



24 July 2014

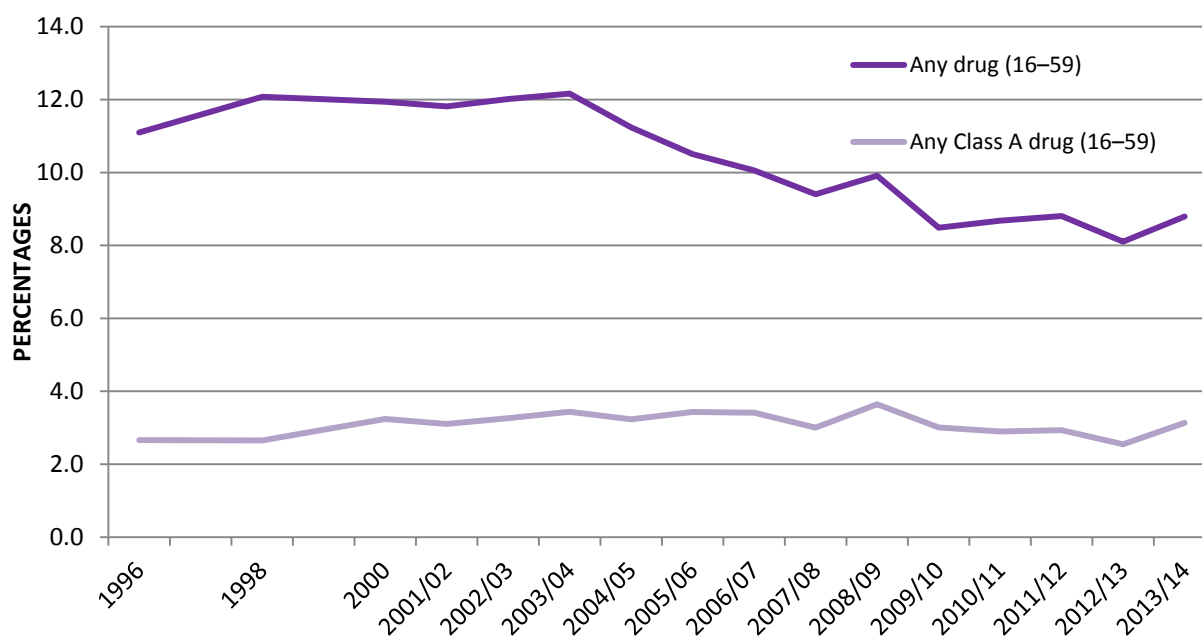
Statistical News Release – Drug Misuse: Findings from the 2013/14 Crime Survey for England and Wales

The latest National Statistics on illicit drug use in England and Wales are released today based on self reported data from the 2013/14 Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW).

Key facts:

- Around 1 in 11 (8.8%) adults aged 16 to 59 had taken **an illicit drug** in the last year. This was a rise from 8.1% in 2012/13, but the same level as in 2011/12.
- According to the 2013/14 CSEW, 3.1% of adults aged 16 to 59 had taken a Class A drug in the last year, equivalent to 985,000 people. The long-term trend in Class A drug use in the last year has been broadly stable over the last few years.

Proportion of 16 to 59 year olds adults taking drugs in the last year, 1996 to 2013/14 CSEW



- **The increase was driven by more people saying they had used cocaine, ecstasy, LSD and ketamine in 2013/14, compared with 2012/13.** There were no decreases in last year drug use of any individual drug types among 16 to 59 year olds between 2012/13 and 2013/14. Last year use of **cannabis** among 16 to 59 year olds showed little change between 2012/13 (6.3%) and 2013/14 (6.6%).

Other findings from 2013/14 CSEW

- Frequency of drug use:
 - **3.1% of adults aged 16 to 59 were defined as frequent drug users** (i.e. those having taken any illicit drug more than once a month on average in the last year) in 2013/14. This is slightly higher than the 2.8% reported in the 2012/13 survey, but similar to 2011/12 (3.2%).
 - **There were differences in levels of frequent drug use among respondents with different personal, household and area characteristics.** For example, levels of frequent use in the last year were higher among men than women, among those who went to pubs or nightclubs more often and among those who lived in more deprived areas.
- Drug use by age and lifestyle factors:
 - **Younger people are more likely to take drugs than older people.** The level of any drug use in the last year was highest among 16 to 19 year olds (19.3%) and lowest among 55 to 59 year-olds (1.5%).
- Estimates of illicit drug use by ethnicity and sexual orientation:
 - Adults from **mixed ethnic backgrounds were the most likely to have taken any illicit drug in the last year** (17.1%) compared with adults from other ethnic groups. Adults from **Asian or Asian British** ethnic backgrounds generally had the **lowest levels of last year drug use** (3.4%).
 - **Gay or bisexual adults** were more likely to have taken any illicit drug in the last year than **heterosexual adults**. In particular, gay or bisexual men were the group most likely to have taken any illicit drug in the last year (33.0% had taken drugs in the last year), with higher levels of illicit drug use than gay or bisexual women (22.9%), heterosexual men (11.1%) and heterosexual women (5.1%).

The release covers the following topics:

- Extent and trends in illicit drug use among adults, including separate analysis of young adults (16 to 24 year olds);
- Frequency of illicit drug use in the last year;
- Illicit drug use by personal, household and area characteristics and lifestyle factors;
- Estimates of illicit drug use by ethnicity and sexual orientation.

Accessibility of drugs is covered in an annex to the [publication](#).

Notes to editors

1. 'Drug Misuse: Findings from the 2013/14 Crime Survey for England and Wales' is available online via the UK National Statistics Publication Hub and Gov.uk.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drug-misuse-findings-from-the-2013-to-2014-csew>

As well as publishing in HTML format, a pdf document is provided which will enable users to print out all HTML pages from one source document (all tables are solely available online).

2. 'Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England – 2013' is also being released on 24 July 2014, by the Health and Social Care Information Centre and is available via on their website as well as the UK National Statistics Publication Hub. <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/sdd13>

3. A 'User Guide to Drug Misuse' is also available, providing further information about the drug use measures. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/user-guide-to-drug-misuse-declared-findings-from-the-crime-survey-for-england-and-wales>

4. Drug use estimates from 2001/02 to 2012/13 presented in this publication have been reweighted using new Census 2011 based population weights. Reweighting the data in this way has had minimal impact on the historic drug use estimates. However for more information please see the Technical Annex of the Drug Misuse publication.

5. While responsibility for the Crime Survey for England and Wales transferred to the Office for National Statistics on 1 April 2012, the Home Office has retained responsibility for analysis and publication of this Drug Misuse publication.

For all press enquiries, please contact the Home Office Press Office who will liaise with Home Office Statistics Unit:

Newsdesk - **020 7035 3535**

Monday - Friday: 07:00 – 20:00

Emergency media calls, out-of-hours: 07659 174 240

Please note: the press office deals with enquiries from the media only. Members of the public should phone **020 7035 4848**.