

Statistics on young people and drug misuse: England, 2000 and 2001

This bulletin presents information on reported drug misuse among young people aged under 25 years from two key published sources. Information for pupils aged 11 to 15 relates to England up to 2001; information for persons aged 16 to 24 relates to England and Wales up to 2000. Some trend information is also included.

Summary

Among 11 to 15 year olds in England in 2001:

- 12% had used drugs in the last month, and 20% had used drugs in the last year.
- The prevalence of drug use increased sharply with age: only 6% of 11 year olds had used drugs in the last year compared with two fifths (39%) of 15 year olds.
- Cannabis was the most frequently reported illicit drug used in the last year, used by 13%.
- One percent had used heroin in the last year and 1% had used cocaine. In total, 4% had used Class A drugs in the last year.

Among 16 to 24 year olds in England and Wales in 2000:

- 29% had used drugs in the last year and 18% in the last month.
- 26% had used cannabis in the last year, 6% amphetamines, 5% ecstasy, 5% cocaine, 4% poppers, 1% heroin and 1% crack. In total, 9% had used Class A drugs in the last year.
- The proportion who had used drugs in the last year was at the same level in 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2000 (29%). The only drug to show a significant increase in misuse between 1994 and 2000 was cocaine (from 1% to 5% for use in the last year).

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Bulletin 2002/15

Published July 2002

ISBN: 1 84182 581 6

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1. Introduction

1.1 The Government's 10 year strategy for tackling drug misuse: *Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain* was published in April 1998¹. It gave four key objectives for: young people, communities, treatment and availability. For young people the aim is: 'To help young people resist drug misuse in order to achieve their full potential in society'.

1.2 Further reports were published in 1999² and 2000³.

1.3 The Key Performance target - as set out in the UK Anti-Drug Co-ordinator's annual report for the period 2000/2001, published in August 2001⁴ - is to reduce the proportion of people under the age of 25 reporting the use of Class A drugs by 25 per cent by 2005 and by 50 per cent by 2008. The United Kingdom Anti-Drugs Co-ordination Unit was formerly part of the Cabinet Office but became part of the Home Office with effect from August 2001.

1.4 Tackling drugs and alcohol-related crime was emphasised as a priority in the NHS Plan in July 2000⁵. The government is committed to "targeting [drugs] education and prevention activity to intervene before people

develop the habits which do so much damage". Current national policies and local action helping to reduce health inequalities include targeting help for those most at risk and who take drugs^{6,7}.

1.5 Information to monitor drug use for those **under 16 years** and for those **16 years and over** is available from two separate sources.

1.6 For those under 16 years, data on drug misuse is available from a series of surveys amongst secondary school children. In 1998 and 1999 these surveys were conducted by ONS^{8,9}. The 2000 and 2001 surveys were conducted by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) and the National Foundation for Educational Research for Educational Research (NFER)^{10,11}.

1.7 For those aged 16 years and over, comparable information is available from the Home Office British Crime Surveys in England and Wales in 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2000: the information available from these household surveys includes the reporting of using drugs in the last month and the previous year.

1.8 It is not possible to combine the information for those aged under 16 with those aged 16 to 24 because the surveys covering these

groups are for different geographical areas and used different methodologies. Therefore the results are presented separately in this bulletin.

2. School children aged 11 to 15 years

2.1 Preliminary results from the NatCen/NFER 2001 survey were published in a Department of Health Statistical Press Release in March 2002¹¹. Information was obtained from more than 9,300 pupils in 285 schools. It is expected that the full report will be published in autumn 2002. Key results from the published data follow.

Ever offered drugs (Tables 1a, 1b, 2)

2.2 In England in 2001, two fifths (42%) of pupils aged 11 to 15 had ever been offered one or more drugs. The likelihood of being offered drugs increased with age: 18% of 11 year olds had been offered drugs, compared with 66% of 15 year olds. Boys were more likely to have been offered them than were girls (44% compared with 39%).

2.3 Pupils were more likely to have been offered cannabis than any other type of drug - 27% of pupils had ever been offered cannabis. A fifth (22%) had ever been offered stimulants

(a group of drugs which includes ecstasy and cocaine) and a similar proportion (20%) had ever been offered volatile substances.

Drug use in last month, last year and ever (Tables 3, 4, 5a, 5b)

2.4 In 2001, 12% of pupils reported using drugs in the last month, 20% reported using drugs in the last year. The prevalence of drug use increases sharply with age: only 6% of 11 year olds reported using drugs in the last year compared with 39% of 15 year olds. Boys were more likely to have reported using drugs in the last year than girls (21% compared with 19%). Information about drug use ever is available for the 2000 survey (see table 3), but is not yet available for the 2001 survey.

Drugs taken (Tables 6a, 6b)

2.5 In 2001, cannabis was the drug most likely to have been used in the last year: 13% reported using cannabis in the last year, compared to 20% who had reported using any drug in the last year. Volatile substances were the next most frequently reported as used in the last year (7% of respondents); 4% reported using a Class A drug in the last year. The survey did not

ask about the number of times drugs had been taken and did not distinguish between experimental and regular use.

Recent trends (Tables 5a, 5b, 6a, 6b)

2.6 Reported levels of drug use in the last month and last year had increased between 1998 and 2000. In 2000, drug use in the last month increased from 7% to 9% and drug use in the last year increased from 11% to 14%. In 2001, 12% of pupils reported using drugs in the last month, and 20% reported using drugs in the last year. The data for 2001 are not directly comparable with earlier years, as the questions about taking drugs were simplified in 2001 with the aim of improving data quality and providing better estimates of drug use. Consequently it is too early to say whether there has been any recent increase in prevalence as the data for 2001 are not comparable with earlier years. Further information about the changes to the questions is contained in the Technical notes (annex B).

Other findings

2.7 The surveys also ask about related issues, for example, smoking and drinking. Further information is included in

the main report on the 2000 Survey¹⁰.

2.8 The 2001 survey included more questions about drug related issues, for example, attitudes to drug use. Further information will be included in the main report, planned for publication in autumn 2002.

3. Young people aged 16 to 24 years

3.1 The following data on drug use among young people in England and Wales is provided from the Home Office British Crime Survey¹². It is expected that data from the 2001 survey will be published by the Home Office in late autumn 2002.

Drug use in last month, last year and ever (Table 7)

3.2 In 2000, 29% of 16 to 24 year olds in England and Wales reported using drugs in the last year and 18% reported using drugs in the last month. Half (50%) reported that they had ever used drugs. It is clear that many young people have used an illicit drug in the past, but not in the last year: the previous use may have been brief and experimental.

3.3 Males were more likely than females to have

reported using an illicit drug in the last year (33% compared to 25%). This was true for all types of drugs reported.

Drugs taken

(Tables 8, 9, 10)

3.4 In 2000, 26% of 16 to 24 year olds in England and Wales reported that they had used cannabis in the last year. Other drugs which were reported by this age group as used in the last year included amphetamines (6%), ecstasy (5%), cocaine (5%), and poppers (4%); only 1% had used crack or heroin in the last year.

3.5 Nine percent of young people aged 16 to 24 reported having used Class A drugs in the last year, and 5% in the last month.

Recent trends

(Table 11)

3.6 Trend information is available from the British Crime Survey on the prevalence of reported drug misuse among 16 to 24 year olds between 1994 and 2000.

3.7 Between 1994 and 2000 there was no change in the prevalence of reported drug use in the last year: this remained constant at 29%. The percentage of respondents who reported misusing cocaine in the last year was 1% in both 1994 and 1996; this increased to

3% in 1998, and to 5% in 2000; the change from 1996 to 2000 was statistically significant.

4. Other surveys and quality issues

4.1 There are a number of other surveys which provide information on drug use by young people in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. Further details are given in Annex C.

4.2 Some of the other surveys on drug use by young people present results that appear to differ. A comparison of five data sources including the 1998 and 1999 ONS surveys of secondary school children aged 11 to 15^{8,9}, was carried out by ONS in 2001¹³. This found that the five data sources differed markedly in terms of methods, age groups covered, questions, response rate and availability of data, which makes comparisons difficult.

4.3 Further information about the two key series of surveys referred to in this bulletin are contained in the Technical notes (annex B).

5. Editorial notes

5.1 For the purposes of clarity, figures in the bulletin are shown in

accordance with the Department of Health's publication conventions. These are as follows:

- . not applicable
- .. not available
- zero
- 0 less than 0.5

numbers greater than or equal to 0.5 are rounded to the nearest integer.

Percentages do not always add to 100 due to rounding.

6. Further information

6.1 It is proposed to update this bulletin on an occasional basis as later data become available. Constructive comments on the content of this bulletin would be welcomed. Any comments or questions concerning the data contained in this publication, or requests for further information, should be addressed to:

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6.2 Press enquires should be made to:

Press Office

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Telephone: 020 7210 5229
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6.3 Further copies of this publication can be obtained free of charge from:

Department of Health
PO Box 777
London
SE1 6XH
Telephone: 08701 555 455
Fax: 01623 724524
Email: doh@prologistics.co.uk

6.4 Information about the Department of Health's statistics and surveys is available on the Internet at <http://www.doh.gov.uk/public/stats1.htm>. The website includes a full list of the DH's statistical publications. Many of the publications (including this one) are available for viewing online.

6.5 Other sources of information are:

The Department of Health drug information website is intended primarily as a resource for a wide range of professionals and managers to help in the delivery of drug prevention and treatment services. Some of the information will also be of interest to parents, young people and students. It is available at:
<http://www.doh.gov.uk/drugs/>

A further website is provided as a resource where Drug Action Team (DAT) co-ordinators, members and any other interested parties can find Government information about the delivery of the National Drugs Strategy. The site is intended to provide a comprehensive resource to facilitate the work of DATs, and is available at:
<http://www.drugs.gov.uk/>

6.6 Other contacts are:

Statistical information for Scotland

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Statistical information for Wales

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Statistical information for Northern Ireland

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<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/iau/drugs.html>

Home Office

Tom Bucke
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<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/atoz/drugs.htm>

Office for National Statistics

1 Drummond Gate
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Telephone: 020 7533 6262
(enquiry point for Social Statistics).
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/>
'StatBase' has been set up by the Office for National Statistics to provide access to a comprehensive set of key statistics drawn from

the whole range of official statistics. This website may be found at:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/mainmenu.asp>

Drugscope

This is a UK drugs charity providing information to professionals and the public, conduct research and develop policies on drugs and drug-related issues, promote humane and effective ways of responding to drugs and drug use. They also encourage debate on drug issues and provide a voice for over 800 member bodies working on the ground.

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<http://www.emcdda.org/>

Annex A: Bibliography

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<http://www.official-documents.co.uk/document/cm39/3945/3945.htm>
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<http://www.drugs.gov.uk/ReportsandPublications/General/ukadc2000-01.pdf>
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<http://www.doh.gov.uk/healthinequalities/newslettermarch2002.pdf>
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Annex B: Technical notes

B1 The drug use, smoking and drinking among young people in England in 2001 survey

The technical notes in Sections B1.1 to B1.5 below are taken from the Statistical Press Notice of the 2001 preliminary results¹¹: further analysis and discussion will be included in the main report due to be published in autumn 2002.

B1.1 Survey questions in 2001¹¹

In 2001, the questions about taking drugs were changed so that pupils were asked a series of questions about each drug - had they heard of it, been offered it, ever tried it and if so when did they last use it, and how did they usually take the drug if there are different ways of taking it. Previously pupils had to look at a long list of drugs and were asked different questions about which drugs they had heard of, been offered, or had taken. Wording of questions was also changed so that pupils were asked about whether they had ever "tried" drugs rather than "used" drugs, as evidence from cognitive work on question design suggested that "using" drugs is associated with being a regular user, rather than just trying them once. There was evidence that pupils found answering questions with a long list of drugs a more difficult task than answering a series of questions about each drug, and that pupils may have got into a pattern of just ticking that they had never used any drugs and not paying enough attention to reading the list of drugs carefully. This appears to have particularly been the case for reported levels of use of glue; reported levels of using these volatile substances increased substantially between 2000 and 2001, while levels of reporting of other types of drugs were similar in both surveys. It is more likely that this difference in reporting is due to the change in question format rather than a real change in behaviour. Simplifying the questions has improved the data quality and results in better estimates of drug use, however estimates from 2001 are not comparable with estimates from previous surveys.

B1.2 Interpretation of results from 2001 survey

Reported levels of drug use in the last month and last year had increased slightly between 1998 and 2000. In 2000, 9% of pupils reported using drugs in the last month and 14% reported using drugs in the last year, compared with 7% and 11% respectively in 1998. The new estimates for 2001 were 12% and 20% respectively. There are a number of possible explanations for the difference between 2000 and 2001 prevalence figures:

- Use of drugs in the population aged 11 to 15 increased between 2000 and 2001, and the change in question format 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;
- Use of drugs has decreased from 2000 to 2001, but the change in question format 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.

B1.3 Categories of drugs in the survey

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. This divides controlled drugs into three categories according to their harmfulness: Class A drugs are considered to cause the most harm. This survey 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.

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 substances if it is likely that the product is intended for abuse
Glue	sniff	
Gas	sniff	

B1.4 The National Centre for Social Research (NatCen)

This 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.

B1.5 The National Foundation

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.

B2 British Crime Survey¹²

A key Home Office survey which includes drug use of young people and adults aged 16 and over in England and Wales: comparable information is available for 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2000, but will be carried out on an annual basis from 2001 onwards with a considerably larger sample size to ensure more effective monitoring of the Government's strategy for tackling drug misuse.

Annex C: Other surveys on drugs and young people

Surveys

A number of surveys of drugs and young people have been carried out in the UK in recent years and a list of references is included here for information. No systematic assessment of the methodology and quality of these surveys has yet been made by the Department of Health Statistics Division.

Surveys in England and UK

1. Health Education Authority. *Drug use in England - results of the 1995 national drugs campaign survey*. London: Health Education Authority, 1997.
2. Health Education Authority. *Drug realities - a summary of the key findings of the 1996 national drugs campaign survey*. London: Health Education Authority.
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Surveys in Wales

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Surveys in Scotland

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Surveys in Northern Ireland

18. McElrath, K. *The prevalence of problem heroin use in Northern Ireland. A report for the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety*. Belfast: School of Sociology and Social Policy Queen's University, 2002. Available on the internet at:
<http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/publications/2002/heroinreport.pdf>
19. Health Promotion Agency for Northern Ireland. *The health behaviour of school children in Northern Ireland: a report of the 1997/98 Survey*.
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http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/publications/2001/ni_espada.pdf

Annex D: Other information about drugs

Information on drug treatment

1. Department of Health. *Statistics from the Regional Drug Misuse Databases for six months ending March 2001*. London: Department of Health, 2002. Available on the internet at: <http://www.doh.gov.uk/public/sb0207.htm>
2. Department of Health. *Statistics from the Regional Drug Misuse Databases on drug misusers in treatment in England, 2000/01*. London: Department of Health, 2002. Available on the internet at: <http://www.doh.gov.uk/public/sb0133.pdf>

Information on drug related deaths

1. Griffiths C, Brock A, Mickleburgh M. Deaths related to drug poisoning: results for England and Wales, 1993 to 2000. *Office for National Statistics Health Statistics Quarterly 2002; 13:* (76-82). Available on the internet at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/HSQ13_v4.pdf

Other publications which may be of interest

The following booklets are produced by the Department of Health: they are available direct from the NHS Responseline on 08701 555 455.

1. *Drugs: the facts* (11 to 14 year olds)
[Http://www.doh.gov.uk/drugs/thefacts.pdf](http://www.doh.gov.uk/drugs/thefacts.pdf)
2. *The score: facts about drugs* (14 to 16 year olds)
<http://www.doh.gov.uk/drugs/thescore.pdf>
3. *Drugs abroad: essential holiday information* (aimed at young people at risk of using drugs abroad)
<http://www.doh.gov.uk/drugs/theabroad.pdf>
4. *A parent's guide to drugs and alcohol*
<http://www.doh.gov.uk/drugs/thepeg.pdf>

There are a series of drugs factsheets available at:

<http://www.drugs.gov.uk/ReportsandPublications/Publications/DrugCommunicationsPack/Deliveringyourcommunications/DrugsFactsheets>

Other websites which may be of interest

National Drugs Helpline

The National Drugs Helpline is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and gives confidential information and advice to anyone in the UK concerned about drugs. Telephone: 0800 77 66 00

<http://www.ndh.org.uk/>

D-2K

D-2K is a drug information website for 14 to 16 year olds.

<http://www.d-2k.co.uk/>

Lifebytes:

LifeBytes is a joint initiative between the Department of Health and the Department for Education and Skills. LifeBytes aims to provide young people between the ages of 11 to 14 with relevant and appropriate health information, as well as linking to a range of accurate, clear and credible websites on a variety of health issues. LifeBytes is part of Phase 2 of the development of the Wired for Health websites.

http://www.lifebytes.gov.uk/index_flash.html

Mind, body and soul

Also part of the Wired for Health network. Contains general information about drugs for Key Stage 4 pupils (14 to 16 year olds).

<http://www.mindbodysoul.gov.uk>

Annex E: Reference tables

Young people aged 11 to 15 years, England

- 1a. Ever offered drugs, by gender, 1998 to 2001
- 1b. Ever offered drugs, by age, 1998 to 2001
- 2. Ever offered individual drugs, 1998 to 2001
- 3. Used drugs ever, in the last year, or in the last month, by age, 2000
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Young people aged 16 to 24 years, England and Wales

- 7. Used drugs ever, in the last year, or in the last month, by age group and gender, 2000
- 8. Used particular drugs ever, in the last year or last month, by age group, 2000
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- 10. Used particular drugs in the last year, by gender, 2000
- 11. Used particular drugs during the last year, 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2000

Table 1a Young people aged 11 to 15 who had ever been offered drugs, by gender
England, 1998 to 2001

Year	All pupils	Boys	percentages
			Girls
1998	34	36	32
1999	35	36	33
2000	35	37	34
2001	42	44	39
<i>Base</i>			
1998	4,751	2,335	2,416
1999	8,795	4,510	4,285
2000	7,089	3,672	3,417
2001	9,357	4,687	4,670

Notes:

1. 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 Annex B: Technical notes.

Sources:

Drug use, smoking and drinking among young teenagers in 1999⁹.

Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2001¹¹.

Table 1b. Young people aged 11 to 15 who had ever been offered drugs, by age
England, 1998 to 2001

	All aged 11-15	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	percentages 15 years
1998	34	15	19	30	44	61
1999	35	13	19	31	44	62
2000	35	14	19	31	47	61
2001	42	18	24	41	54	66
<i>Base</i>						
1998	4,750	612	728	696	1,284	1,430
1999	8,791	1,632	1,809	1,190	1,749	1,811
2000	7,089	1,201	1,440	1,440	1,445	1,563
2001	9,357	1,649	1,935	1,923	1,856	1,994

Notes:

1. 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 Annex B: Technical notes.

Sources:

Drug use, smoking and drinking among young teenagers in 1999⁹.

Drug use, smoking, and drinking and among young people in England in 2001¹¹.

Table 2. Young people aged 11 to 15 who had ever been offered individual drugs, all pupils England, 1998 to 2001

Type of drug	1998	1999	2000	percentages 2001
Any drug	34	35	35	42
Cannabis	26	27	28	27
Stimulants				
Cocaine	6	7	8	9
Crack	3	5	5	9
Ecstasy	6	6	7	10
Amphetamines	7	7	6	7
Poppers	6	6	7	10
	14	16	16	22
Psychedelics				
LSD	6	5	4	6
Magic mushrooms	6	6	7	10
	8	9	9	12
Opiates				
Heroin	4	4	6	7
Methadone	1	1	1	2
	4	5	6	8
Glue, gas, aerosols and other solvents	8	15	13	20
Tranquillisers	2	2	2	4
Steroids	2	1	2	2
Other drugs	6	0	2	2
<i>Base</i>	<i>4,751</i>	<i>8,795</i>	<i>7,089</i>	<i>9,357</i>

Notes:

1. 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 Annex B: Technical notes.

Sources:

Drug use, smoking and drinking among young teenagers in 1999⁹.

Drug use, smoking, and drinking and among young people in England in 2001¹¹.

Table 3. Young people aged 11 to 15 who had used drugs ever, in the last year, or in the last month, by age England, 2000

Age	Ever used drugs	Used drugs in the last year	Used drugs in the last month	percentages
				<i>Base</i>
All pupils aged 11-15	16	14	9	6,859
11 years	4	3	3	1,153
12 years	6	5	3	1,386
13 years	12	9	5	1,393
14 years	22	20	13	1,407
15 years	32	29	21	1,520

Notes:

1. Information on “ever used drugs” is not yet available for 2001; consequently this table shows data for 2000.
2. Information for 2001 on drug use in the last month and drug use in the last year for young people aged 11 to 15 years is given in table 4.

Source: Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2000¹⁰.

Table 4. Young people aged 11 to 15 who had used drugs in the last year or last month, by gender and age England, 2001

	Used drugs in last year	Used drugs in last month	percentages <i>Base</i>
All pupils aged 11 to 15	20	12	8,799
11 years	6	3	1,537
12 years	9	4	1,798
13 years	19	10	1,800
14 years	27	16	1,763
15 years	39	24	1,901
Boys aged 11 to 15	21	13	4,360
11 years	7	4	778
12 years	8	4	861
13 years	20	11	887
14 years	26	17	852
15 years	41	25	982
Girls aged 11 to 15	19	11	4,439
11 years	4	2	759
12 years	9	4	937
13 years	18	9	913
14 years	27	15	911
15 years	36	22	919

Notes:

1. The bases shown have been revised since the Department of Health Statistical Press Notice, providing preliminary results from the 2001 school survey, was published on 15 March 2002.

Source: Drug use, smoking, and drinking and among young people in England in 2001¹¹.

Table 5a. Young people aged 11 to 15 who had used drugs in the last month, or in the last year, by age England, 1998 to 2001

		percentages					
		All aged 11-15	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years
Used drugs in the last month							
All pupils	1998	7	0	2	4	10	18
	1999	7	1	2	5	11	19
	2000	9	3	3	5	13	21
	2001	12	3	4	10	16	24
Used drugs in the last year (including the last month)							
All pupils	1998	11	1	4	7	16	28
	1999	12	1	4	8	17	30
	2000	14	3	5	9	20	29
	2001	20	6	9	19	27	39
Bases							
All pupils	1998	4,566	501	601	538	1,365	1,561
	1999	9,308	1,751	1,903	1,862	1,837	1,955
	2000	6,859	1,153	1,386	1,393	1,407	1,520
	2001	8,799	1,537	1,798	1,800	1,763	1,901

Notes:

1. The bases shown for 2001 have been revised since the Department of Health Statistical Press Notice providing preliminary results from the 2001 school survey was published on 15 March 2002.
2. 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 Annex B: Technical notes.

Source: Drug use, smoking, and drinking and among young people in England in 2001¹¹.

Table 5b. Young people aged 11 to 15 who had used drugs in the last month, or in the last year, by gender and age England, 1998 to 2001

		percentages					
		All aged 11-15	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years
Used drugs in the last month							
Boys	1998	7	0	2	4	10	19
	1999	8	1	2	4	12	21
	2000	10	3	2	6	14	23
	2001	13	4	4	11	17	25
Girls	1998	6	0	2	3	9	16
	1999	7	1	2	5	9	17
	2000	8	2	3	5	11	19
	2001	11	2	4	9	15	22
Used drugs in the last year (including the last month)							
Boys	1998	12	1	4	7	16	29
	1999	13	2	4	7	18	31
	2000	15	3	5	10	20	32
	2001	21	7	8	20	26	41
Girls	1998	10	1	3	6	14	26
	1999	12	1	4	9	16	28
	2000	13	3	4	9	19	27
	2001	19	4	9	18	27	36
Bases							
<i>Boys</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>2,273</i>	<i>249</i>	<i>295</i>	<i>249</i>	<i>658</i>	<i>822</i>
	<i>1999</i>	<i>4,769</i>	<i>873</i>	<i>1,009</i>	<i>943</i>	<i>910</i>	<i>1,034</i>
	<i>2000</i>	<i>3,545</i>	<i>597</i>	<i>730</i>	<i>715</i>	<i>731</i>	<i>772</i>
	<i>2001</i>	<i>4,360</i>	<i>778</i>	<i>861</i>	<i>887</i>	<i>852</i>	<i>982</i>
<i>Girls</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>2,293</i>	<i>252</i>	<i>306</i>	<i>289</i>	<i>707</i>	<i>739</i>
	<i>1999</i>	<i>4,539</i>	<i>878</i>	<i>894</i>	<i>919</i>	<i>927</i>	<i>921</i>
	<i>2000</i>	<i>3,314</i>	<i>556</i>	<i>656</i>	<i>678</i>	<i>676</i>	<i>748</i>
	<i>2001</i>	<i>4,439</i>	<i>759</i>	<i>937</i>	<i>913</i>	<i>911</i>	<i>919</i>

Notes:

1. The bases shown for 2001 have been revised since the Department of Health Statistical Press Notice providing preliminary results from the 2001 school survey was published on 15 March 2002.

2. 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 Annex B: Technical notes.

Source: Drug use, smoking, and drinking and among young people in England in 2001¹¹.

Table 6a. Young people aged 11 to 15 who had used individual drugs in the last year England, 1998 to 2001

Type of drug	percentages			
	1998	1999	2000	2001
Any drug	11	12	14	20
Cannabis	10	11	12	13
Stimulants				
Cocaine	1	1	1	1
Crack	0	1	1	1
Ecstasy	1	1	1	2
Amphetamines	2	1	1	1
Poppers	1	2	2	3
Psychedelics				
LSD	1	1	1	1
Magic mushrooms	1	1	1	2
Opiates				
Heroin	0	0	1	1
Methadone	0	0	0	0
Glue, gas, aerosols and other solvents	1	3	3	7
Tranquillisers	0	0	0	0
Steroids	0	0	0	0
Other drugs	1	0	1	1
Any Class A drug	3	2	4	4
<i>Base</i>	<i>4,647</i>	<i>9,053</i>	<i>6,862</i>	<i>9,357</i>

Notes:

1. 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.

2. 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 Annex B: Technical notes.

Source: Drug use, smoking, and drinking and among young people in England in 2001¹¹.

Table 6b. Young people aged 11 to 15 who had used individual drugs in the last year, by gender
England, 1998 to 2001

Type of Drug	percentages							
	Boys				Girls			
	1998	1999	2000	2001	1998	1999	2000	2001
Any drug	12	13	15	21	10	12	13	19
Cannabis	11	11	13	14	9	10	11	12
Stimulants								
Cocaine	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
Crack	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1
Ecstasy	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	2
Amphetamines	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	1
Poppers	2	1	2	4	1	1	2	3
Psychedelics								
LSD	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Magic mushrooms	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2
Opiates								
Heroin	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Methadone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glue, gas, aerosols and other solvents	1	2	3	7	1	3	3	8
Tranquillisers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Steroids	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other drugs	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
Any Class A drug	3	3	4	4	3	2	3	4
Base	2,287	4,625	3,549	4,687	2,360	4,428	3,319	4,670

Notes:

1. 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.
2. 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 Annex B: Technical notes.

Source: Drug use, smoking, and drinking and among young people in England in 2001¹¹.

Table 7. Proportion of young people aged 16 to 24 years who had used drugs ever, in the last year, or in the last month, by age group and gender
England and Wales, 2000

	Age	Total	percentages	
			Males	Females
Ever used	All aged 16 to 24	50	54	47
	16-19	42	44	40
	20-24	58	63	54
Last year	All aged 16 to 24	29	33	25
	16-19	27	31	24
	20-24	30	34	26
Last month	All aged 16 to 24	18	22	14
	16-19	16	21	12
	20-24	20	23	16
<i>Bases (unweighted)</i>	<i>All aged 16 to 24</i>	<i>1,517</i>	<i>696</i>	<i>821</i>
	<i>16-19</i>	<i>665</i>	<i>302</i>	<i>363</i>
	<i>20-24</i>	<i>852</i>	<i>394</i>	<i>458</i>

Source: British Crime Survey 2000¹².

Table 8. Proportion of young people aged 16 to 24 years who had used particular drugs ever, in the last year or last month, by age group England and Wales, 2000

		percentages.		
		16-24	16-19	20-24
Any drug	Ever	50	42	58
	Last year	29	27	30
	Last month	18	16	20
Cannabis	Ever	45	37	52
	Last year	26	25	27
	Last month	17	15	18
Heroin	Ever	2	1	2
	Last year	1	1	1
	Last month	-	-	-
Crack	Ever	2	2	2
	Last year	1	1	1
	Last month	-	-	-
Cocaine	Ever	10	6	14
	Last year	5	4	6
	Last month	2	2	1
<i>Bases (unweighted)</i>		<i>1,517</i>	<i>665</i>	<i>852</i>

Notes

1. This table relates to selected drugs only: table 9 gives a complete list of the drugs asked about in the survey.

Source: British Crime Survey 2000¹².

Table 9. Proportion of young people aged 16 to 24 years who had used particular drugs ever, in the last year or in the last month
England and Wales, 2000

	Ever	Last year	percentages.
			Last month
Any drug	50	29	18
Cannabis	45	26	17
Cocaine	10	5	2
Crack	2	1	-
Ecstasy	11	5	3
Amphetamines	21	6	3
Poppers	15	4	2
LSD	11	2	1
Magic mushrooms	10	2	1
Heroin	2	1	-
Methadone	1	-	-
Glue, etc.	7	1	-
Temazepam, etc.	4	1	-
Steroids	1	-	-
Smoke unknown	7	2	1
Pills	3	-	-
Anything else	2	-	0
Any Class A drug	20	9	5
<i>Bases (unweighted)</i>	<i>1,517</i>	<i>1,517</i>	<i>1,517</i>

Source: British Crime Survey 2000¹².

Table 10. Proportion of young people aged 16 to 24 years who had used particular drugs in the last year, by gender
England and Wales, 2000

	Persons	percentages.	
		Males	Females
Any drug	29	33	25
Cannabis	26	29	23
Cocaine	5	7	3
Crack	1	1	-
Ecstasy	5	7	4
Amphetamines	6	7	5
Poppers	4	5	3
LSD	2	4	1
Magic mushrooms	2	4	1
Heroin	1	1	-
Methadone	-	-	0
Glue, etc.	1	1	1
Temazepam, etc.	1	2	1
Steroids	-	-	0
Smoke unknown	2	2	1
Pills	-	1	-
Anything else	-	1	-
<i>Bases (unweighted)</i>	<i>1,517</i>	<i>696</i>	<i>821</i>

Source: British Crime Survey 2000¹².

Table 11. Proportion of young people aged 16 to 24 years who had used particular drugs during the last year
England and Wales, 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2000

	percentages			
	1994	1996	1998	2000
Any drug	29	29	29	29
Cannabis	26	26	27	26
Cocaine	1	1	3	5
Crack	0	0	0	1
Ecstasy	4	6	5	5
Amphetamines	9	11	10	6
Poppers	6	5	5	4
LSD	6	4	3	2
Magic mushrooms	4	2	4	2
Heroin	1	0	0	1
Methadone	1	0	1	-
Glue, etc.	1	1	1	1
Temazepam, etc.	1	1	1	1
Steroids	0	1	1	-
Smoke unknown	3	2	2	2
Pills	1	0	1	-
Anything else	1	0	0	-
<i>Base (unweighted)</i>	<i>1,442</i>	<i>1,475</i>	<i>1,296</i>	<i>1,517</i>

Source: British Crime Surveys, 1994, 1996, 1998 and 2000¹².