

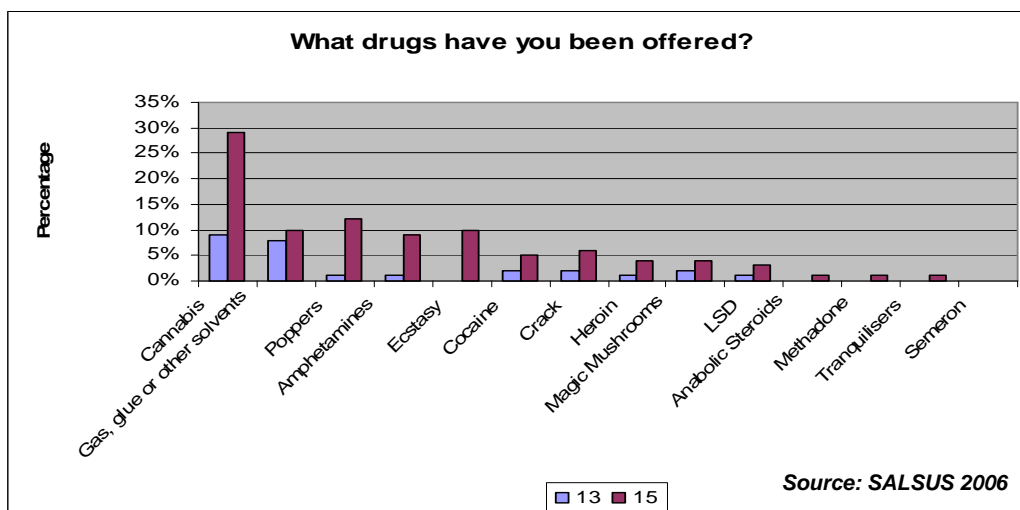
Local Drugs Statistics

In the Outer Hebrides in 2006, 23% of 13 year olds reported that they had been offered drugs as had 44% of 15 year olds.

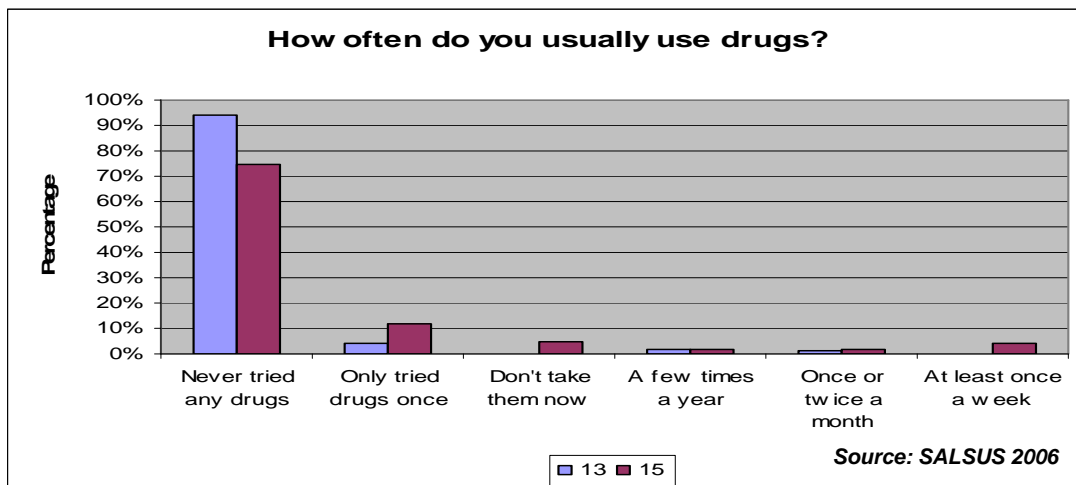
Out of all the pupils who took part in the survey slightly more boys (38%) than girls (30%) reported that they had been offered drugs. The proportion of 13 year olds that had been offered drugs in the whole of Scotland in 2006 was the same as that in the Outer Hebrides, however a larger proportion (53%) of 15 year olds across Scotland have been offered drugs.



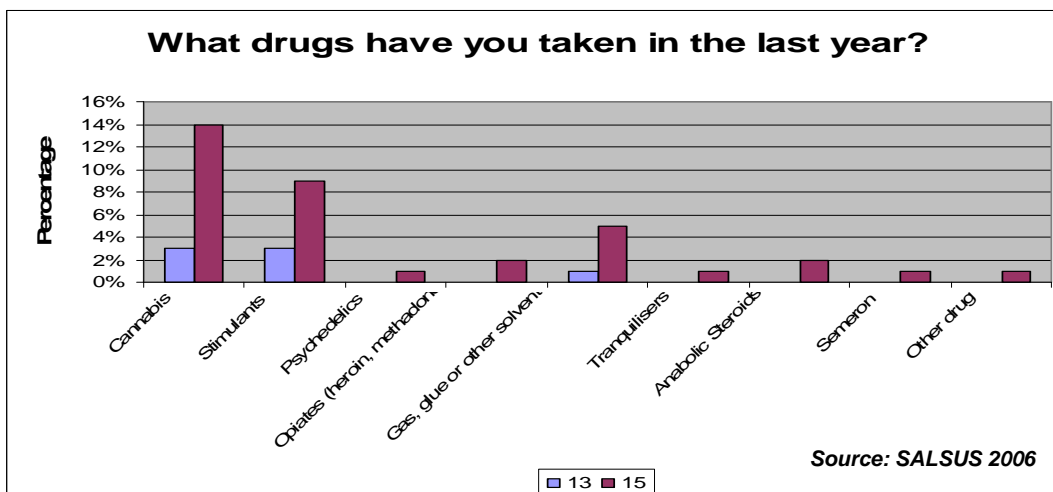
When asked if they had ever used or taken drugs 8% of 13 year olds and 25% of 15 year olds reported having used or taken one or more different types of drugs. There was very little difference between boys and girls with 17% of boys and 16% of girls reporting to have used or taken one or more different types of drugs. Out of those pupils in the Outer Hebrides who had ever used or taken drugs, the average age of pupils when they first tried using drugs was 12 years old. The proportion of 13 year olds and 15 years old in the Outer Hebrides who reported ever having used or taken drugs is similar to national figures, which shows that 9% of 13 year olds and 27% of 15 year olds had used or taken drugs in 2006.



In the Outer Hebrides in 2006 12% of all the pupils reported that they had used or taken drugs in the last year, while 3% of 13 year olds and 9% of 15 year olds reported using or taking drugs in the last week. In the Outer Hebrides, 4% of 15 year olds reported that they used or took drugs as least once a week, whereas none of the 13 year olds pupils reported that they used or took drugs at least once a week. Boys in the Outer Hebrides were slightly more likely to have used or taken drugs in the last week. Across Scotland as a whole in 2006, less than 2% of 13 year olds and 4% of 15 year olds reported using or taking drugs at least once a week. Boys in Scotland were slightly more likely to take or use drugs at least once a week, with 3% of boys and 2% of girls reportedly using or taking drugs at least once a week.

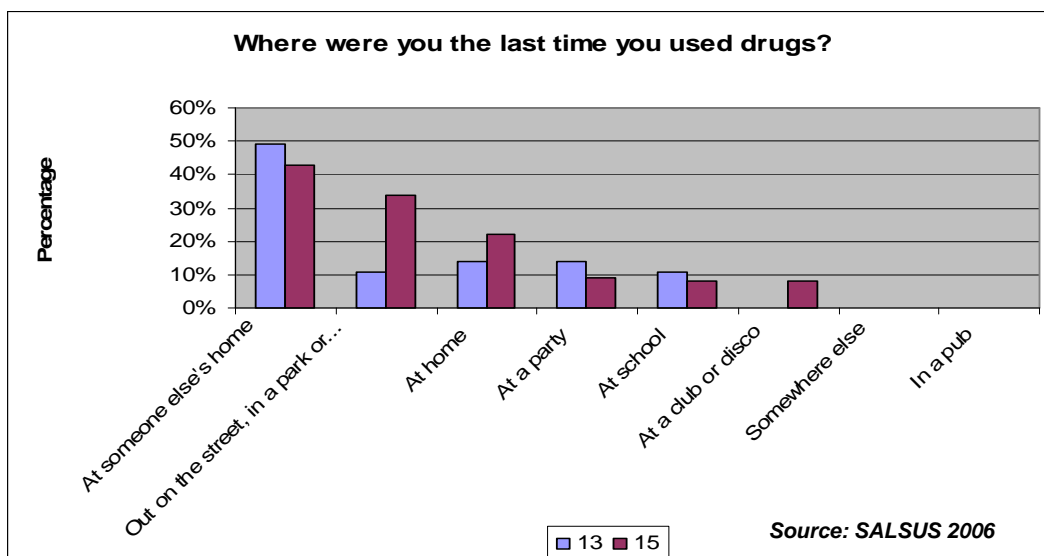


The most common drug used by pupils in the Outer Hebrides in 2006 was cannabis. 3% of 13 year olds and 14% of 15 years olds have used cannabis in the year prior to the study, with boys more likely than girls to have taken cannabis. The use of other drugs was lower; 6% of all pupils had used stimulants in the year prior to the study, 1% had used psychedelics (LSD, magic mushrooms) and 1% had used opiates (heroin, methadone). National figures for 2006 show that approximately 4% of 13 year olds and 19% of 15 year olds had used cannabis in the year prior to the study. 6% of all pupils had used stimulants, 1% had used psychedelics and 1% had used opiates.

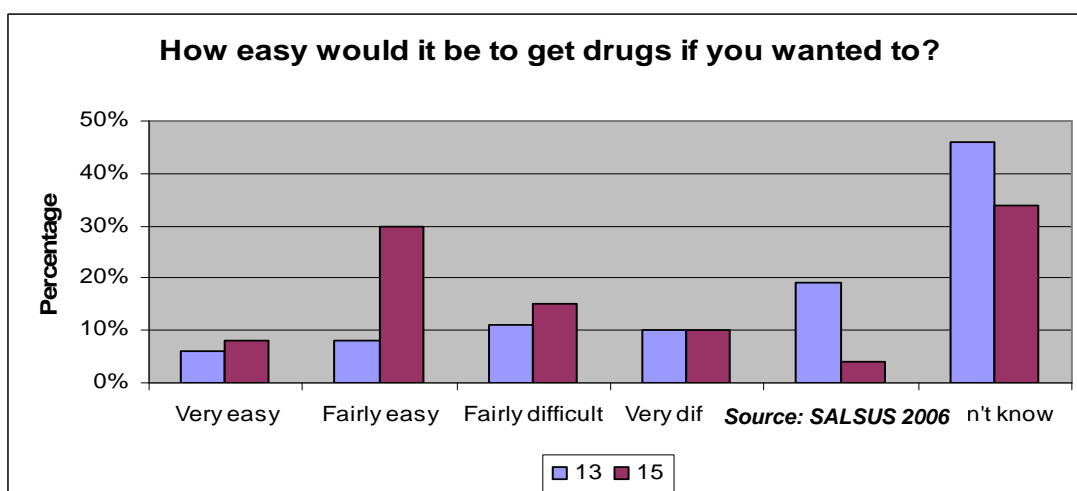


Almost a third (32%) of the pupils in the Outer Hebrides who reported that they had used drugs in the month prior to the study had spent money on drugs. The average amount that was spent on drugs by these pupils was £12.57 a week.

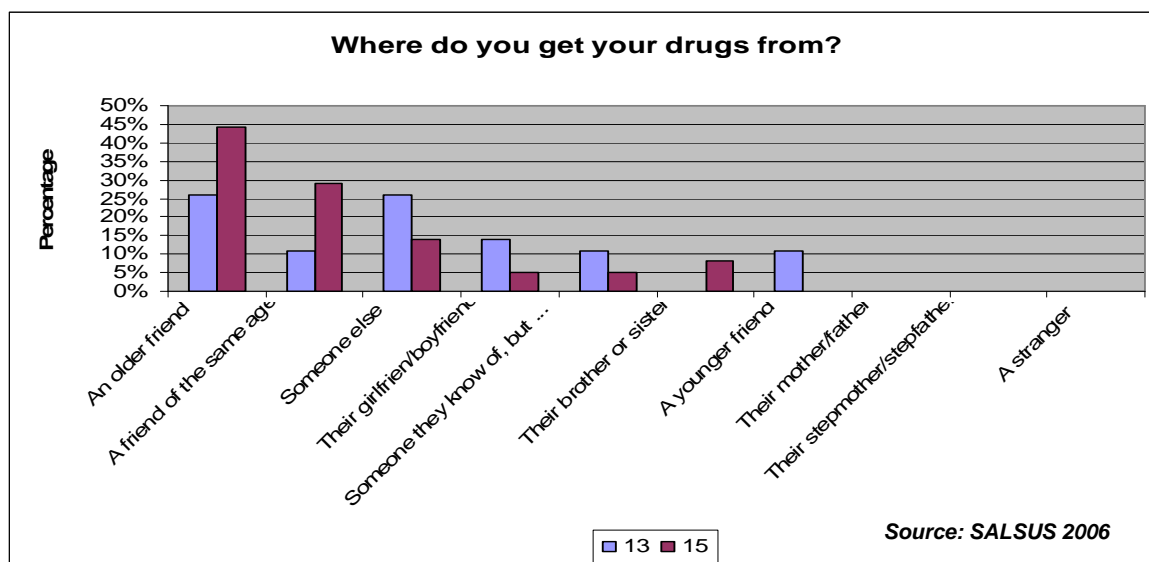
The most frequent reported location for taking drugs reported by pupils in the Outer Hebrides in 2006 was at someone else's house (44%). Boys were more likely to use or take drugs at someone else's house or outdoors than girls, with 49% of boys reportedly using or taking drugs at someone else's house in comparison to 39% of girls. Similarly, 34% of boys reported using or taking drugs outdoors in comparison to 24% of girls. However girls were more likely to use or take drugs in their own home or at party than boys, with 23% of girls reportedly using or taking drugs in their own home in comparison to 18% of boys. Similarly, 14% of girls reported using or taking drugs at a party in comparison to 6% of boys. A fifth of pupils in the Outer Hebrides in 2006 who have used or taken drugs reported that they were also drinking alcohol at the time of taking the drugs. Across the whole of Scotland the most frequent reported location for taking drugs by pupils in 2006 was outdoors, with almost half of all pupils reporting this. Boys were more likely than girls to take drugs outdoors, whereas girls are more likely to take drugs at someone else house or at a party. Furthermore, 44% of all pupils reported that they were also drinking alcohol at the time of taking the drugs.



26% of the pupils in the Outer Hebrides reported that it would be very easy or fairly easy to get drugs in 2006. However, a larger proportion, 40%, did not know how easy or difficult it would be. Significantly more 15 year olds (38%) reported that they would find it very easy or fairly easy to get drugs than 13 years olds (14%). Boys in the Outer Hebrides were slightly more likely to find very easy or fairly easy to get drugs. These results were similar to national figures, which show that 15 year olds were more likely to find it very easy or fairly easy to get drugs.



Pupils who had ever used or taken drugs were asked where they obtained the drugs from the last time they used or took drugs. The majority of pupils (40%) reported that they got the drugs from an older friend, followed by a friend of the same age (26%) and someone else (16%). Girls in the Outer Hebrides were more likely to obtain drugs from an older friend than boys, with 51% of girls getting their drugs from an older friend in comparison to 34% of boys. However, boys were more likely to obtain drugs from a friend of the same age than girls, with 34% of boys getting their drugs from a friend of the same age in comparison to 9% of girls. Across Scotland in 2006 the majority, 38%, of pupils were found to obtain their drugs from a friend their own age, while 34% obtained their drugs from an older friend. Girls were more likely than boys to get the drugs from an older friend.



62% of the pupils in the Outer Hebrides in 2006 reported that the last time they used or took drugs they gave some away, while 10% reported that they had sold some of their drugs to other people. These figures were slightly higher than national figures which show that 59% of pupils in Scotland gave some of their drugs away and 6% had sold some of their drugs.