



Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey (SALSUS)

SALSUS was launched by the Scottish Executive in order to monitor substance use among young people.

The survey is conducted biennially and all S2 (13 year old) and S4 (15 year old) pupils across Scotland are invited to take part. Information has been collected in Scotland from 1982 on smoking, 1990 on drinking and since 1998 on drug use. The survey examines the prevalence of smoking, drinking and drug use in the context of other lifestyle, health and social factors. It also addresses the source of cigarettes, alcohol and drugs as well as pupils' attitudes to substance misuse.

A copy of SALSUS Local Report (2006) for the Outer Hebrides is available at the following link:

http://www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org/publications/abstracts/salsus/Eilean%20Siar_2006.pdf

A copy of SALSUS National Report (2008) is available at the following link:

http://www.drugmisuse.isdscotland.org/publications/abstracts/salsus_national08.htm

Local Alcohol Statistics: 2006

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.

13% of 13 year olds and 39% of 15 year olds reported that they had had an alcoholic drink in the week prior to the study. When asked about their usual drinking habits, 7% of 13 year olds and 25% of 15 year olds in the Outer Hebrides reported that they usually drink at least once a week. The most commonly consumed drink among 13 year olds was wine, whereas spirits was the most commonly consumed alcoholic drink among 15 year olds. The average age of pupils when they first got drunk was 14 years old. The majority of pupils in the Outer Hebrides reported that they had been sick (vomited) as a result of drinking too much alcohol. Of all the pupils that had ever had an alcoholic drink 41% of them reported that their families did not mind them drinking and similarly the majority of pupils said that they were allowed to drink alcohol at home.

View 'SALSUS – Local Alcohol Statistics' at: <http://www.outerhebadp.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/SALSUS-Local-Alcohol-Statistics.pdf>

Local Drug Statistics: 2006

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.

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. The average age of pupils when they first tried drugs was 12 years old. In the Outer Hebrides, 4% of 15 year olds reported that they used or took drugs at least once a week, whereas none of the 13 year old pupils reported that used or took drugs at least once a week. The most common drug used by the pupils was cannabis – 3% of 13 year olds and 14% of 15 year olds had used cannabis in the year prior to the study. 26% of pupils in the Outer Hebrides reported that it would be very easy or fairly easy to get drugs and the majority of pupils reported that they got their drugs from an older friend. 62% of the pupils reported that the last time they had used or took drugs they gave some away, while 10% reported that they had sold some of their drugs to other people.

View 'SALSUS – Local Drug Statistics' at: <http://www.outerhebadp.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/SALSUS-Local-Drug-Statistics.pdf>