

Statistics on young people and drug misuse: England, 2003

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 2003; information for persons aged 16 to 24 relates to England and Wales up to 2002/03. Some trend information is also included.

Summary

Among 11 to 15 year olds in England in 2003:

- Prevalence of taking drugs in the last year increased slightly between 2002 and 2003 (from 20% to 21%), but prevalence of taking drugs in the last month (12%), was the same as in 2002.
- The prevalence of drug use increased sharply with age: only 8% of 11 year olds had used drugs in the last year compared with 38% of 15 year olds.
- Cannabis was the most frequently reported illicit drug used in the last year, used by 13%.
- One per cent 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 2002/03:

- Prevalence of taking drugs in the last year decreased slightly between 2001/02 and 2002/03 (from 30% to 28%); prevalence of taking drugs in the last month was 18% in 2002/03 (compared with 19% in 2001/02).
- Cannabis was the most frequently reported illicit drug used in the last year, used by 26%.
- In the last year 5% had used ecstasy, 5% cocaine, 4% amphetamines, and 4% poppers, and fewer 1% had used crack or heroin. In total, 8% had used Class A drugs in the last year.

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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 A number of reports were published by the UK Anti-Drug Coordinator^{2,3,4}.

1.3 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. The Home Office works with all government departments in order to deliver the key aims of the Drugs Strategy.

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 The government's Updated Drug Strategy launched in 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". The Key Performance target is to reduce the use of class A drugs and the frequent use of any illicit drug among all young people under the age of 25 especially those most vulnerable⁸.

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

1.7 For those under 16 years, data on drug misuse is available from a series of surveys amongst secondary school children aged 11 to 15. In 1998 and 1999 these surveys were conducted by ONS^{9,10}. Since 2000, surveys have been conducted by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) and the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER)^{11,12,13,14}.

1.8 For those aged 16 years and over, comparable

information is available from the Home Office British Crime Surveys in England and Wales in 1996¹⁵, 1998¹⁶, 2000¹⁷, 2001/02¹⁸ and 2002/03¹⁹: the information available from these household surveys includes the reporting of using drugs in the last month and the previous year.

1.9 It is not possible to combine the information for those aged 11 to 15 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 Headline results from the 2003 school survey were published in March 2004¹⁴. Information was obtained from just over 10,000 pupils in 321 schools. Full results from the survey are due to be published in autumn 2004. Note that some results from the 2002 survey have been revised (see para B1.4, annex B)

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

2.2 In England in 2003, 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: 19% of 11 year olds had been offered drugs, compared with 65% of 15 year olds. Boys were more likely to have been offered drugs than girls were (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. Almost a quarter (23%) had ever been offered stimulants (a group of drugs which includes ecstasy and cocaine) and 19% had ever been offered volatile substances.

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

2.4 In 2003, 12% of pupils aged 11 to 15 reported using drugs in the last month, 21% reported using drugs in the last year. The prevalence of drug use increased sharply with age: only 8% of 11 year olds reported using drugs in the last year compared with 38% of 15 year olds.

2.5 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%.

Drugs taken (Tables 5a, 5b, 5c)

2.6 In 2003, cannabis was by far the most likely drug to have been used in the last year: 13% reported using cannabis in the last year, compared to 21% who had reported using any drug in the last year. Volatile substances (8%) and stimulants (6%) were the next most frequently reported as used in the last year; 4% reported using a Class A drug in the last year.

Recent trends (Tables 4a, 4b, 4c and 5b, 5c)

2.7 The data for 2001 to 2003 are not directly comparable with earlier years, as the questions about taking drugs were simplified from 2001 with the aim of improving data quality and providing better estimates of drug use. Further information about the changes to the questions is given in Annex B.

2.8 Reported levels of drug use in the last year and last month had increased between 1998 and 2000 from 11% to 14% in the last year, and from 7% to 9% in the last month. Prevalence of taking drugs in the last year increased slightly

between 2001 and 2003 (from 20% to 21%), but prevalence of taking drugs in the last month (12%) was the same as in 2001 and 2002.

Other findings

2.9 The school surveys also ask about related issues, for example, attitudes to drug use, and smoking, and drinking. Further information will be available in the main report of the 2003 Survey due out in autumn 2004.

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 Survey 2002/03¹⁹.

Drug use in last month, last year and ever (Tables 6)

3.2 In 2002/03, 28% 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. Almost half (47%) 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 much more likely than females to have reported using an illicit drug in the last year (35% compared to 23%). Twenty nine per cent of persons aged 20 to 24 had used drugs in the last year compared to 27% of persons aged 16 to 19.

Drugs taken

(Tables 7, 8, 9)

3.4 In 2002/03, 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 ecstasy (5%), cocaine (5%), amphetamines (4%), and poppers (4%); fewer than 1% had used crack or heroin in the last year.

3.5 Eight per cent of young people aged 16 to 24 reported having used Class A drugs in the last year, and 4% in the last month.

Recent trends

(Table 10)

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 1996 and 2002/03.

3.7 Between 1996 and 2002/03 the prevalence of reported drug use in the last year fluctuated between

32% in 1998 and 28% in 2002/03. The only drug to show a significant increase in misuse between 1996 and 2002/03 was cocaine used in the last year (from 1% to 5%). Cannabis used in the last year remained in the range of 26% to 28% throughout the period 1996 to 2002/03. The only drugs to show a significant decrease in misuse between 1996 and 2002/03 were amphetamines (from 12% in the last year to 4%) and LSD (from 4% in the last year to 1%).

3.8 Prevalence of taking drugs in the last month was 18% in 2002/03 (compared with 19% in 2001/02).

4. Other surveys and quality issues

4.1 There are a number of other surveys that 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^{9,10}, was carried out by ONS in 2001²⁰. 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 given in 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 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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6.3 Further copies of this publication can be obtained free of charge from:

Department of Health
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6.4 Information about the Department of Health's statistics and surveys is available on the Internet at <http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAndSocialCareTopics/SubstanceMisuse/fs/en> 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.dh.gov.uk>

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.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAndSocialCareTopics/SubstanceMisuse/fs/en>

6.6 Other contacts are:

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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
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Annex A: Bibliography

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Annex B: Technical notes

B1 School surveys^{9,10,11,12,13,14}

Surveys of secondary school children aged 11-15 in England have been carried out since 1982, 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, focussing in alternate years on either drug use or smoking and drinking.

B1.1 Categories of drugs in the school 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.
- At the time the survey was carried out, Cannabis was classified as a Class B drug, but was reclassified to a Class C on 29th January 2004. It is important to emphasise that it will remain illegal to possess or supply cannabis

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	C - from January 2004 (previously B)
Tranquillisers	oral or inject	B/C (depends on drug)
Anabolic steroids	sniff	C
Poppers	sniff	It is an offence to supply these substances if it is likely that the product is intended for abuse.
Glue	sniff	

B1.2 School survey questions from 2001 onwards^{12,13,14}

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 onwards are not comparable with estimates from previous surveys.

B1.3 Interpretation of results from 2001 and previous school surveys

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. The results from the 2001, 2002 and 2003 surveys are comparable.

B1.4 Revised 2002 School Survey results

The 2002 preliminary results and main report (published in March and September 2003 respectively) were revised in March 2004 when the 2003 headline figures¹⁴ were published. A revised 2002 main report was published in May 2004¹³. The revised results were whether heard of, offered or taken “any” drugs (or any subgroup of drugs such as Class A drugs) but not these measures for specific drugs such as cannabis.

B1.5 The National Centre for Social Research (NatCen)

This 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.

B1.6 The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER)

NFER 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 Survey

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 1996¹⁵, 1998¹⁶, 2000¹⁷, 2001/02¹⁸ and 2002/03¹⁹. From April 2000 the BCS became a continuous survey with a considerably larger sample size to ensure more effective monitoring of the Government’s strategy for tackling drug misuse. From 2001/02 the reporting period changed from a calendar to financial year. Results from the 2003/04 survey will be available towards the end of 2004.

The BCS has adopted 'calibration weighting', which is designed to adjust for known differentials in response rates across age, gender and regional sub-groups. This weighting has been applied to sweeps from 1996 onwards. The impact of calibration weighting on estimates remains relatively constant over

consecutive sweeps: on average 'ever use' estimates increase by a 0.5 percentage point, 'year use' by 0.2 and 'month use' by 0.1. The 1994 BCS has not had this calibration weight applied to it. Therefore, detailed comparisons with other sweeps of the BCS should be treated with care.

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

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Surveys in Wales

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Surveys in Scotland

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Annex D: Other information about drugs

A list of key current drug strategy documents is available at:

<http://www.drugs.gov.uk/ReportsandPublications/NationalStrategy>

Information on drug treatment

- 1.. National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse: *Provisional figures for number of individuals in treatment for drug misuse returned to NDTMS relating to activity in England 2003/04*. (Due to be updated September 2004). Available at:
http://www.nta.nhs.uk/programme/national/docs/NDTMS_Records_2003_04.pdf
2. Department of Health: *Provisional Statistics from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System in England, 2001/02 and 2002/03*- Available on the internet at:
<http://www.publications.doh.gov.uk/public/spndrugs0312.htm>
3. Department of Health: *Provisional Statistics from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System in England, 2001/02* London: Department of Health, 2002 Available on the internet at: <http://www.publications.doh.gov.uk/public/spndrugs0212.htm>
4. 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>
5. 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>
6. Scotland: *Drug Misuse Statistics Scotland 2003*
This annual publication presents latest available information on drug misuse in Scotland drawing from a wide range of national data sources.
www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org/publications/03dmss/03dmss2.htm
<<http://www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org/publications/03dmss/03dmss2.htm>>
7. Northern Ireland: *Statistics from the Northern Ireland Drug Misuse Database: 1 April 2002-31 March 2003*. This bulletin summarises information on people presenting to services with problem drug misuse and relates to the 12 month period ending 31 March 2003. Available on the internet at
http://www.dhsspsni.gov.uk/publications/2003/drug_misuse/drug_misuse_cover.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
2. Deaths related to drug poisoning: results for England and Wales, 1997– 2001. *Office for National Statistics Health Statistics Quarterly 2003*; **17**: (65-71). Available on the internet at: http://www.statistics.gov.uk/downloads/theme_health/HSQ17.pdf
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4. 'Trends in Death Associated with Abuse of Volatile Substances 1971 – 2002', *St George's Hospital Medical School*. . Available on the internet at: <http://www.vsareport.org>
5. General Register Officer for Scotland. *Drug-related Deaths in Scotland 2002*. Edinburgh: GROS, 2003. Available on the internet at: www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/grosweb/grosweb.nsf/pages/02drug-related-deaths

International

EMCDDA (European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction)

The EU drugs agency. Provides the Community and its Member States with comparable information at European level concerning drugs and drug addiction and their consequences. Monitors the drugs situation and analysing the responses to this situation. The agency also plays a key role in implementing the EU joint action on new synthetic drugs as well as monitoring national and Community strategies and policies and their impact on the drug situation.

<http://www.emcdda.org>

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Wide-ranging programme includes publicity on the dangers of drug misuse, and statistics.

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/index.html>

SAMHSA: Office of Applied Studies (Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration, USA)

An agency of the US Department of Health and Human Services. Provides data and information about drug misuse in the USA.

<http://www.samhsa.gov/oas/nhsda.htm>

Other websites which may be of interest

(See also 'Other contacts at section 6.6 above).

National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA)

This is a Special Health Authority established by the UK government to increase the availability, capacity and effectiveness of treatment for drug misuse in England.

<http://www.nta.nhs.uk>

Department for Education and Skills (DfES)

Includes guidance for schools and general information about drug misuse.

<http://www.dfes.gov.uk/index.htm>

Substance misuse information

The Department of Health website includes pages which are 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 includes electronic versions of leaflets giving advice to young people.

<http://www.doh.gov.uk/drugs/>

drugs.gov.uk

This is a cross-government website to support the National Drug Strategy and the work of Drug Action Teams. It contains information for Drug Action Teams and interested individuals to find out about the Government's Drug Strategy. It includes links to reports, publications and research that are relevant to the National Drugs Strategy.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/HealthAndSocialCareTopics/SubstanceMisuse/fs/en>

Home Office: Research Development and Statistics Directorate (RDS)

This directorate produces a variety of publications on a wide range of Home Office issues, including drug misuse. Lists and downloads of their recent publications are available.

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds>

Health Development Agency (HDA)

The Health Development Agency (HDA) replaced The Health Education Authority (HEA) which closed on March 31, 2000. It identifies the evidence of what works to improve people's health and reduce health inequalities. In partnership with professionals, policy makers and practitioners, it develops guidance and works across sectors to get evidence into practice. The HDA do not run campaigns or carry out direct public health education.

<http://www.hda-online.org.uk/index.html>

Drugscope

Drugscope is an independent UK charity concerned with drug information and policy. The charity is a merger between the Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence (ISDD) and the Standing Conference on Drug Abuse (SCODA). The website contains information on UK trends and updates; an events calendar; information on European drug laws and access to drug prevention and education resources. There is also a drugsearch facility; a searchable drug encyclopaedia giving information on drug news, history, law, effects and risks. There is also free search access to their database, which contains over 80,000 records. <http://www.drugscope.org.uk/>

FRANK

Supporting the joint Department of Health and Home Office communications campaign, FRANK, launched in May 2003 is the FRANK Helpline 0800 776600 and website <http://www.talktofrank.com/>. The free Helpline offers 24 hour, 365 days a year confidential advice, information and support to anyone concerned about drug and solvent/volatile substance misuse, including drug misusers, their families, friends or carers.

Drug Education Forum

The Drug Education Forum is working to achieve the provision of effective drug education for all children and young people in England.

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

The Society for the Prevention of Solvent and Volatile Substance Abuse - Re-Solv

Re-Solv is a national charity solely dedicated to the prevention of solvent and volatile substance abuse (VSA). It operates throughout the United Kingdom. There is also a Freefone National Helpline 0808 800 2345, which is open 9-5pm Monday to Friday.

<http://www.re-solv.org>

Wired for Health

This website provides health information for teachers. It includes the 'Healthy Schools' programme which is part of the Government's drive to improve standards of health and education and to tackle health inequalities. Its aim is to make children, teachers, parents and communities more aware of the opportunities that exist in schools for improving health, and includes links to various drug related websites.

<http://www.wiredforhealth.gov.uk/healthy/healint.html>

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

Other Wired for Health websites include:

a) Lifebytes (for school key stage 3)

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 associated with the Wired for Health network.

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

b) Mind, body and soul (for school key stage 4)

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>

c) Drug Misuse Information Scotland (DMIST)

The DMIST website provides information, statistics and research on drugs misuse in Scotland. Target users are policy makers, professionals, researchers, employers and the wider community.

www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org <<http://www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org>>

Annex E: Reference tables

Young people aged 11 to 15 years, England

- 1a. Ever offered drugs, by gender, 1998 to 2003
- 1b. Ever offered drugs, by age, 1998 to 2003
- 2. Ever offered individual drugs, 1998 to 2003
- 3. Used drugs in the last year or in the last month, by gender and age, 2003
- 4a. Used drugs in the last year or in the last month, by age, 1998 to 2003
- 4b. Used drugs in the last year or in the last month, (boys), and age, 1998 to 2003
- 4c. Used drugs in the last year or in the last month, (girls), and age, 1998 to 2003
- 5a. Used individual drugs in the last year, 1998 to 2003
- 5b. Used individual drugs in the last year, (boys), 1998 to 2003
- 5c. Used individual drugs in the last year, (girls), 1998 to 2003

Young people aged 16 to 24 years, England and Wales

- 6. Used drugs ever, in the last year, or in the last month, by age group and gender, 2002/03
- 7. Used particular drugs ever, in the last year or last month, by age group, 2002/03
- 8. Used particular drugs ever, in the last year or in the last month, 2002/03
- 9. Used particular drugs in the last year, by gender, 2002/03
- 10. Used particular drugs in the last year, 1996 to 2002/03

Table 1a Young people aged 11 to 15 who had ever been offered drugs, by gender
England, 1998 to 2003

Year	All pupils	percentages	
		Boys	Girls
1998	34	36	32
1999	35	36	33
2000	35	37	34
2001	42	44	39
2002	40	43	37
2003	42	44	39
<i>Bases</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
2002	9,859	5,104	4,755
2003	10,390	5,257	5,133

Notes:

1. Estimates for 2001 onwards are not comparable with estimates from previous years because of the change in the way that questions on being offered individual drugs were asked. See Annex B: Technical notes.

2. The 2002 results have been revised – See Annex B (para B1.4).

Sources:

*NatCen/NFER Drug use, smoking and drinking among young people in 2002*¹³.

*NatCen/NFER Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2003:Headline figures*¹⁴.

*ONS Smoking, drinking and drug use, among young teenagers in 1998*⁹

Table 1b. Young people aged 11 to 15 who had ever been offered drugs, by age
England, 1998 to 2003

						percentages
	All aged 11-15	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	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
2002	40	17	22	36	52	66
2003	42	19	25	39	55	65
<i>Base</i>						
1998	4,751	612	728	696	1,284	1,430
1999	8,795	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
2002	9,859	1,723	2,046	2,004	1,958	2,158
2003	10,390	1,780	2,152	2,162	2,015	2,281

Notes:

1. Estimates for 2001 onwards are not comparable with estimates from previous years because of the change in the way that questions on being offered individual drugs were asked. See Annex B: Technical notes.

2. The 2002 results have been revised – See Annex B (para B1.4).

Sources:

ONS Smoking, drinking and drug use, among young teenagers in 1998⁹

ONS Drug use, smoking and drinking among young teenagers in 1999¹⁰.

NatCen/NFER Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2000¹¹

NatCen/NFER Drug use smoking and drinking among young people in England in 2001¹²

NatCen/NFER Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2002¹³

NatCen/NFER Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2003: Headline figures¹⁴.

Table 2. Young people aged 11 to 15 who had ever been offered individual drugs
England, 1998 to 2003

Type of drug	percentages					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Any drug	34	35	35	42	40	42
Cannabis	26	27	28	27	28	27
Stimulants						
Cocaine	6	7	8	9	9	9
Crack	3	5	5	9	7	9
Ecstasy	6	6	7	10	9	9
Amphetamines	7	7	6	7	6	6
Poppers	6	6	7	10	12	12
	14	16	16	22	21	23
Psychedelics						
LSD	6	5	4	6	5	5
Magic mushrooms	6	6	7	10	9	10
	8	9	9	12	11	12
Opiates						
Heroin	4	4	5	7	6	7
Methadone	1	1	1	2	2	2
	4	5	6	8	7	8
Glue, gas, aerosols and other solvents	8	15	13	20	17	19
Tranquillisers	2	2	2	4	3	3
Steroids	2	1	2	2	2	2
Other drugs	6	0	2	2	1	2
Any Class A drug	3	2	4	4	4	4
Base	4,751	8,795	7,089	9,357	9,859	10,390

Notes:

1. Estimates for 2001 onwards are not comparable with estimates from previous years because of the change in the way that questions on being offered individual drugs were asked. See Annex B: Technical notes.

2. 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, Aerosols and other solvents as one category.

3. The 2002 results have been revised – See Annex B (para B1.4).

Sources:

*ONS Smoking, drinking and drug use, among young teenagers in 1998*⁹

*NatCen/NFER Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2003:Headline figures*¹⁴

Table 3. Young people aged 11 to 15 who had used drugs in the last year, or in the last month, by age and gender
England, 2003

		percentages				
	Total	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years
Used drugs in the last month						
All pupils	12	4	5	9	17	23
Boys	13	4	5	11	17	25
Girls	12	3	5	8	18	22
<i>Bases</i>						
All pupils	9,658	1,616	1,990	2,002	1,880	2,170
Boys	4,840	810	973	1,005	951	1,101
Girls	4,818	806	1,017	997	929	1,069
Used drugs in the last year (including the last month)						
All pupils	21	8	10	18	28	38
Boys	22	8	11	19	27	39
Girls	20	7	9	17	29	36
<i>Bases</i>						
All pupils	9,721	1,620	1,996	2,016	1,900	2,189
Boys	4,876	812	976	1,012	964	1,112
Girls	4,845	808	1,020	1,004	936	1,077

Source:

NatCen/NFER *Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2003:Headline figures*¹⁴

Table 4a. Young people aged 11 to 15 who had used drugs in the last year, or in the last month, by age England, 1998 to 2003

		percentages				
	All aged 11-15	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years
Used drugs in the last month						
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
2002	12	3	4	8	17	22
2003	12	4	5	9	17	23
<i>Bases</i>						
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
2002	9,145	1,545	1,865	1,847	1,824	2,064
2003	9,658	1,616	1,990	2,002	1,880	2,170
Used drugs in the last year (including the last month)						
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
2002	20	6	8	16	27	37
2003	21	8	10	18	28	38
<i>Bases</i>						
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	8,852	1,537	1,804	1,809	1,776	1,925
2002	9,203	1,550	1,872	1,863	1,837	2,081
2003	9,721	1,620	1,996	2,016	1,900	2,189

Notes:

1. Estimates for 2001 onwards are not comparable with estimates from previous years because of the change in the way that that questions on being offered individual drugs were asked. See Annex B: Technical notes.
2. The 2002 results have been revised – See Annex B (para B1.4).

Source:

NatCen/NFER *Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2003: Headline figures*¹⁴

Table 4b. Boys aged 11 to 15 who had used drugs in the last year, or in the last month, by age
England, 1998 to 2003

							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
	2002	13	4	5	9	19	26
	2003	13	4	5	11	17	25
Bases	1998	2,273	249	295	249	658	822
	1999	4,769	873	1,009	943	910	1,034
	2000	3,545	597	730	715	731	772
	2001	4,360	778	861	887	852	982
	2002	4,672	794	941	950	910	1,077
	2003	4,840	810	973	1,005	951	1,101
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
	2002	21	7	10	17	29	39
	2003	22	8	11	19	27	39
Bases	1998	2,273	249	295	249	658	822
	1999	4,769	873	1,009	943	910	1,034
	2000	3,545	597	730	715	731	772
	2001	4,394	779	865	894	860	996
	2002	4,706	797	945	960	916	1,088
	2003	4,876	812	976	1,012	964	1,112

Notes:

1. Estimates for 2001 onwards are not comparable with estimates from previous years because of the change in the way that that questions on being offered individual drugs were asked. See Annex B: Technical notes.

2. The 2002 results have been revised – See Annex B (para B1.4).

Source:

NatCen/NFER *Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2003: Headline figures*¹⁴

Table 4c. Girls aged 11 to 15 who had used drugs in the last year, or in the last month, by age England, 1998 to 2003

							percentages
		All aged 11-15	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years
Used drugs in the last month							
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
	2002	10	3	3	8	15	19
	2003	12	3	5	8	18	22
	<i>Bases</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>2,293</i>	<i>252</i>	<i>306</i>	<i>289</i>	<i>707</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>
	<i>2002</i>	<i>4,473</i>	<i>751</i>	<i>924</i>	<i>897</i>	<i>914</i>	<i>987</i>
	<i>2003</i>	<i>4,818</i>	<i>806</i>	<i>1,017</i>	<i>997</i>	<i>929</i>	<i>1,069</i>
Used drugs in the last year (including the last month)							
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
	2002	18	6	6	16	25	34
	2003	20	7	9	17	29	36
	<i>Bases</i>	<i>1998</i>	<i>2,293</i>	<i>252</i>	<i>306</i>	<i>289</i>	<i>707</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>4,458</i>	<i>759</i>	<i>939</i>	<i>915</i>	<i>916</i>	<i>929</i>
	<i>2002</i>	<i>4,497</i>	<i>753</i>	<i>927</i>	<i>903</i>	<i>921</i>	<i>993</i>
	<i>2003</i>	<i>4,845</i>	<i>808</i>	<i>1,020</i>	<i>1,004</i>	<i>936</i>	<i>1,077</i>

Notes:

1. Estimates for 2001 onwards are not comparable with estimates from previous years because of the change in the way that that questions on being offered individual drugs were asked. See Annex B: Technical notes.

2. The 2002 results have been revised – See Annex B (para B1.4).

Source:

NatCen/NFER *Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2003: Headline figures*¹⁴.

Table 5a. Young people aged 11 to 15 who had used individual drugs in the last year
England, 1998 to 2003

Type of drug	percentages					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Any drug	11	12	14	20	20	21
Cannabis	10	11	12	13	13	13
Stimulants						
Cocaine	1	1	1	1	1	1
Crack	0	1	1	1	1	1
Ecstasy	1	3	1	3	1	6
Amphetamines	2	1	1	1	1	1
Poppers	1	2	2	3	4	4
Psychedelics						
LSD	1	1	1	1	2	1
Magic mushrooms	1	1	1	2	1	2
Opiates						
Heroin	0	0	0	1	1	1
Methadone	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glue, gas, aerosols and other solvents	1	3	3	7	6	8
Tranquillisers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Steroids	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other drugs	1	0	1	1	0	1
Any Class A drug	3	2	4	4	4	4
<i>Base</i>	<i>4,647</i>	<i>9,053</i>	<i>6,862</i>	<i>9,357</i>	<i>9,830</i>	<i>10,371</i>

Notes:

1. Estimates for 2001 onwards are not comparable with estimates from previous years because of the change in the way that that questions on being offered individual drugs were asked. See Annex B: Technical notes.

2. 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.

3. The 2002 results have been revised – See Annex B (para B1.4).

Source:

NatCen/NFER *Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2003: Headline figures*¹⁴

Table 5b. Boys aged 11 to 15 who had used individual drugs in the last year
England, 1998 to 2003

Type of drug	percentages					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Any drug	12	13	15	21	21	22
Cannabis	11	11	13	14	14	14
Stimulants						
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
Psychedelics						
LSD	1	1	1	1	1	1
Magic mushrooms	1	1	2	2	2	3
Opiates						
Heroin	0	0	1	1	1	1
Methadone	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glue, gas, aerosols and other solvents	1	2	3	7	6	7
Tranquillisers	0	0	0	0	1	1
Steroids	1	0	0	0	0	0
Other drugs	1	1	1	1	0	1
Any Class A drug	3	3	4	4	4	5
<i>Base</i>	<i>2,287</i>	<i>4,625</i>	<i>3,549</i>	<i>4,687</i>	<i>5,801</i>	<i>5,250</i>

Notes:

1. Estimates for 2001 onwards are not comparable with estimates from previous years because of the change in the way that that questions on being offered individual drugs were asked. See Annex B: Technical notes.

2. 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.

3. The 2002 results have been revised – See Annex B (para B1.4).

Source:

*NatCen/NFER Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2003:Headline figures*¹⁴

Table 5c. Girls aged 11 to 15 who had used individual drugs in the last year
England, 1998 to 2003

Type of drug	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	percentages
Any drug	10	12	13	19	18	20	
Cannabis	9	10	11	12	12	12	
Stimulants							
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	
Psychedelics							
LSD	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Magic mushrooms	1	1	1	2	1	2	
Opiates							
Heroin	0	0	1	1	1	1	
Methadone	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Glue, gas, aerosols and other solvents	1	3	3	8	6	8	
Tranquillisers	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Steroids	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Other drugs	1	0	1	1	0	1	
Any Class A drug	3	2	3	4	4	4	
<i>Base</i>	<i>2,360</i>	<i>4,428</i>	<i>3,319</i>	<i>4,670</i>	<i>4,749</i>	<i>5,121</i>	

Notes:

1. Estimates for 2001 onwards are not comparable with estimates from previous years because of the change in the way that that questions on being offered individual drugs were asked. See Annex B: Technical notes.
2. 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.
3. The 2002 results have been revised – See Annex B (para B1.4).

Source:

NatCen/NFER *Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2003: Headline figures*¹⁴

Table 6. 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, 2002/03

	Age	Total	percentages	
			Males	Females
Ever used	All aged 16 to 24	47	54	42
	16-19	40	44	36
	20-24	55	64	48
Last year	All aged 16 to 24	28	35	23
	16-19	27	30	24
	20-24	29	39	22
Last month	All aged 16 to 24	18	23	13
	16-19	17	19	15
	20-24	19	28	11
<i>Bases (unweighted)</i>	<i>All aged 16 to 24</i>	<i>4,292</i>	<i>2,014</i>	<i>2,278</i>
	<i>16-19</i>	<i>2,036</i>	<i>995</i>	<i>1,041</i>
	<i>20-24</i>	<i>2,256</i>	<i>1,019</i>	<i>1,237</i>

Source: Home Office 2002/03 British Crime Survey¹⁹.

Table 7. 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, 2002/03

		percentages		
		16-24	16-19	20-24
Any drug	Ever	47	40	55
	Last year	28	27	29
	Last month	18	17	19
Cannabis	Ever	43	35	51
	Last year	26	25	27
	Last month	16	15	17
Heroin	Ever	1	0	1
	Last year	0	0	0
	Last month	0	-	0
Crack	Ever	1	1	2
	Last year	0	0	1
	Last month	0	0	0
Cocaine	Ever	9	5	13
	Last year	5	3	6
	Last month	2	1	3
Ecstasy	Ever	12	6	17
	Last year	5	4	7
	Last month	3	2	3
Any class A drug	Ever	17	10	24
	Last year	8	6	10
	Last month	4	3	5
<i>Bases (unweighted)</i>		<i>4,292</i>	<i>2,036</i>	<i>2,256</i>

Notes

1. This table relates to selected drugs only: table 8 gives a complete list of the drugs asked about in the survey.

Source: Home Office 2002/03 British Crime Survey¹⁹.

Table 8. 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, 2002/03

	Ever	Last year	percentages Last month
Any drug	47	28	18
Cannabis	43	26	16
Cocaine	9	5	2
Crack	1	0	0
Ecstasy	12	5	3
Amphetamines	14	4	2
Poppers	13	4	2
LSD	6	1	0
Magic mushrooms	6	2	0
Heroin	1	0	0
Methadone	0	0	0
Glue, etc.	5	0	0
Temazepam, etc.	3	1	0
Steroids	0	0	0
Smoke unknown	7	2	1
Pills	4	1	1
Anything else	3	1	0
Any Class A drug	17	8	4
<i>Bases (unweighted)</i>	<i>4,292</i>	<i>4,292</i>	<i>4,292</i>

Source: Home Office 2002/03 British Crime Survey¹⁹.

Table 9. Proportion of young people aged 16 to 24 years who had used particular drugs in the last year, by gender
England and Wales, 2002/03

	Persons	percentages	
		Males	Females
Any drug	28	35	23
Cannabis	26	32	21
Cocaine	5	7	3
Crack	0	1	0
Ecstasy	5	7	4
Amphetamines	4	4	3
Poppers	4	6	3
LSD	1	1	0
Magic mushrooms	2	3	1
Heroin	0	0	0
Methadone	0	0	0
Glue, etc.	0	1	0
Temazepam, etc.	1	1	0
Steroids	0	0	-
Smoke unknown	2	2	1
Pills	1	1	1
Anything else	1	1	1
Any Class A drug	8	11	6
<i>Bases (unweighted)</i>	<i>4,292</i>	<i>2,014</i>	<i>2,278</i>

Source: Home Office 2002/03 British Crime Survey¹⁹.

Table 10. Proportion of young people aged 16 to 24 years who had used particular drugs in the last year
England and Wales, 1996 to 2002/03

	1996	1998	2000	2001/2	percentages 2002/3
Any drug	30	32	30	30	28
Cannabis	26	28	27	27	26
Cocaine	1	3	5	5	5
Crack	0	0	1	0	0
Ecstasy	7	5	6	7	5
Amphetamines	12	10	6	5	4
Poppers	5	5	4	4	4
LSD	4	3	2	1	1
Magic mushrooms	2	4	2	1	2
Heroin	0	0	1	0	0
Methadone	0	1	0	0	0
Glue, etc.	1	1	1	1	0
Temazepam, etc.	1	1	2	1	1
Steroids	0	1	0	0	0
Smoke unknown	2	2	2	1	2
Pills	0	1	0	1	1
Anything else	0	0	0	1	1
Any Class A drug	9	9	10	9	8
<i>Base (unweighted)</i>	<i>1,475</i>	<i>1,295</i>	<i>1,517</i>	<i>4,055</i>	<i>4,292</i>

Notes:

1. See Annex B: Technical Notes, B2.

Source: Home Office British Crime Surveys, 1996¹⁵ and 2002/03¹⁹