



SCOTTISH SCHOOLS ADOLESCENT LIFESTYLE AND SUBSTANCE USE SURVEY (SALSUS) 2018: Drugs summary report

SUMMARY OF KEY CHANGES SINCE 2015

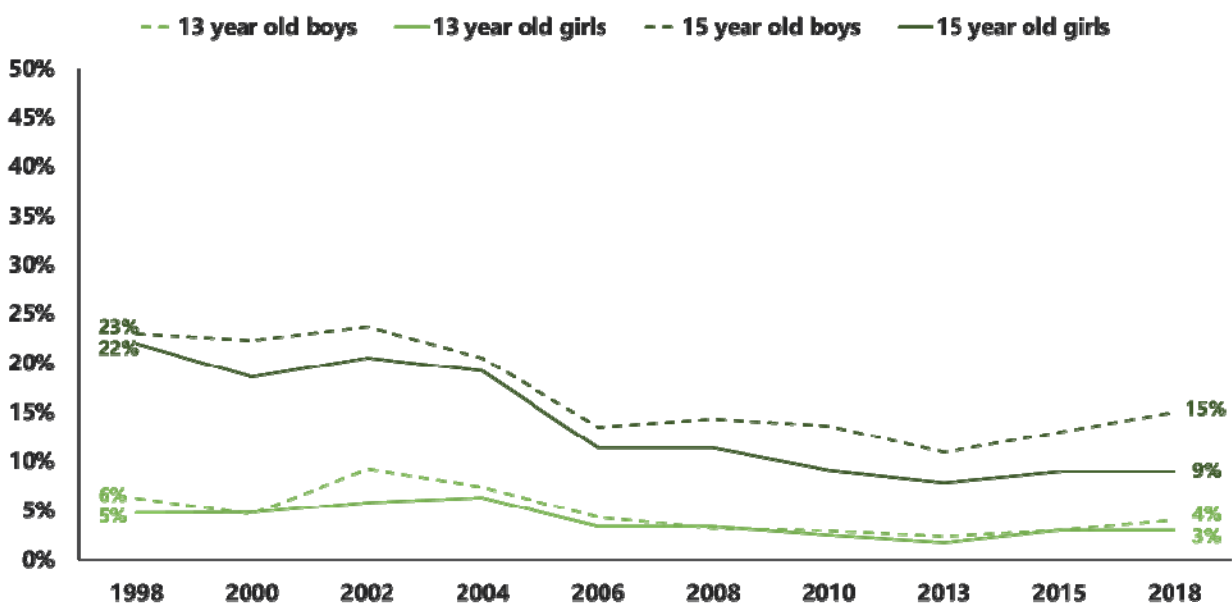
Prevalence of drug use in the last month remained stable between 2015 and 2018, except among 13 year old boys (where it rose from 3% to 4%). However, there have been increases in the proportion of pupils who have been offered drugs since the last wave of the survey. The proportion of 13 year old girls and 15 year old boys who say they would find it easy to obtain drugs if they wanted to has also increased since 2015.

	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, since 2013 there has been an increase in the proportion of boys who took drugs in the last month. Drug use among girls of both age groups has remained fairly stable.

Trends in drug use in the last month, by age and sex (1998-2018)



SALSUS 2018: Drugs summary

Never used drugs

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

13 Year olds



94% have never used drugs

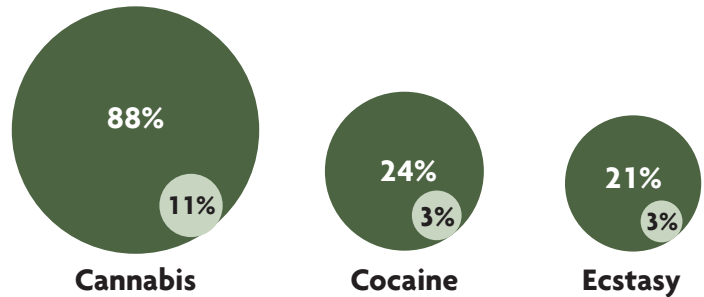
15 Year olds



79% have never used drugs

Type of drugs used

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



- % used in the last month among those who have used any drug in the last month
- % used in the last month among all pupils

Use of Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS)

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



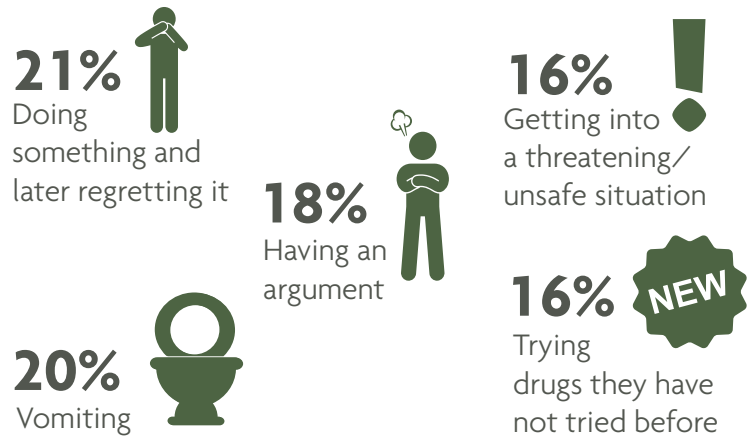
of 15 year olds have used NPS ever



of 15 year olds have used NPS in the last month

Effects of drug use

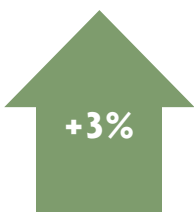
The most **common consequences** of drug use among 15 year olds who reported ever having used drugs were:



Availability of drugs

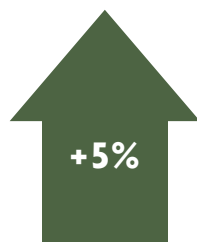
The proportion of 13 and 15 year old pupils who say they had been **offered drugs has increased since 2015**

13 year olds
22% in 2018



19% in 2015

15 year olds
47% in 2018



42% in 2015

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



45%
Friends the same age



23%
Friends older than me

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Ok to try drugs?

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

However, the proportions of 15 year olds who think it is 'ok' for someone their age to try these drugs has **increased since 2015**



9%
Taking cocaine



11%
Sniffing glue



33%
Taking cannabis



Post-school expectations

Taking drugs in the last month was **less common amongst 15 year olds who expected to go to university** than those who did not



7%
University



16%
FE College



16%
Working



23%
Apprenticeship

Advice and support



66% 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



58%
Girls agree

65%
Boys agree

Want to give up

13 Year olds



55% who had ever used drugs **would like to stop**

15 Year olds



40% who had ever used drugs **would like to stop**

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**



Same age
9%



Younger
13%



Mixed
17%



Older
21%

SALSUS 2018: 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 informs progress towards Scottish Government policies to reduce the harms from smoking, drinking and drug use among children and young people.

METHODOLOGY

SALSUS is a self-completion survey administered by teachers in a mixed ability class, under exam conditions. In 2018 schools were encouraged to administer the survey online (but could administer it on paper if that was more feasible).

All local authority and independent schools in Scotland were eligible for inclusion in the sample, with the exception of special schools. A random, nationally representative sample of S2 and S4 pupils was drawn, with classes as the primary sampling unit. (For the purposes of reporting S2 pupils are referred to as "13 year olds" and S4 pupils are referred to as "15 year olds").

Fieldwork was completed between October 2018 and April 2019. The overall response rate was 52% (excludes schools who took part in the Realigning Children's Services Survey and Glasgow state schools). A total of 12,558 pupils in S2 and 10,807 pupils in S4 responded (including those that took part in the Realigning Children's Service Survey).

Results reported are statistically significant at a 95% significance level.

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/ISBN/9781839603327>

The full 2018 SALSUS drugs report is available at: <http://www.gov.scot/ISBN/9781839603297>

CONTACT DETAILS

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