

Fast facts

Drug Misuse

HSCIC data about drug misuse are compiled from a variety of sources and give insight into the trends in use and misuse among school pupils (11 to 15 years) and adults (16 - 59 years). The data also provide information on prevalence of drug use, types of drugs used, prescriptions for treating drug dependence and drug-related deaths.

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) also provide data on drug-related hospital admissions and procedures.

Key facts for England

Latest available drug misuse figures show:

- **One in 12 adults** reported to have **taken an illicit drug** in England and Wales in 2012-13. This is about 2.7 million people and is a nine per cent fall on 2011-12.
- There were nearly **three times as many males** as females admitted to hospital in 2012-13 with a primary diagnosis of drug-related mental health and behavioural disorders.
- In 2012-13 there were 61,100 **admissions to hospital** with a primary or secondary diagnosis of a **drug-related mental health and behaviour disorder**, and this is a six per cent rise on 2011-12 when this was about 57,800.
- In 2012-13 there were than **12,200 hospital admissions** with a primary diagnosis of poisoning by illicit drugs and this was similar in the previous year.
- About **one in three** drug-related hospital admissions were aged 25-34 years.
- Just under **one in five school pupils** reported to have **ever taken drugs** in 2012 and this is similar to the figure in 2011.
- **Cannabis** was the **most commonly used drug** in 2012-13 in both adults and children, and this was the same in the previous year.
- There were almost **1,500 drug-related deaths** across England and Wales in 2012, and **seven in ten** of these were due to **accidental poisoning**.

More Information

Access HSCIC information on:

- [Statistics on Drugs Misuse – England, 2013](http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB12994): <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB12994>
- [Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use in Young People, England – 2012](http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB11334):
<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB11334>
- [Hospital Episode Statistics, Admitted Patient Care, England - 2012-13](http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB12566):
<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB12566>

Charities:

- DrugScope
- Addaction

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