4-7)

Pupils were also asked about which drugs they had ever been offered:

- Two-fifths of pupils (42%) had ever been offered one or more drugs. This figure was 40% in 2002 and 42% in 2001.
- Overall, boys were more likely to have been offered drugs than were girls (44% compared with 39%).
- Cannabis was the drug most likely to have ever been offered (27% of pupils said they ever had been offered cannabis).
- In 2003, 19% said that they had ever been offered volatile substances to inhale or sniff.
- As with use of drugs, likelihood of having ever been offered drugs increased sharply with age, from 19% among 11 year olds to 65% among 15 year olds.

(Tables 8-10)

## Smoking

The government has set a target in the *Smoking Kills* White Paper to reduce the prevalence of smoking among young people aged 11- 15 from a baseline of 13% in 1996 to 11% by 2005 and 9% or less by 2010.

Results from this survey show that:

- Prevalence of regular smoking (at least one cigarette a week) decreased from 10% in 2002 to 9% in 2003, but has remained stable, at between 9% and 11% since 1998;
- There is a sharp increase in prevalence of smoking with age - 1% of 11 year olds smoke regularly compared with 22% of 15 year olds.
- As in previous years, overall girls are more likely to be regular smokers than boys - 11% compared with 7%;
- The overall higher prevalence of smoking among girls than boys was found among all ages except age 11 where only 1% smoked regularly. For example, smoking was reported by 16% of 14 year old girls and 26% of 15 year old girls, compared with 9% of 14 year old boys and 18% of 15 year old boys.

(Table 11, Figure 4)

## Drinking

This survey monitors the prevalence of drinking in the last week and the amount of alcohol drunk. Key findings from this survey include:

- Prevalence of drinking alcohol in the last week was 25% in 2003. This figure rose steadily from 20% in 1988 to 27% in 1996 and has since fluctuated within this range, showing no clear pattern over recent years;
- As in previous surveys, boys continued to be more likely than girls to have drunk alcohol in the last week in 2003 (26% compared with 24%);
- As with cigarette smoking, prevalence of drinking increased with age: in 2003, 6% of all pupils aged 11 had had a drink in the last week, while 49% of 15 year olds had done so.

In terms of the amount of alcohol drunk, the average weekly consumption among pupils who drank in the last 7 days increased from 5.3 units in 1990 to 9.9 units in 1998, and has fluctuated around this level since then. In 2003, the average weekly consumption was 9.5 units.

Among those who drank, boys drank an average of 10.5 units in the previous 7 days in 2003 compared with 8.5 units drunk by girls. The mean weekly alcohol consumption of those who drank was higher among older pupils – 15 year olds drank an average of 11.3 units in the previous 7 days compared with 7.1 units drunk by 11-13 year olds. These effects of age and sex have been evident throughout the survey series.

(Tables 12-14, Figures 5-6)

## Notes

1. This is the latest in a series of national surveys of secondary school children aged 11-15 in England. The first survey in the series was carried out in 1982 to provide estimates of the proportion of pupils who smoked and to describe the smoking behaviour of those who did smoke. Similar surveys were carried out every two years until 1998 to monitor trends in the prevalence of cigarette smoking. Questions on alcohol consumption were included for the first time in the 1988 survey, and the 1998 survey was the first to include questions on the prevalence of drug use. Surveys are now being carried out every year, with emphasis likely to alternate between drugs, and smoking and drinking – the 2001 and 2003 surveys focussed mainly on drugs, the 2000 and 2002 surveys focussed mainly on smoking and drinking. Between 1982 and 1999 surveys were carried out by the Office for National Statistics; since 2000 surveys have been carried out by the National Centre for Social Research and the National Foundation for Educational Research.
2. There were errors in the 2002 preliminary results and the 2002 published report, which have been corrected in these Headline Figures. The main areas affected were prevalence of taking any drugs in the last month and last year, and number of units of alcohol consumed in the last week. An explanation of the errors can be found at: <http://www.publications.doh.gov.uk/public/sddsurvey02.htm>
3. The governments smoking strategy is set out in *Smoking Kills: A White Paper on Tobacco*, Cm 4177, Stationery Office (1998).
4. The government's ten year drugs strategy is set out in *Tackling drugs to build a better Britain*, Cm 3945, Stationery Office (1998). The strategy update published in December 2002, *Updated Drug Strategy 2002*, can be found at [http://www.drugs.gov.uk/ReportsandPublications/NationalStrategy/1038840683/Updated\\_Drug\\_Strategy\\_2002.pdf](http://www.drugs.gov.uk/ReportsandPublications/NationalStrategy/1038840683/Updated_Drug_Strategy_2002.pdf)
5. The government's alcohol strategy is set out in *Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England* which was published on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2004 and can be found at <http://www.strategy.gov.uk/output/Page3669.asp>
6. In general in these Headline Figures differences or changes over time are only described as such if they are statistically significant at the 95% level. Where small changes are reported which are not statistically significant they are clearly described as such. The following convention has been used in tables
 

0	= less than 0.5%, but not zero
-	= zero
7. In this survey regular smokers are defined as those who usually smoke at least one cigarette a week.
8. A unit of alcohol is 8 grams by weight or 1cl (10ml) by volume of pure alcohol. This is the approximate amount contained in half a pint of ordinary strength beer or lager (4% alcohol by volume), a single pub measure of spirits (25ml), a small glass of ordinary strength wine (9% alcohol by volume), or a single pub measure of sherry or fortified wine. In defining the number of units drunk, the alcoholic strength and volume measures of drinks are assumed to be the same – such that for example a pint of beer is defined as 2 units of alcohol regardless of the brand of beer, and a glass of wine is defined as 1 unit regardless of the size of the glass. It would be impractical to collect very accurate information on strength and volume in this type of survey. Hence, total alcohol consumption is estimated using a set of consistent assumptions, which nevertheless clearly imply a degree of approximation in these measurements.
9. Reported levels of drug use in the last month and last year increased slightly between 1998 and 2000. In 2000, 9% of pupils had used drugs in the last month and 14% had used drugs in the last year, compared with 7% and 11% respectively in 1998. The estimates for 2001 were 12% and 20% respectively. In 2001, the format and wording of questions about use of drugs were changed to improve comprehension and completion, while retaining the same content. There are a number of possible explanations for the difference between 2000 and 2001 prevalence figures:
  - Use of drugs in the population aged 11-15 increased between 2000 and 2001, and the change in question format/wording may have led to the reported increase being exaggerated or diminished;
  - Use of drugs in 2001 is at the same level as in 2000, and the difference in reported levels of use is due to changes in question format/wording;
  - Use of drugs has decreased from 2000 to 2001, but the change in question format/wording has led to a greater increase in reported use and the net result appears to be an increase in prevalence.
 It is not possible to tell which of these explanations is true, although it is possible to look at use of individual drugs in 2000 and 2001 to see whether there are any patterns which may point to one of the explanations given about being more likely than the other explanations. Evidence from cognitive work during the questionnaire development supported the hypothesis that when pupils answer grid format questions, more attention is paid to drugs at the top of the list, but that pupils can get into a pattern of just ticking the same answer and not reading the names of the drugs properly for drugs further down the grid. Therefore figures for reported cannabis use in 2001 would arguably be more comparable with reported levels from 2000 as cannabis was the first drug asked about in the grid. As use of cannabis in the last year was marginally higher in 2001 than 2000, this suggests that it is more likely that drug use either stayed at the same level or increased slightly between 2000 and 2001.

SMOKING, DRINKING AND DRUG USE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE IN ENGLAND IN 2003

10. The following table lists the specific drugs that pupils were asked about in this survey, and indicates their classification under the Misuse of Drugs Act, at the time of the study. This divides controlled drugs into three categories according to their harmfulness: Class A drugs are considered to cause the most harm. This Statistical Press Notice includes prevalence of use of Class A drugs, although the following points need to be borne in mind about the definition of use of Class A drugs.

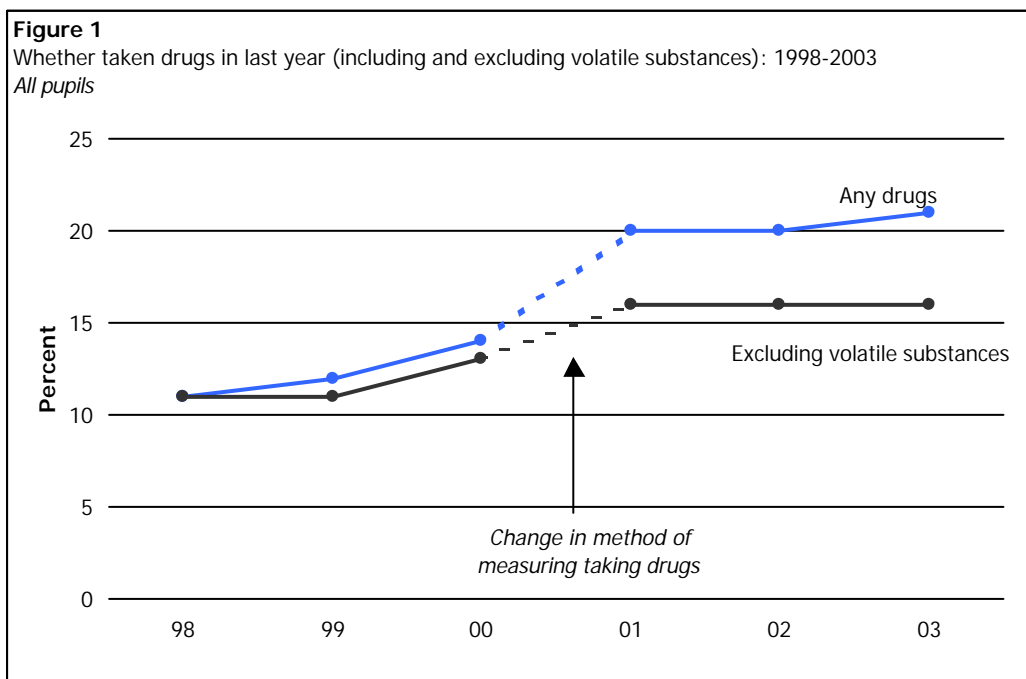
- The classification of certain drugs depends on the method of delivery used. For example, amphetamines are a Class B drug if taken orally and a Class A drug if injected. Additional questions were included in the 2001 survey to allow this distinction to be made, but in previous surveys amphetamines were not defined as a Class A drug.
- The Class A drugs mentioned in the survey (Amphetamines when injected, Ecstasy, Cocaine, Crack, Heroin, LSD, Magic Mushrooms, Methadone) are not an exhaustive list of Class A drugs.
- At the time of the study in autumn 2003, Cannabis was classified as a Class B drug, but was reclassified to Class C on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2004.

Drug	Mode of use	Classification
Amphetamines	inject	A
Ecstasy	oral	A
Cocaine	sniff or inject	A
Crack	inject or smoke	A
Heroin	smoke, sniff or inject	A
LSD	oral	A
Magic Mushrooms	oral	A
Methadone	oral	A
Amphetamines	sniff or oral	B
Cannabis	smoke or oral	B
Tranquillisers	oral or inject	B/C (depends on drug)
Anabolic steroids	oral or inject	C
Poppers	sniff	It is an offence to supply these
Glue	sniff	substances if it is likely that the
Gas	sniff	product is intended for abuse

11. The National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) is an independent, social research institute, registered as a charitable trust. A high proportion of the institute's work is carried out on behalf of central government departments, with other work undertaken on behalf of health authorities, NHS trusts, local authorities, voluntary organisations, and other public sector bodies. NatCen conducts small and large scale surveys, ad hoc projects, continuous and annual surveys.

12. The National Foundation for Educational Research has been engaged in educational research since 1946 and is an independent foundation with charitable status. The Foundation undertakes research and evaluation for local and national agencies, in the government, commercial and charitable sectors. The research programme is concerned with all aspects of education and training, a major part being concerned with the public education system.

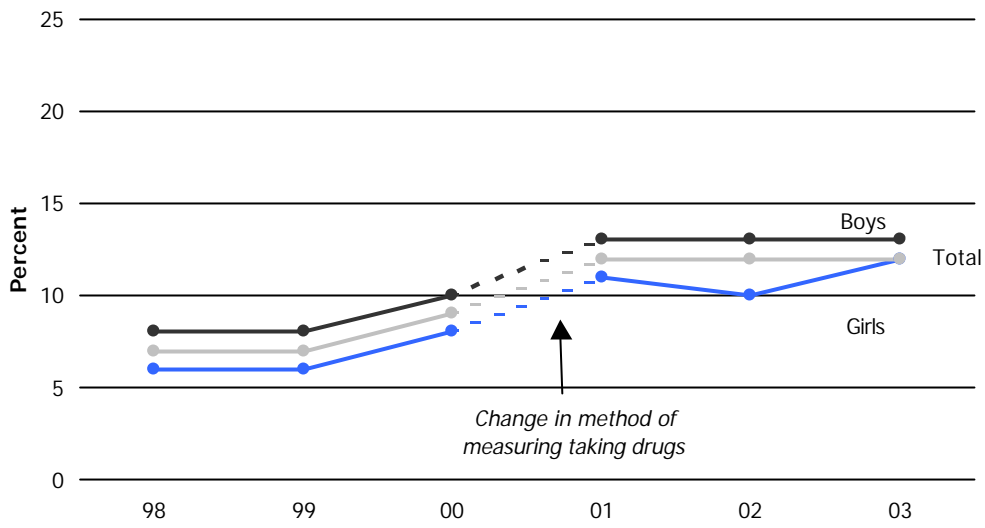
Charts



**Figure 2**

Whether taken drugs in last month, by sex: 1998-2003

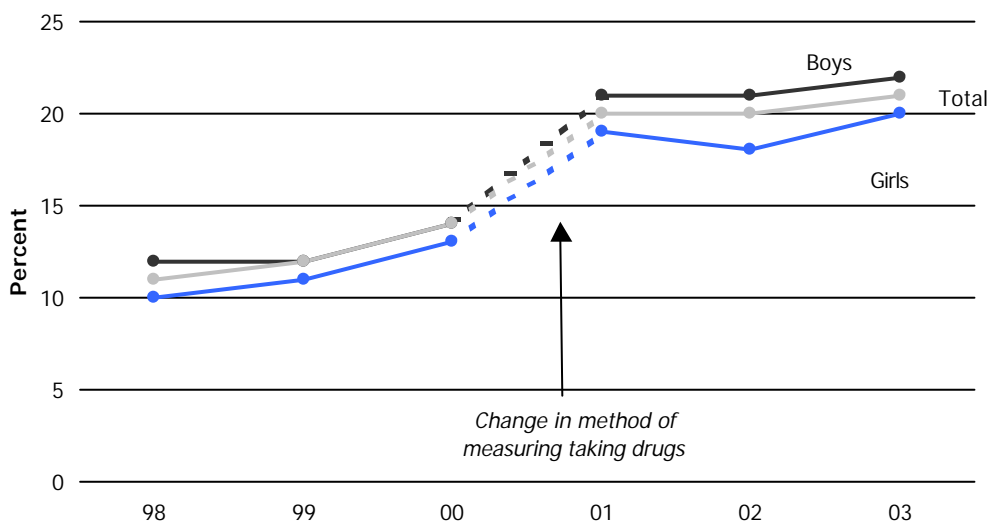
All pupils

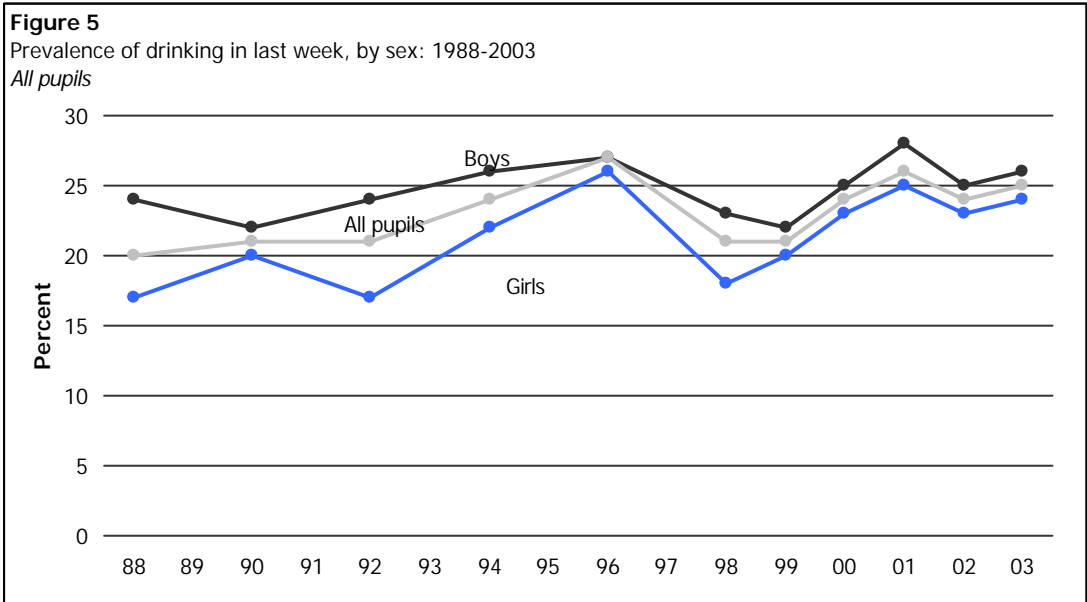
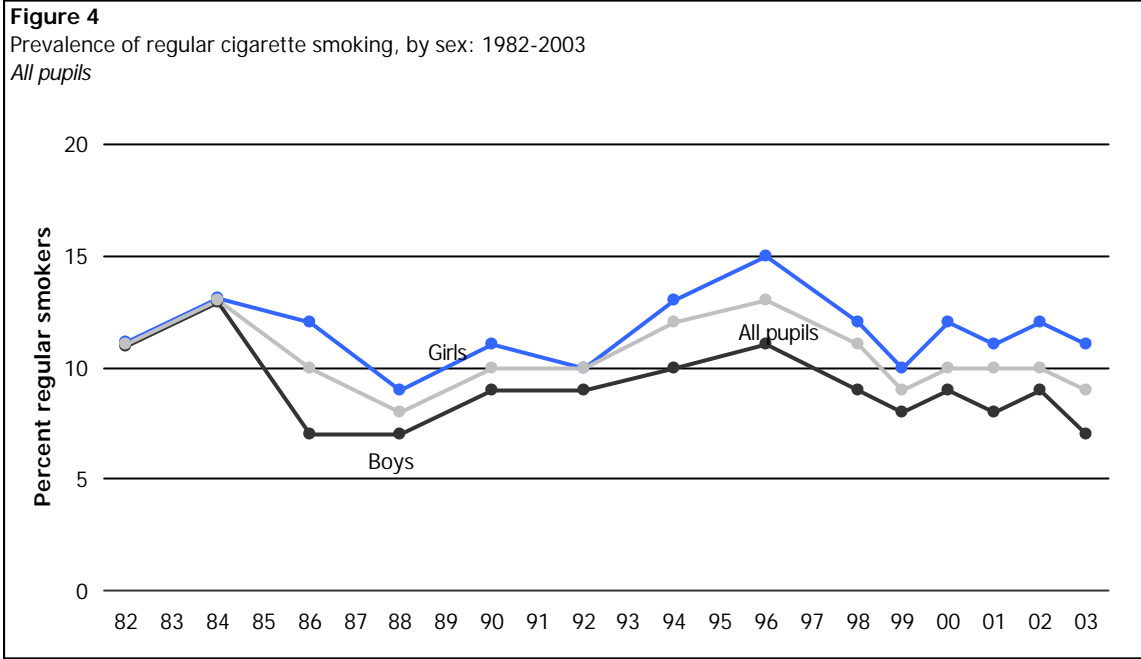


**Figure 3**

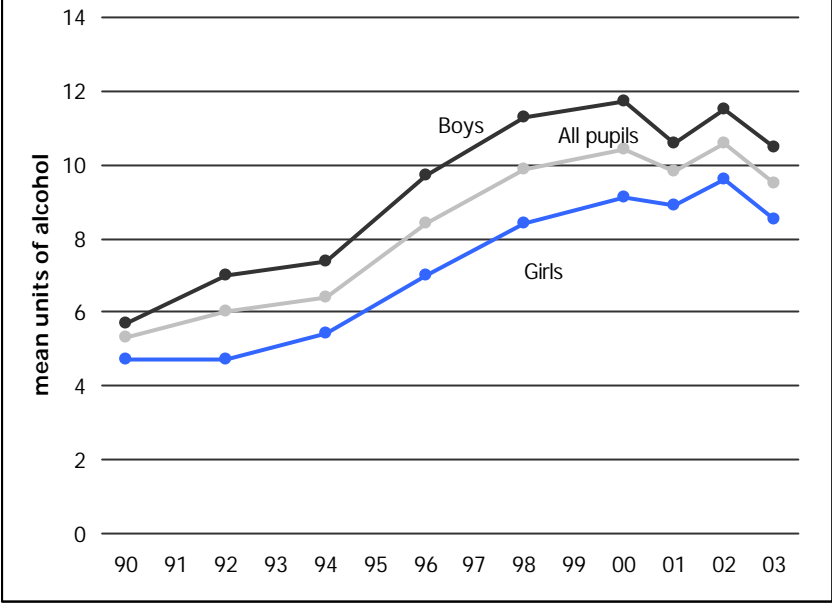
Whether taken drugs in last year, by sex: 1998-2003

All pupils





**Figure 6**  
Mean alcohol consumption (units) in last week, by sex: 1990-2003  
*All pupils who drank last week*



## Tables

Table 1

## Proportion of pupils who had taken drugs in the last month, by sex and age: 1998-2003

<i>All pupils</i>		<i>1998-2003</i>					
Age	Year	1998	1999	2000	2001 <sup>a</sup>	2002 <sup>b</sup>	2003
		%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Boys</b>							
11 years		0	1	3	4	4	4
12 years		2	2	2	4	5	5
13 years		4	4	6	11	9	11
14 years		10	12	14	17	19	17
15 years		19	21	23	25	26	25
<b>Total</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Girls</b>							
11 years		0	1	2	2	3	3
12 years		2	2	3	4	3	5
13 years		3	5	5	9	8	8
14 years		9	9	11	15	15	18
15 years		16	17	19	22	19	22
<b>Total</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Total</b>							
11 years		0	1	3	3	3	4
12 years		2	2	3	4	4	5
13 years		4	5	5	10	8	9
14 years		10	11	13	16	17	17
15 years		18	19	21	24	22	23
<b>Total</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>
<i>Bases</i>							
<i>Boys</i>							
11 years		249	873	597	778	794	810
12 years		295	1009	730	861	941	973
13 years		249	943	715	887	950	1005
14 years		658	910	731	852	910	951
15 years		822	1034	772	982	1077	1101
<b>Total</b>		<b>2273</b>	<b>4769</b>	<b>3545</b>	<b>4360</b>	<b>4672</b>	<b>4840</b>
<i>Girls</i>							
11 years		252	878	556	759	751	806
12 years		306	894	656	937	924	1017
13 years		289	919	678	913	897	997
14 years		707	927	676	911	914	929
15 years		739	921	748	919	987	1069
<b>Total</b>		<b>2293</b>	<b>4539</b>	<b>3314</b>	<b>4439</b>	<b>4473</b>	<b>4818</b>
<i>All pupils</i>							
11 years		501	1751	1153	1537	1545	1616
12 years		601	1903	1386	1798	1865	1990
13 years		538	1862	1393	1800	1847	2002
14 years		1365	1837	1407	1763	1824	1880
15 years		1561	1955	1520	1901	2064	2170
<b>Total</b>		<b>4566</b>	<b>9308</b>	<b>6859</b>	<b>8799</b>	<b>9145</b>	<b>9658</b>

a Estimates from 2001 onwards are not comparable with estimates from previous years because of the change in the way that drug use was measured. See note 9.

b Estimates for 2002 have been revised. See note 2.

Table 2

## Proportion of pupils who had taken drugs in the last year, by sex and age: 1998-2003

All pupils	1998-2003					
	Age	Year				
	1998	1999	2000	2001 <sup>a</sup>	2002 <sup>b</sup>	2003
	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Boys</b>						
11 years	1	2	3	7	7	8
12 years	4	4	5	8	10	11
13 years	7	7	10	20	17	19
14 years	16	18	20	26	29	27
15 years	29	31	32	41	39	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Girls</b>						
11 years	1	1	3	4	6	7
12 years	3	4	4	9	6	9
13 years	6	9	9	18	16	17
14 years	14	16	19	27	25	29
15 years	26	28	27	36	34	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Total</b>						
11 years	1	1	3	6	6	8
12 years	4	4	5	9	8	10
13 years	7	8	9	19	16	18
14 years	16	17	20	27	27	28
15 years	28	30	29	39	37	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<i>Bases</i>						
<i>Boys</i>						
11 years	249	873	597	779	797	812
12 years	295	1009	730	865	945	976
13 years	249	943	715	894	960	1012
14 years	658	910	731	860	916	964
15 years	822	1034	772	996	1088	1112
<b>Total</b>	<b>2273</b>	<b>4769</b>	<b>3545</b>	<b>4394</b>	<b>4706</b>	<b>4876</b>
<i>Girls</i>						
11 years	252	878	556	759	753	808
12 years	306	894	656	939	927	1020
13 years	289	919	678	915	903	1004
14 years	707	927	676	916	921	936
15 years	739	921	748	929	993	1077
<b>Total</b>	<b>2293</b>	<b>4539</b>	<b>3314</b>	<b>4458</b>	<b>4497</b>	<b>4845</b>
<i>All pupils</i>						
11 years	501	1751	1153	1538	1550	1620
12 years	601	1903	1386	1804	1872	1996
13 years	538	1862	1393	1809	1863	2016
14 years	1365	1837	1407	1776	1837	1900
15 years	1561	1955	1520	1925	2081	2189
<b>Total</b>	<b>4566</b>	<b>9308</b>	<b>6859</b>	<b>8852</b>	<b>9203</b>	<b>9721</b>

a Estimates from 2001 onwards are not comparable with estimates from previous years because of the change in the way that drug taking was measured. See note 9.

b Estimates for 2002 have been revised. See note 2.

Table 3

## Usual frequency take drugs, by sex and age

All pupils

2003

	11 years %	12 years %	13 years %	14 years %	15 years %	Total %
<b>Boys</b>						
Most days	-	0	1	3	4	2
At least once a week	0	0	1	3	5	2
Once or twice a month	1	1	3	5	7	3
A few times a year	1	1	4	4	8	4
Once a year or less often	1	2	2	3	3	2
Taken drugs in last year, but only ever taken drugs once	2	3	5	5	6	4
Not taken drugs in last year	7	7	8	10	9	8
Never taken drugs	88	86	77	68	59	75
<b>Girls</b>						
Most days	-	1	1	1	1	1
At least once a week	1	0	1	2	5	2
Once or twice a month	0	1	3	6	7	3
A few times a year	1	1	3	5	8	4
Once a year or less often	1	1	2	3	3	2
Taken drugs in last year, but only ever taken drugs once	3	3	4	7	6	5
Not taken drugs in last year	7	6	9	9	10	8
Never taken drugs	87	87	76	67	59	75
<b>Total</b>						
Most days	-	0	1	2	3	1
At least once a week	0	0	1	3	5	2
Once or twice a month	1	1	3	5	7	3
A few times a year	1	1	3	5	8	4
Once a year or less often	1	1	2	3	3	2
Taken drugs in last year, but only ever taken drugs once	3	3	4	6	6	4
Not taken drugs in last year	7	7	9	9	10	8
Never taken drugs	88	86	77	68	59	75
<i>Bases</i>						
<i>Boys</i>	868	1021	1051	984	1116	5040
<i>Girls</i>	847	1060	1036	961	1089	4993
<i>Total</i>	1715	2081	2087	1945	2205	10033

Table 4

Whether had taken individual drugs in the last year: 1998-2003<sup>a</sup>

*All pupils* 1998-2003

Type of drug	Year					
	1998 %	1999 %	2000 %	2001 %	2002 <sup>d</sup> %	2003 %
Cannabis	10	11	12	13	13	13
<b>Any stimulants</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>
Cocaine	1	1	1	1	1	1
Crack	0	1	1	1	1	1
Ecstasy	1	1	1	2	1	1
Amphetamines	2	1	1	1	1	1
Poppers	1	2	2	3	4	4
<b>Any psychedelics</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
LSD	1	1	1	1	1	1
Magic mushrooms	1	1	1	2	1	2
<b>Any opiates</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Heroin	0	0	1	1	1	1
Methadone	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glue, gas, aerosols or solvents <sup>b</sup>	1	3	3	7	6	8
Tranquillisers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Anabolic steroids	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other drugs	1	0	1	1	0	1
<b>Any Class A drug<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Any drug</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Any drug (excluding volatile substances)</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>
<i>Base</i>	<i>4647</i>	<i>9053</i>	<i>6862</i>	<i>9357</i>	<i>9830</i>	<i>10371</i>

a Estimates from 2001 onwards are not comparable with estimates from previous years because of the change in the way that drug taking was measured. See note 9.

b 1998 survey asked about Glue or Solvents only, Gas was added as a separate category in 1999, and from 2000 questions were asked about Glue, Gas, Aerosols and other solvents as one category.

c See note 10 for a definition of Class A drugs.

d Estimates for 2002 have been revised. See note 2.

Table 5

Whether boys had taken individual drugs in the last year: 1998-2003<sup>a</sup>

<i>All boys</i>		<i>1998-2003</i>					
Type of drug	Year						
	1998 %	1999 %	2000 %	2001 %	2002 <sup>d</sup> %	2003 %	
Cannabis	11	11	13	14	14	14	
<b>Any stimulants</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	
Cocaine	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Crack	0	1	1	1	1	1	
Ecstasy	1	1	1	2	1	1	
Amphetamines	2	2	1	1	1	1	
Poppers	2	1	2	4	5	4	
<b>Any psychedelics</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	
LSD	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Magic mushrooms	1	1	2	2	2	3	
<b>Any opiates</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	
Heroin	0	0	1	1	1	1	
Methadone	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Glue, gas, aerosols or solvents <sup>b</sup>	1	2	3	7	6	7	
Tranquillisers	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Anabolic steroids	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Other drugs	1	1	1	1	0	1	
<b>Any Class A drug<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>Any drug</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	
<b>Any drug (excluding volatile substances)</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	
<i>Base</i>	<i>2287</i>	<i>4625</i>	<i>3549</i>	<i>4687</i>	<i>5081</i>	<i>5250</i>	

a Estimates from 2001 onwards are not comparable with estimates from previous years because of the change in the way that drug taking was measured. See note 9.

b 1998 survey asked about Glue or Solvents only, Gas was added as a separate category in 1999, and from 2000 questions were asked about Glue, Gas, Aerosols and other solvents as one category.

c See note 10 for a definition of Class A drugs.

d Estimates for 2002 have been revised. See note 2.

Table 6

Whether girls had taken individual drugs in the last year: 1998-2003<sup>a</sup>

<i>All girls</i>		<i>1998-2003</i>					
Type of drug	Year						
	1998 %	1999 %	2000 %	2001 %	2002 <sup>d</sup> %	2003 %	
Cannabis	9	10	11	12	12	12	
<b>Any stimulants</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	
Cocaine	0	1	1	1	1	1	
Crack	0	1	1	1	1	1	
Ecstasy	0	1	1	2	2	2	
Amphetamines	2	1	1	1	1	1	
Poppers	1	1	2	3	4	4	
<b>Any psychedelics</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	
LSD	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Magic mushrooms	1	1	1	2	1	2	
<b>Any opiates</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	
Heroin	0	0	1	1	1	1	
Methadone	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Glue, gas, aerosols or solvents <sup>b</sup>	1	3	3	8	6	8	
Tranquillisers	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Anabolic steroids	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other drugs	1	0	1	1	0	1	
<b>Any Class A drug<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>Any drug</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>20</b>	
<b>Any drug (excluding volatile substances)</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	
<i>Base</i>	<i>2360</i>	<i>4428</i>	<i>3319</i>	<i>4670</i>	<i>4749</i>	<i>5121</i>	

a Estimates from 2001 onwards are not comparable with estimates from previous years because of the change in the way that drug taking was measured. See note 9.

b 1998 survey asked about Glue or Solvents only, Gas was added as a separate category in 1999, and from 2000 questions were asked about Glue, Gas, Aerosols and other solvents as one category.

c See note 10 for a definition of Class A drugs.

d Estimates for 2002 have been revised. See note 2.

Table 7

## Whether had taken individual drugs in the last year, by age

All pupils

2003

Type of drug	Age					Total %
	11 years %	12 years %	13 years %	14 years %	15 years %	
Cannabis	1	3	8	21	31	13
<b>Any stimulants</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>
Cocaine	0	0	1	2	3	1
Crack	0	1	1	2	2	1
Ecstasy	0	0	1	2	4	1
Amphetamines	0	0	1	1	3	1
Poppers	0	1	3	5	10	4
<b>Any psychedelics</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>
LSD	-	0	1	1	1	1
Magic mushrooms	0	0	1	3	5	2
<b>Any opiates</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Heroin	0	0	1	1	1	1
Methadone	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glue, gas, aerosols or solvents	6	7	9	9	7	8
Tranquillisers	0	0	0	1	1	0
Anabolic steroids	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other drugs	0	0	0	1	2	1
<b>Any Class A drug<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Any drug</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Any drug (excluding volatile substances)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>16</b>
Base	1776	2149	2155	2012	2279	10371

*a* See note 10 for a definition of Class A drugs.

Table 8

Whether had ever been offered individual drugs: 1999-2003<sup>a</sup>

All pupils

1999-2003

Type of drug	Year				
	1999 %	2000 %	2001 %	2002 <sup>c</sup> %	2003 %
Cannabis	27	28	27	28	27
<b>Any stimulants</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>23</b>
Cocaine	7	8	9	9	9
Crack	5	5	9	7	9
Ecstasy	6	7	10	9	9
Amphetamines	7	6	7	6	6
Poppers	6	7	10	12	12
<b>Any psychedelics</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
LSD	5	4	6	5	5
Magic mushrooms	6	7	10	9	10
<b>Any opiates</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
Heroin	4	6	7	6	7
Methadone	1	1	2	2	2
Glue, gas, aerosols or solvents <sup>b</sup>	15	13	20	17	19
Tranquillisers	2	2	4	3	3
Anabolic steroids	1	2	2	2	2
Other drugs	0	2	2	1	2
<b>Any drugs</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>42</b>
Bases	8795	7089	9357	9859	10390

a Estimates from 2001 are not comparable with estimates from previous years because of the change in the way that being offered drugs was measured. See editors note 9.

b 1999 survey asked about Glue or Solvents as one category and Gas as another category, and from 2000 questions were asked about Glue, Gas, Aerosols and other solvents as one category.

c Estimates for 2002 have been revised. See note 2.

**Table 9****Whether had ever been offered individual drugs, by sex**

<i>All pupils</i>		<i>2003</i>		
<b>Type of drug</b>	<b>Sex</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>
	<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>		
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>		
Cannabis	30	25		27
<b>Any stimulants</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>22</b>		<b>23</b>
Cocaine	9	9		9
Crack	10	9		9
Ecstasy	9	9		9
Amphetamines	6	6		6
Poppers	12	11		12
<b>Any psychedelics</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>12</b>
LSD	5	5		5
Magic mushrooms	12	9		10
<b>Any opiates</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>8</b>
Heroin	8	7		7
Methadone	2	2		2
Glue, gas, aerosols or solvents	19	19		19
Tranquillisers	4	3		3
Anabolic steroids	3	1		2
Other drugs	2	1		2
<b>Any drugs</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>39</b>		<b>42</b>
<i>Bases</i>	<i>5257</i>	<i>5133</i>		<i>10390</i>

Table 10

## Whether had ever been offered individual drugs, by age

All pupils

2003

Type of drug	Age					Total
	11 years %	12 years %	13 years %	14 years %	15 years %	
Cannabis	4	10	22	40	56	27
<b>Any stimulants</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>23</b>
Cocaine	4	5	7	12	17	9
Crack	3	6	9	12	14	9
Ecstasy	2	3	7	13	19	9
Amphetamines	1	2	4	8	15	6
Poppers	2	3	8	17	26	12
<b>Any psychedelics</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>12</b>
LSD	1	1	4	7	11	5
Magic mushrooms	3	3	9	14	21	10
<b>Any opiates</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>
Heroin	3	5	7	10	10	7
Methadone	1	1	2	2	3	2
Glue, gas, aerosols or solvents	11	14	21	24	25	19
Tranquillisers	1	2	3	4	6	3
Anabolic steroids	1	1	2	2	4	2
Other drugs	1	1	1	2	3	2
<b>Any drugs</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>42</b>
Bases	1780	2152	2162	2015	2281	10390

Table 11

## Proportion of pupils who were regular smokers, by sex and age: 1982-2003

<i>All pupils</i>		<i>1982-2003</i>													
<b>Age</b>	<b>Year</b>														
	1982	1984	1986	1988	1990	1992	1993	1994	1996	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<i>Percentage who were regular smokers</i>															
<b>Boys</b>															
11 years	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
12 years	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	1
13 years	8	10	5	5	6	6	3	4	8	5	4	6	5	5	4
14 years	18	16	6	8	10	14	14	14	13	15	10	11	12	13	9
15 years	24	28	18	17	25	21	19	26	28	19	21	21	19	20	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Girls</b>															
11 years	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	0
12 years	1	2	2	0	2	2	3	3	4	3	3	2	3	2	3
13 years	6	9	5	4	9	9	5	8	11	9	8	10	8	8	8
14 years	14	19	16	12	16	15	18	20	24	19	15	19	19	18	16
15 years	25	28	27	22	25	25	26	30	33	29	25	26	25	26	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Total</b>															
11 years	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
12 years	2	2	2	1	2	2	3	2	3	4	3	2	3	2	2
13 years	7	10	5	5	7	7	4	6	10	8	6	8	7	6	6
14 years	16	17	11	10	13	14	16	17	18	19	12	15	15	16	13
15 years	25	28	22	20	25	23	22	28	30	24	23	23	22	23	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>
<i>Bases</i>															
<i>Boys</i>															
11 years	229	260	236	229	313	289	251	268	272	300	870	618	830	892	891
12 years	298	378	320	280	350	336	318	310	297	349	1011	751	944	1037	1047
13 years	303	416	347	318	313	351	349	307	282	302	946	736	951	1051	1077
14 years	277	376	352	311	305	311	337	306	298	612	918	752	902	961	1015
15 years	348	490	421	350	360	369	358	331	296	754	1046	797	1025	1123	1148
<b>Total</b>	<b>1460</b>	<b>1928</b>	<b>1676</b>	<b>1489</b>	<b>1643</b>	<b>1662</b>	<b>1613</b>	<b>1522</b>	<b>1445</b>	<b>2317</b>	<b>4791</b>	<b>3654</b>	<b>4652</b>	<b>5064</b>	<b>5178</b>
<i>Girls</i>															
11 years	250	254	213	226	296	307	253	236	324	303	870	572	795	816	863
12 years	276	332	314	315	281	359	316	307	281	375	892	686	976	997	1072
13 years	303	355	266	297	292	335	325	329	280	390	924	697	956	943	1055
14 years	312	333	314	315	302	297	323	310	289	670	933	688	944	952	979
15 years	372	412	400	376	304	320	310	314	271	673	923	764	954	1022	1112
<b>Total</b>	<b>1514</b>	<b>1689</b>	<b>1508</b>	<b>1529</b>	<b>1478</b>	<b>1626</b>	<b>1527</b>	<b>1496</b>	<b>1445</b>	<b>2411</b>	<b>4542</b>	<b>3407</b>	<b>4625</b>	<b>4732</b>	<b>5081</b>
<b>Total</b>															
11 years	479	514	449	455	609	596	504	504	596	603	1740	1190	1625	1700	1754
12 years	574	710	634	595	631	695	634	617	578	724	1903	1437	1920	2034	2119
13 years	606	771	613	615	605	686	674	636	562	692	1870	1433	1907	1994	2132
14 years	589	709	666	626	607	608	660	616	587	1282	1851	1440	1846	1913	1994
15 years	720	902	821	726	664	689	668	645	567	1427	1969	1561	1979	2145	2260
<b>Total</b>	<b>2974</b>	<b>3617</b>	<b>3184</b>	<b>3018</b>	<b>3121</b>	<b>3288</b>	<b>3140</b>	<b>3018</b>	<b>2890</b>	<b>4728</b>	<b>9333</b>	<b>7061</b>	<b>9277</b>	<b>9796</b>	<b>10259</b>

Table 12

## When last had a drink, by sex: 1988–2003

<i>All pupils</i>		<i>1998-2003</i>									
When last had a drink	Year										
	1998 %	1990 %	1992 %	1994 %	1996 %	1998 %	1999 %	2000 %	2001 %	2002 %	2003 %
<b>Boys</b>											
During the last week	24	22	24	26	27	23	22	25	28	25	26
One to four weeks ago	19	15	12	14	15	15	16	13	14	14	14
One to six months ago	12	13	13	11	12	12	12	11	11	12	12
More than six months ago	11	15	14	10	9	12	11	11	9	11	10
Never had a drink	35	35	37	39	37	38	38	40	38	38	38
<b>Girls</b>											
During the last week	17	20	17	22	26	18	20	23	25	23	24
One to four weeks ago	17	14	12	16	13	15	17	15	17	15	16
One to six months ago	13	13	14	12	13	13	12	11	11	12	12
More than six months ago	11	15	12	10	10	11	10	10	8	9	9
Never had a drink	41	38	44	40	38	42	41	41	40	40	39
<b>Total</b>											
During the last week	20	21	21	24	27	21	21	24	26	24	25
One to four weeks ago	18	15	12	15	14	15	16	14	15	14	15
One to six months ago	12	13	13	11	12	13	12	11	11	12	12
More than six months ago	11	15	13	10	9	11	11	10	8	10	10
Never had a drink	38	36	41	39	38	40	40	40	39	39	39
<i>Bases</i>											
<i>Boys</i>	1427	1619	1646	1503	1432	2249	4816	3656	4611	4961	5203
<i>Girls</i>	1518	1456	1606	1506	1391	2362	4558	3409	4621	4669	5086
<i>Total</i>	3015	3082	3252	3009	2823	4609	9374	7065	9232	9630	10289

Table 13

## Percentage who drank last week, by sex and age: 1988-2003

<i>All pupils</i>		<i>1998-2003</i>									
<b>Age</b>	<b>Year</b>										
	1998	1999	1992	1994	1996	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
<i>Percentage who drank last week</i>											
<b>Boys</b>											
11 years	7	8	8	8	7	4	7	5	8	7	8
12 years	12	9	13	10	12	14	10	11	14	12	12
13 years	20	17	15	22	27	16	16	18	22	20	22
14 years	25	32	32	34	37	28	28	34	35	34	32
15 years	45	42	49	52	50	48	48	51	54	49	49
Total	24	22	24	26	27	23	22	25	28	25	26
<b>Girls</b>											
11 years	4	4	5	4	6	2	4	5	4	4	5
12 years	7	6	7	9	9	6	8	9	11	9	9
13 years	11	19	11	16	22	14	17	19	22	21	19
14 years	19	32	25	26	35	29	28	31	35	34	34
15 years	36	39	40	48	55	40	41	45	50	45	48
Total	17	20	17	22	26	18	20	23	25	23	24
<b>Total</b>											
11 years	5	6	6	6	7	3	6	5	6	5	6
12 years	9	8	10	9	11	10	9	10	12	11	11
13 years	16	18	13	19	24	15	16	19	22	20	21
14 years	22	32	29	30	36	29	28	32	35	34	33
15 years	40	40	45	50	53	44	45	48	52	47	49
Total	20	21	21	24	27	21	21	24	26	24	25
<i>Bases</i>											
<i>Boys</i>											
11 years	227	309	284	266	269	285	882	612	814	866	893
12 years	279	340	335	307	296	336	1017	740	930	1003	1052
13 years	312	312	351	304	275	293	947	737	937	1035	1084
14 years	306	300	310	306	297	597	921	750	898	950	1017
15 years	348	358	366	326	295	745	1049	796	1032	1107	1157
Total	1473	1623	1652	1509	1432	2256	4816	3635	4611	4961	5203
<i>Girls</i>											
11 years	225	289	304	231	266	291	881	564	800	798	856
12 years	312	277	354	304	272	365	896	681	967	978	1076
13 years	296	290	333	326	277	383	925	696	956	935	1057
14 years	311	298	298	309	285	657	933	691	942	946	983
15 years	374	302	317	341	291	666	923	764	956	1012	1114
Total	1518	1459	1614	1511	1391	2362	4558	3396	4621	4669	5086
<b>Total</b>											
11 years	458	598	588	497	535	577	1763	1176	1614	1664	1749
12 years	598	617	690	611	568	702	1913	1421	1897	1981	2128
13 years	613	602	685	630	552	675	1872	1433	1893	1970	2141
14 years	621	598	608	615	582	1254	1854	1441	1840	1896	2000
15 years	725	660	683	667	586	1409	1972	1560	1988	2119	2271
Total	3018	3082	3271	3020	2823	4617	9374	7031	9232	9630	10289

Table 14

**Mean alcohol consumption of those who had drunk in the last seven days, by sex and age: 1990-2003**

*All pupils who drank last week*

1990-2003

Sex and age	Year									
	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2001	2002 <sup>e</sup>	2003	
<i>Mean number of units</i>										
<b>Boys</b>										
Aged 11-13	a	3.6	5.2	7.1	6.2	8.3	5.5	7.3	7.7	
Aged 14	a	5.3	6.7	7.3	12.3	9.5	10.0	10.7	9.4	
Aged 15	a	9.6	8.8	12.9	12.9	14.5	13.8	14.3	12.9	
Total		5.7	7.0	7.4	9.7	11.3	11.7	10.6	10.5	
<b>Girls</b>										
Aged 11-13	a	3.1	3.0	4.0	6.4	4.6	5.7	6.3	6.4	
Aged 14	a	3.8	5.5	8.2	8.1	10.1	9.3	10.0	8.7	
Aged 15	a	6.0	6.6	8.0	9.7	11.2	10.7	11.4	9.8	
Total		4.7	4.7	5.4	7.0	8.4	9.1	8.9	8.5	
<b>Total</b>										
Aged 11-13	a	3.4	4.1	5.5	6.3	6.4	5.6	6.8	7.1	
Aged 14	a	4.7	6.1	7.7	9.9	9.8	9.6	10.3	9.0	
Aged 15	a	8.1	7.7	10.4	11.5	12.9	12.3	13.0	11.3	
Total		5.3	6.0	6.4	8.4	9.9	10.4	9.8	9.5	
<i>Bases</i>										
<i>Boys</i>										
Aged 11-13		70	104	101	78	55	163	283	256	312
Aged 14		60	98	87	85	122	205	253	254	267
Aged 15		101	169	140	129	266	351	491	463	490
Total		231	376	329	292	351	719	1027	973	1069
<i>Girls</i>										
Aged 11-13		46	71	76	79	53	184	274	256	292
Aged 14		68	72	66	80	160	187	279	279	291
Aged 15		78	121	135	134	221	321	446	407	484
Total		192	264	277	293	334	692	999	942	1067
<i>Total</i>										
Aged 11-13		116	176	177	157	108	347	557	512	604
Aged 14		128	170	154	165	282	392	532	533	558
Aged 15		179	290	276	263	487	672	937	870	974
Total		423	641	606	585	686	1411	2026	1915	2136

a Figures are not available by age group for 1990 data.

b Estimates for 2002 have been revised. See note 2.