



SCOTTISH SCHOOLS ADOLESCENT LIFESTYLE AND SUBSTANCE USE SURVEY (SALSUS) 2015: Drugs summary report

SUMMARY OF KEY CHANGES SINCE 2013

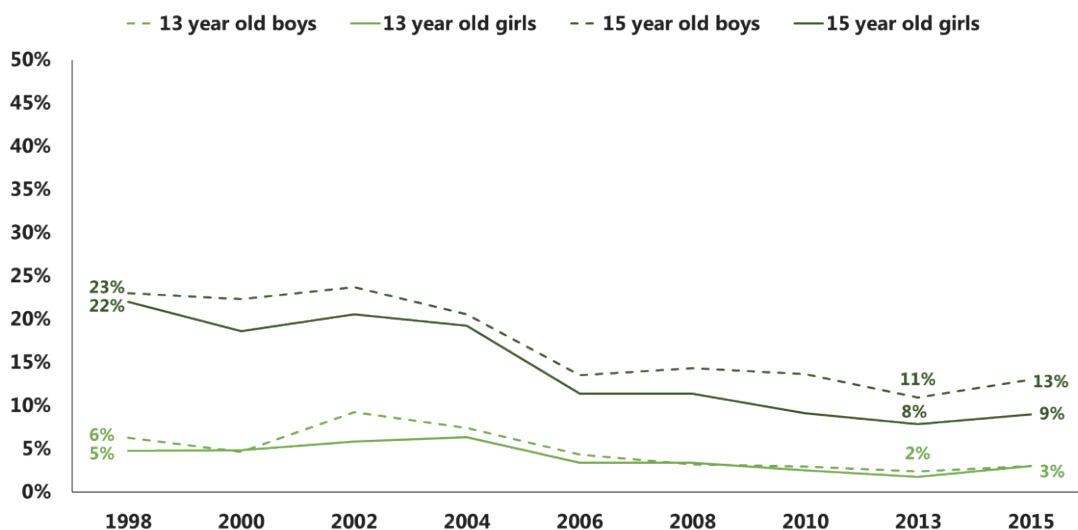
While drug use prevalence has remained stable between 2013 and 2015, with the exception of 15 year old boys, there appears to have been an increase in the availability of drugs since the last wave of the survey. There have been increases in the proportion of pupils who have been offered drugs and the proportion who say they would find it easy to obtain drugs if they wanted to.

	13 year olds		15 year olds	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
USED DRUGS IN THE LAST MONTH	↔	↔	↑	↔
EVER BEEN OFFERED DRUGS	↑	↑	↑	↑
EASE OF OBTAINING DRUGS	↑	↑	↑	↑

LONG TERM TRENDS

Drug use in the last month has been gradually decreasing since 2002. However, between 2013 and 2015, there has been a small increase in the proportion of 15 year old boys who took drugs in the month prior to the survey. Drug use among 13 year olds and 15 year old girls has remained stable.

Trends in drug use in the last month, by age and sex (1998-2015)



SALSUS 2015: Drugs summary

Never used drugs

The majority of pupils **have never used drugs**

13 Year olds



95% have never used drugs

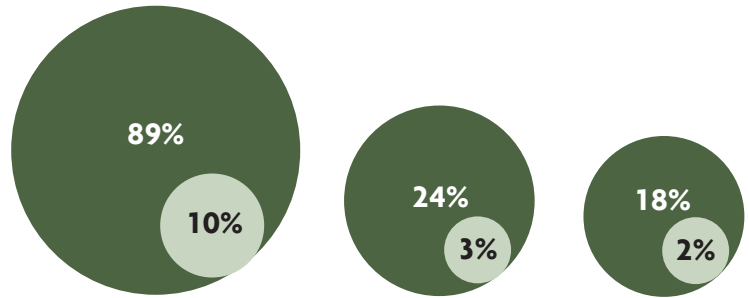
15 Year olds



81% have never used drugs

Type of drugs used

The most **commonly used drugs** among 15 year olds were:



Cannabis

Ecstasy

Cocaine

● % used in the past month among those who have used any drug in the last month

● % used in the past month among all pupils

Use of New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

Use of NPS was low among 15 year olds, this was true for use ever and use in the last month



of 15 year olds have used NPS ever



of 15 year olds have used NPS in the last month

Effects of drug use

The most **common consequences** of drug use among 15 year olds who reported ever having used drugs were:

20% Vomiting



16% Having an argument



18%

Doing something and later regretting it



17%

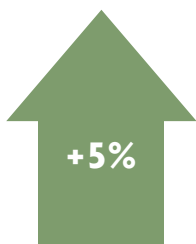
Trying drugs they have not tried before



Availability of drugs

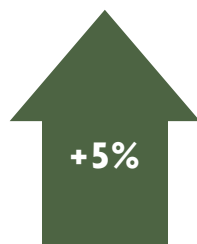
The proportion of 13 and 15 year old pupils who say they had been **offered drugs has increased since 2013**

13 year olds
19% in 2015



14% in 2013

15 year olds
42% in 2015



37% in 2013

Among 15 year olds who had used drugs, the **most common source was their friends**



41%

Friends the same age



28%

Friends older than me

SALSUS 2015: Drugs summary

Ok to try drugs?

It was **not common** for 15 year olds to think it was **ok to try sniffing glue, taking cocaine or taking cannabis**



7%

Sniffing glue



6%

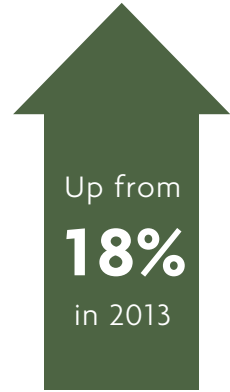
Taking cocaine

The proportion of 15 year olds who think it is **'ok' for someone their age to try cannabis** has **increased since 2013**



24%

Taking cannabis



Post-school expectations

15 year olds **who expected to go to university were less likely to have used drugs in the last month** than those who did not



7%

University



16%

FE College



16%

Working



21%

Apprenticeship

Advice and support



70% of 15 year olds **received lessons, videos/DVDs or discussion in class about drugs** in the last 12 months

15 year old girls were less likely than boys to agree they had **enough advice and support about taking drugs** at their school



64%

Girls agree

71%

Boys agree

Age of friends

15 year old pupils who had **older or mixed aged friends** were more likely than those with younger friends or friends of the same age to have **used drugs in the last month**



SALSUS 2015: Technical details

SURVEY BACKGROUND

The Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS) is a continuation of a long established series of national surveys on smoking, drinking and drug use. These were carried out jointly in Scotland and England between 1982 and 2000, to provide a national picture of young peoples' smoking (from 1982), drinking (from 1990), and drug use (from 1998) behaviours within the context of other lifestyle, health and social factors. Since 2002, Scotland has developed its own, more tailored, survey known as SALSUS.

SALSUS measures progress towards Scottish Government targets for smoking and drug use, and is used to inform the Scottish Government priority of addressing harmful drinking among young people.

METHODOLOGY

SALSUS is a self-completion survey administered by teachers in a mixed ability class, under exam conditions. In the past, the survey has been completed on paper, but for the first time, in the 2015 wave, half of the sample completed the survey online.

A random nationally representative sample of S2 and S4 pupils in school was selected with classes as the primary sampling unit. All local authority and independent schools in Scotland were eligible for inclusion in the sample, with the exception of special schools.

Fieldwork was completed between September 2015 and January 2016. The overall response rate was 53%.

Data was weighted by local authority, age, sex, school sector (state/independent), school denomination and by urban/rural classification.

FURTHER INFORMATION

More information on survey methodology can be found in the technical report available at:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Research/by-topic/health-community-care/social-research/SALSUS>

The full 2015 SALSUS drug report is also available at: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Research/by-topic/health-community-care/social-research/SALSUS>

CONTACT DETAILS

For further information and queries, please get in touch at salsus@gov.scot

ISBN: 978-1-78652-535-2 (web only)

Published by The Scottish Government, October 2016