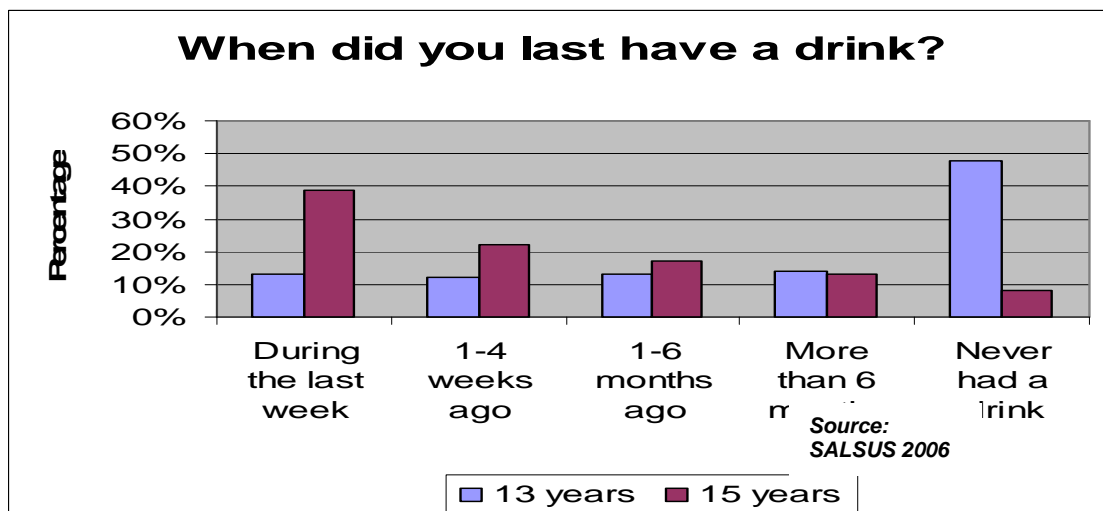


Local Alcohol Statistics

In the Outer Hebrides in 2006, 53% of 13 year olds and 92% of 15 year olds reported that they had had an alcoholic drink.

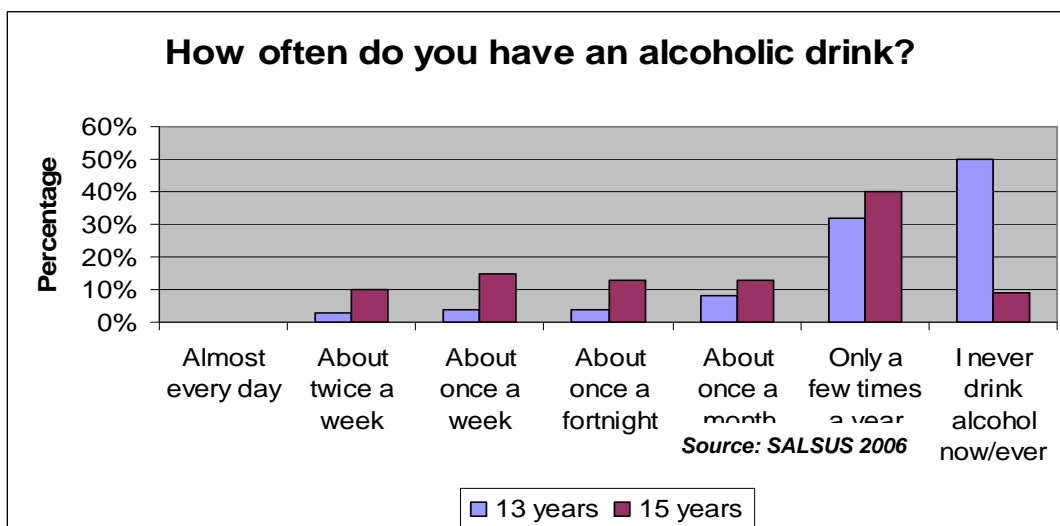
Out of all the pupils who took part in the survey, slightly more boys (77%) than girls (70%) reported that they had ever had an alcoholic drink. Out of those pupils who had drunk alcohol, the average age at which they had drunk more than a small amount of alcohol was 12 years old. National figures showed that 57% of 13 year olds and 84% of 15 year olds across the whole of Scotland in 2006 reported that they had had an alcoholic drink. Furthermore, girls were slightly more likely to have had an alcoholic drink than boys - 73% of girls in comparison with 70% of boys.

When asked when the last time was they had had an alcoholic drink, the responses of the pupils varied significantly depending on their age. The majority of 13 year olds reported that they had never had an alcoholic drink and only 13% reported having had an alcoholic drink in the week prior to the study. However, the majority of 15 year olds reported that they had had an alcoholic drink in the week prior to the study and only 8% said that they had never had an alcoholic drink. Boys in the Outer Hebrides in 2006 were significantly more likely to have had an alcoholic drink in the week prior to the study than girls. Across Scotland in 2006, 14% of 13 year olds and 36% of 15 year olds reported that they had had an alcoholic drink in the week prior to the study. Girls were also more likely to have had an alcoholic drink in the week prior to the study than boys.

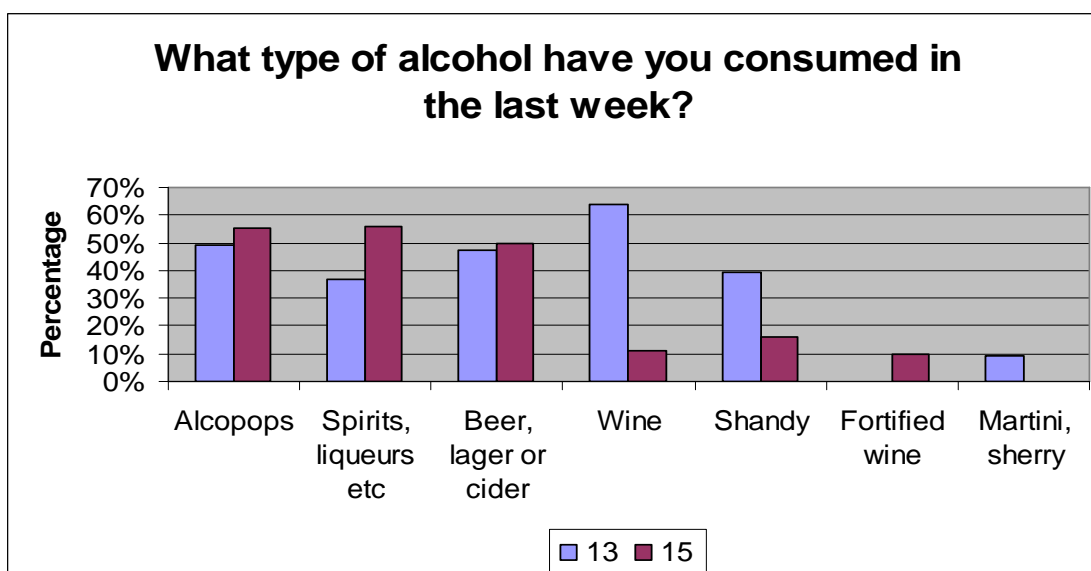


When asked about their usual drinking habits, 7% of 13 year olds and 25% of 15 year olds in the Outer Hebrides in 2006 reported that they usually drink at least once a week. None of the pupils reported that they drank alcohol 'almost every day'. Out of all those who took part in the survey, boys were found to be significantly more likely to report that they usually drink alcohol at least once a week than girls. Nationally in 2006, 19% of 13 year olds and 36% of 15 year olds reported that they usually drink alcohol at least once a week. There was only a small difference between the proportion

of boys and girls that reportedly drink alcohol at least once a week - 30% of boys in comparison with 28% of girls.



Those pupils who had had an alcoholic drink in the last week were asked what type of alcoholic drink they had consumed. The most commonly consumed alcoholic drink among 13 year olds was wine, whereas spirits was the most commonly consumed alcoholic drink among 15 year olds. There was a clear difference between the type of alcoholic drinks consumed by boys and those consumed by girls. In the week prior to the study, 65% of boys had drunk spirits, liqueurs etc. followed by beer, lager or cider (57%) and alcopops (53%). However in the week prior to the study, 54% of girls had drunk alcopops, followed by beer, lager or cider (39%) and spirits, liqueurs etc. (36%). This varied from what was found across Scotland as a whole in 2006 where boys were most likely to drink beer, lager or cider (72%) and girls were most likely to drink spirits, liqueurs etc (66%).



Of those pupils who spent money on buying alcohol, the average amount spent per week was £14.22. Pupils who had drunk alcohol in the study were asked approximately how much they had drunk – on average 13 year olds drank 7 units of alcohol while 15 year olds drank 12 units of alcohol. On a national level, both 13 year olds and 15 year olds drank on average 13 units of alcohol. Therefore, it can be seen that on average the amount of alcohol consumed by pupils in the Outer

Hebrides in 2006 was lower than that consumed by pupils across the whole of Scotland in the same period.

All those pupils in the Outer Hebrides in 2006 who had reported that they had ever had an alcoholic drink were asked where they had obtained the alcohol from. The majority (58%) of the pupils reported that they had never bought alcohol themselves; instead the most common source for purchasing alcohol by pupils in the Outer Hebrides was from a friend or relative. Of those pupils who had ever had an alcoholic drink, 4% of 13 year olds and 3% of 15 year olds had managed to buy alcohol from a shop, supermarket or off-license in the 4 weeks prior to the study. There was very little difference between boys and girls, with 4% of boys and 3% of girls having managed to buy alcohol from a shop, supermarket or off-license in the last 4 weeks. Similarly, 2% of 13 year olds and 11% of 15 year olds had managed to buy alcohol in a pub, bar or club in the 4 weeks prior to the study. Boys in the Outer Hebrides in 2006 were more likely to manage to buy alcohol from a pub, bar or club, with 9% reporting that they had managed to do this in the 4 weeks prior to the study in comparison to 6% of girls. These figures were lower than the national figures where 6% of 13 year olds and 14% of 15 years olds managed to buy alcohol from a shop, supermarket or off-license respectively. Furthermore, 3% of 13 year olds and 13% of 15 year olds in Scotland in 2006 managed to buy alcohol in a pub, bar or club.

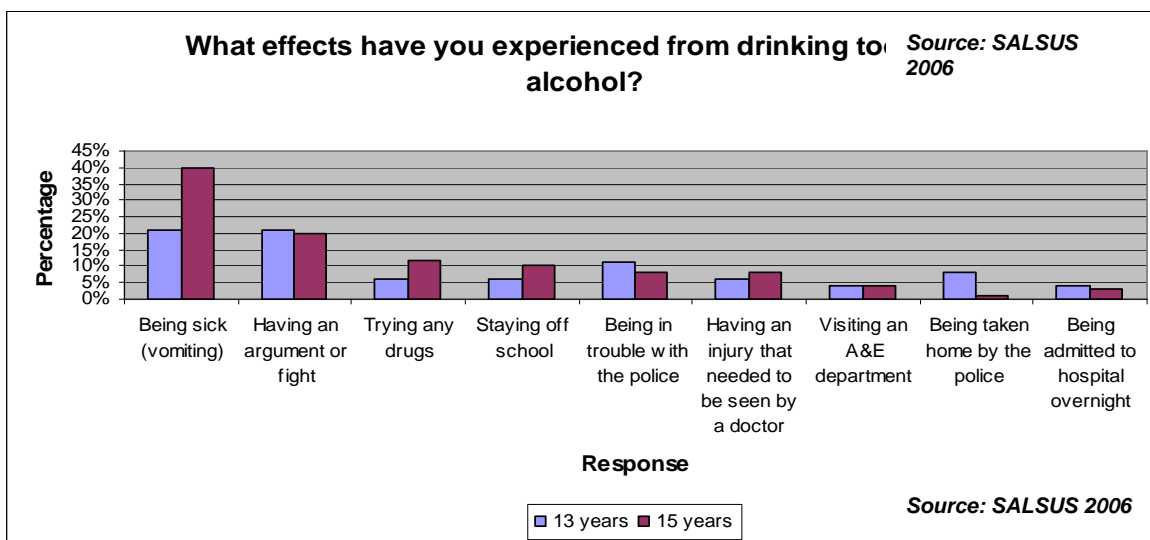
In the Outer Hebrides in 2006, 15 year olds were more likely to get someone else to buy alcohol for them, with 49% having done this in the 4 weeks prior to the study in comparison to 19% of 13 year olds. More girls (43%) than boys (35%) in the Outer Hebrides had got someone to buy alcohol for. All those pupils who had reported that they had ever had an alcoholic drink were asked where they usually drink. The majority of pupils reported that they drank alcohol at their own house (46%), followed by at someone else's house (40%). Across Scotland it was found that 42% of pupils reportedly drank alcohol at their own house, followed by outdoors¹ (40%).



When pupils were asked whether they had ever been really drunk, 47% of the pupils reported that they had in fact never been really drunk. Of all the 13 year olds that had ever had an alcoholic drink, 70% had never been really drunk, followed by 14% who reported that they had been drunk once. 36% of the 15 year olds reported that they had never been drunk, followed by 29% who reported that they had been drunk 2-3 times. The average age of pupils when they first got drunk was 14 years old.

¹ Outdoors includes on the street and in parks etc.

When asked whether they had experienced any side effects from drinking too much alcohol in the year prior to the study, the majority of pupils in the Outer Hebrides in 2006 reported that they had been sick (vomiting), with 34% of pupils who had ever drunk reporting this. There were some differences between the side effects experienced by boys and those experienced by girls. More boys than girls reported having an argument or fight, trying drugs, staying off school and being in trouble with the police. However more girls than boys reported having an injury that needed to be seen by a doctor and visiting the A&E department. National figures did not show that there was any significantly differences between boys and girls, with the most common side effects being vomiting, having an argument or fight and being in trouble with the police.



All the pupils in the Outer Hebrides who had reported that they had ever had an alcoholic drink were asked how their families felt about their drinking habits. The majority (41%) of the pupils reported that their families did not mind them drinking. 46% of the girls said that their families did not mind them drinking in comparison to 38% of the boys. Only around a fifth of the pupils reported that their families did not know that they drank, with slightly more girls (22%) than boys (18%) reporting this. The majority of the pupils said that they would be allowed to drink alcohol at home. More boys (71%) than girls (64%) reported that they were allowed to drink alcohol at home.

