



The Scottish
Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Scottish Crime and Justice
Survey 2012/13:
Drug Use

Crime and Justice



social
research

2012/13 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey: Drug Use

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**Scottish Government Social Research
2014**

SCJS publications

Main findings from the 2012/13 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey were published on 7 March 2014. This report provides additional findings and evidence on drug use. The dates of SCJS publications are pre-announced and can be found via the UK National Statistics Publication Hub:

<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/hub/release-calendar/index.html>

Copies of this report and other SCJS related Scottish Government publications are available from the Scottish Government's survey website:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-justice/crime-and-justice-survey>

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This report is a National Statistics output produced to the highest professional standards and free from political interference. It has been produced by Laura Robertson working with Scottish Government Statisticians in the Justice Analytical Services Division.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) is a large-scale survey measuring people's experience and perceptions of crime in Scotland. The survey is conducted biennially and based on a representative sample of adults (aged 16 and over), living in private households in Scotland. The aims of the SCJS are to:

- Provide a valid and reliable measure of people's experiences of crime, including services provided to victims of crime.
- Examine trends in the number and nature of crimes in Scotland over time.
- Examine the varying risk of crime for different groups of adults in the population.
- Collect information about people's experiences of, and attitudes to a range of crime and justice related issues.

The main survey is based on 12,045 face-to-face interviews which are conducted in private households. Respondents are also asked to answer a separate **self-completion** module on more confidential and sensitive issues, including drug taking, partner abuse, sexual victimization and stalking. The self-completion section of the SCJS 20102/13 questionnaire was completed by 10,235 respondents, which represents 85% of all respondents.

This report specifically examines the findings from the self-completion questionnaire on illicit drug use in Scotland¹. The 2012/13 survey is the fourth year of the SCJS, with the first being conducted in 2008/09, although crime and victimisation surveys have been carried out in Scotland since the early 1980s.

The report has two substantive chapters considering: the prevalence of illicit drug use in Scotland exploring trends in self-reported drug use and the experiences of those who reported drug use Scotland. The report examines self-reported illicit drug use by adults aged over 16 using three time periods: in the last month, in the last year and ever.

¹ The overwhelming majority of drugs included are illicit, but also includes glue, solvents, „new“ drugs (New Psychoactive Substances) and prescribed drugs used illicitly. The findings in this report reflect what respondents perceived the drug to be and therefore not necessarily the actual drug used (for example some people may report taking ecstasy when it is possible they may have taken a „new“ drug).

Key Findings

Prevalence of illicit drug use in Scotland

- In the SCJS 2012/13, 6.2% of adults reported having used one or more illicit drugs *in the last year*, in comparison to 7.6% of adults in the SCJS 2008/09. This represents a statistically significant decrease between 2008/09 and 2012/13.
- In the SCJS 2012/13, 23% of adults reported having used one or more illicit drugs *at some point in their lives*, in comparison to 25.6% of adults in the SCJS 2008/09. This represents a statistically significant decrease between 2008/09 and 2012/13.
- Looking at drug use by legal classification, the SCJS 2012/13 found that 2.6% of adults reported use of Class A drugs; 5.3% of adults reported use of Class B drugs; and 1% of adults reported use of Class C drugs *in the last year*.
- There has been a statistically significant decrease in reported use of Class A and Class B drugs (-0.8 and -1.1 percentage points respectively) *in the last year* between 2008/09 and 2012/13.
- Cannabis is the most common drug used with 5.1% of adults reporting use *in the last year*.
- Cocaine use *in the last year* has decreased significantly from 2.7% in 2008/09 to 1.7% in 2012/13.
- There has been a statistically significant decrease in adults reporting use of cannabis (-1.1 percentage points), cocaine (-1.0 percentage points), ecstasy (-0.5 percentage points) and tranquilisers (-0.4 percentage points) *in the last year* between 2008/09 and 2012/13.
- There has been a statistically significant decrease in those reporting that someone has offered to give or sell them at least one type of illicit drug *in the last year* with around one in ten adults (10.6%) reporting being offered at least one type of illicit drug *in the last year* in comparison to 13.7% of adults in 2008/09.
- Illicit drug use is associated with demographic, socio-economic, and geographic factors. In the SCJS 2012/13, 16.4% of adults aged 16-24 reported using any illicit drugs *in the last year*. This represents a statistically significant 7.1 percentage point decrease from the SCJS 2008/09.
- 0.5% of adults reported having taken any of the „new drugs“ *in the last year*.

The experiences of adults reporting illicit drug use in Scotland

- Cannabis is the most frequently used drug *in the last month* with 75.9% of adults who had used illicit drugs *in the last month* reporting the use of cannabis.
- Of all adults who had used any illicit drug *in the last month*, around a third (34.1%) reported using their most frequently used drug once or twice *in the last month*; three out of ten (30.2%) reported using their most frequently used drug on almost a daily basis; and around a quarter (26.4%) reported using their most frequently used drug between one to six days a week.

- Around a quarter of adults (23.2%) who had used drugs *in the last month* said that they felt dependent on the drug they used most often.
- The majority of adults said that it was very easy (45.4%) or fairly easy (39%) to get hold of the drug used most often *in the last month*.
- Over half of adults (54.1%) who had taken more than one illicit drug *in the last year*, said that they had taken different drugs at the same time *in the last year*.
- Of all adults who had taken any illicit drugs *in the last year*, around three out of five adults (64.2%) reported that they had consumed alcohol at the same time as taking drugs *in the last year*.
- The most common age for first trying drugs was the late teens (16-19).
- Of all adults who had taken any illicit drugs *at some point in their lives*, the majority reported that their first drug used was cannabis (79.7%).
- The majority of adults (92.2%) who reported taking illicit drugs *at some point in their lives* did so by smoking, sniffing or inhaling them. Around two in five (41.3%) also reported that had tried to swallow, eat or drink drugs.

1	INTRODUCTION	11
1.1	Introduction	11
1.2	Drug Use	12
1.3	Methodology	12
1.3.1	<i>Statistical significance</i>	13
1.4	Data Strengths and Limitations	13
1.4.1	<i>Data strengths</i>	13
1.4.2	<i>Data limitations</i>	13
1.5	Classification of drugs	14
1.6	A note on reference periods	15
1.7	Comparing the SCJS 2012/13 with the CSEW 2012/13	15
1.8	Structure of the report	16
1.9	Conventions used in figures and tables	17
2	PREVALENCE OF ILLICIT DRUG USE IN SCOTLAND	18
2.1	Introduction	18
2.2	Self-reported drug use	19
2.3	Self-reported drug use by composite group and by class of drug	20
2.3.1	<i>Self-reported drug use by composite group</i>	20
2.3.2	<i>Self-reported drug use by legal classification</i>	22
2.4	Self-reported drug use by specific drug	23
2.5	Variations in self-reported drug use	25
2.5.1	<i>Variation by gender</i>	25
2.5.2	<i>Variation by age</i>	26
2.5.3	<i>Variation by age and gender</i>	28
2.5.4	<i>Variation in drug use by other factors</i>	29
2.6	Being offered drugs in the last year	30
2.6.1	<i>Variation in being offered drugs by gender</i>	33
2.6.2	<i>Variation in being offered drugs by age</i>	33
2.6.3	<i>Variation in being offered drugs by other factors</i>	33
2.6.4	<i>Variation in being offered drugs by drug use in the last year</i>	34
2.7	New Drugs	34
3	THE EXPERIENCES OF ADULTS REPORTING DRUG USE IN SCOTLAND	36
3.1	Introduction	36
3.2	Self-reported drug use in the last year and in the last month	37
3.3	Experiences of drug use in the last month	40
3.3.1	<i>Drug used more often in the last month – frequency of use</i>	41
3.3.2	<i>Variation in drug used most often in the last month and frequency of use</i>	43
3.3.3	<i>Drug Dependency</i>	44
3.3.4	<i>Ease of obtaining drugs in the last month</i>	45

3.3.5	<i>Access to drugs in the last month</i>	45
3.4	Experiences of drug use in the last year	46
3.4.1	<i>Experiences of use of most prevalent drugs</i>	46
3.4.2	<i>Polydrug use</i>	47
3.4.3	<i>Alcohol and Drug Use</i>	48
3.5	Experiences of adults who have taken drugs at some point in their lives.....	49
3.5.1	<i>Age at which drugs first taken</i>	49
3.5.2	<i>Variations in the age at which drugs first taken</i>	50
3.5.3	<i>First drug ever used</i>	51
4	References	53
	Annex 1: 2012/13 Data Tables	54
	Annex 2: Self-completion Methodology	75
A.2.1	The self-completion interview	75
A.2.2	Questionnaire Content	75
A.2.3	Disclosure of sensitive information	76
A.2.4	Drugs Classification.....	77
A.2.5	Non-response to the self-completion section	77
A.2.6	Sample Profile.....	79
A.2.7	Weighting	80

TABLE OF FIGURES

CHAPTER 2

Table 2.1: % reporting use of any of the listed drugs and percentage change from SCJS 2008/09 and SCJS 2010/11 to SCJS 2012/13.....	19
Figure 2.1: % reporting use of any of the listed drugs.....	20
Figure 2.2: % reporting use of drugs by composite group	21
Figure 2.3: % of adults aged 16 or over reporting use of drugs by legal classification ever, in the last year and in the last month.....	22
Table 2.2: Trends in % of adults reporting illicit drug use in the last year by legal classification from 2008/09 to 2012/13	23
Figure 2.4: % reporting drug use in the last year by drug used.....	24
Table 2.3: Trends in % of adults reporting use of cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy and tranquilisers in the last year from 2008/09 to 2012/13	25
Table 2.4: Trends in reported illicit drug use in the last year by gender from 2008/09 to 2012/13.....	26
Figure 2.5: Variation in drug use ever, in the last year and in the last month by gender and age.....	27
Figure 2.6: Trends in reported drug use in the last year by age from 2008/09 to 2012/13 ...	28
Figure 2.7: Variation in drug use in the last year by gender and age	29
Figure 2.8: % reporting illicit drug use in the last year by socio-economic group, housing tenure, urban/rural location, victim status and SIMD Index.....	30
Figure 2.10 % being offered an illicit drug by composite group <i>in the last year</i> SCJS 2012/13 compared with previous sweeps	31
Figure 2.11 % being offered an illicit drug by legal classification <i>in the last year</i> SCJS 2012/13 compared with previous sweeps.....	32
Figure 2.12: % of adults aged 16 or over being offered drugs in the last year by type of drug	33

CHAPTER 3

Figure 3.1: % each drug type used where used one or more illicit drugs in the last year	39
Figure 3.2: % each drug type where used one or more illicit drugs in the last month.....	40
Figure 3.3: % who reported drug use in the last month by how frequently they have used the drug they use most often.....	42
Table 3.1: Trends in frequency of use of the drug used most often in the last month from 2008/09 to 2012/13	42
Figure 3.4: % frequency of drug use in the last month by gender	44
Figure 3.5: % reporting consumption of alcohol at the same time as using drugs by gender, age, socio-economic group, housing tenure and SIMD Index.....	49
Figure 3.6: Age at which drugs were first taken.....	50
Figure 3.7: First drug ever used	52

ANNEX 1

Table A1.1: % of adults aged 16 or over who reported having <i>ever</i> used illicit drugs, used illicit drugs in the <i>last year</i> , and used illicit drugs in the <i>last month</i>	56
Table A1.2A: % of adults aged 16 or over who reported having <i>ever</i> used illicit drugs, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2012/13.....	57
Table A1.2B: % of adults aged 16 or over who reported having in the last 12 months used illicit drugs, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2012/13	58
Table A1.2C: % of adults aged 16 or over who reported having in the last month used illicit drugs, 2008/09 vs 2009/10 vs 2010/11 vs 2012/13	59

Table A1.3: % of adults aged 16 or over who reported having <i>ever</i> used illicit drugs, used illicit drugs in the <i>last year</i> , and used illicit drugs in the <i>last month</i> by gender.....	60
Table A1.4: % of adults aged 16 or over who reported having <i>ever</i> used illicit drugs by age group	61
Table A1.5: % of adults aged 16 or over who reported having used illicit drugs in the <i>last year</i> by age group	62
Table A1.6: % of adults aged 16 or over who reported having used illicit drugs in the <i>last month</i> by age group	63
Table A1.7 % of men aged 16 or over who reported having <i>ever</i> used illicit drugs by age group	64
Table A1.8 % of men aged 16 or over who reported having used illicit drugs <i>in the last year</i> by age group	65
Table A1.9 % of men aged 16 or over who reported having used illicit drugs <i>in the last month</i> by age group	66
Table A1.10 % of women aged 16 or over who reported having <i>ever</i> used illicit drugs by age group	67
Table A1.11 % of women aged 16 or over who reported having used illicit drugs <i>in the last year</i> by age group	68
Table A1.12 % of women aged 16 or over who reported having used illicit drugs in the <i>last month</i> by age group	69
Table A1.13: Type of drug first taken and age at which first taken among men who reported <i>ever</i> using illicit drugs.....	70
Table A1.14 Type of drug first taken and age at which first taken among women who reported <i>ever</i> using illicit drugs.....	71
Table A1.15 % of men aged 16 or over who reported someone having offered to sell or give them drugs in the last year by age group	72
Table A1.16 % of women aged 16 or over who reported someone having offered to sell or give them drugs in the last year by age group	73
Table A1.17 Polydrug and drug and alcohol use <i>in the last 12 months</i> among adults over 16 using illicit drugs <i>in the last 12 months</i>	74

ANNEX 2

Table A.2.1: Proportion of respondents completing self-completion section by age and gender	78
Table A2.2: Unweighted and weighted sample profiles by age and gender	79

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) is a large-scale survey measuring adults' experience and perceptions of crime in Scotland. The main aims of the SCJS are to:

- Examine trends in the number and nature of crimes in Scotland over time, providing a complementary measure of crime compared with police recorded crime statistics;
- Examine the varying risk of crime for different groups of adults in the population;
- Provide a valid and reliable measure of adults' experience of crime, including services provided to victims of crime;
- Collect information about adults' experiences of, and attitudes to, a range of crime and justice related issues.

The main survey is based on face-to-face interviews which were conducted in respondents' homes between April 2012 and March 2013. In 2012/13, 12,035 respondents completed the main survey. Respondents were also asked to answer a separate self-completion module on more confidential and sensitive issues, including drug taking, partner abuse, sexual victimization and stalking. This self-completion section was completed by 10,235 respondents (85% of all respondents).

This report presents the key findings about illicit drug use collected through the self-completion section of the survey. A Technical Report and User Guide are also available.² The SCJS is the only source of information on self-reported illicit drug use among the general adult population of Scotland as a whole.³

The report has two substantive chapters considering: the prevalence of illicit drug use in Scotland exploring trends in self-reported drug use and experiences of those who reported drug use Scotland. The report examines self-reported illicit drug use by adults aged over 16 using three time periods: in the last month, in the last year and ever.

² The SCJS 2012/13 Main Findings Report and related publications are available on the „publications“ section of the Scottish Government website: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2014/03/9823>. The SCJS also has a dedicated website: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/crime-and-justice-survey>.

³ The overwhelming majority of drugs included are illicit, but also includes glue, solvents, new drugs (New Psychoactive Substances) and prescribed drugs used illicitly. While drugs such as valium and temazepan were included in the list of drugs asked about in the questionnaire, the question wording emphasised that only details of drugs *not given on prescription* were of interest.

1.2 Drug Use

The main aim of the self-completion illicit drug use questionnaire was to establish whether adults aged 16 or over reported illicit drug use either at some point in their lives, in the last year and in the last month. Sixteen drugs were included in the 2008/9 and 2009/10 surveys with five „new“ drugs⁴ added in the SCJS 2010/11 (BZP, GBL, khat, synthetic cannabinoids and mephedrone) and one new drug added in 2012/13 (salvia divinorum). In the SCJS 2012/13, respondents were asked whether they had used 18 illicit drugs or groups of illicit drugs. The list of drugs included a fictitious drug „semeron“ and eleven respondents who said they had taken this drug were removed from the analysis. The list of drugs also included six new drugs. Respondents were asked whether they had used a group of five new drugs (BZP, GBL, Synthetic Cannabinoids, Khat or Salvia Divinorum) and separately whether they had used the new drug mephedrone. Those who had used any types of drugs were then asked a series of follow-up questions. Further details of the questionnaire content can be found in Annex 2 (**section A.2.2**).

1.3 Methodology

The SCJS 2012/13 fieldwork was conducted between April 2012 and March 2013. The design of the 2012/13 SCJS remains broadly similar to the 2008/09 to 2010/11 survey designs. A change to design was made for the SCJS 2012/13 which saw the survey move to a single stage unclustered sample design. The SCJS used a random probability sample method and was designed to be representative of the population of households in Scotland and adults aged 16 or over living in those households. The SCJS was sampled from private residential addresses in Scotland using the Royal Mail Postcode Address File (PAF). One adult aged 16 years or over per household was then randomly selected for interview. As the survey only included private residential addresses, it is acknowledged that it can underrepresent key groups who are likely to use illicit drugs (**section 1.4.2**).

Questions on illicit drug use were included in the self-completion section of the questionnaire, which was undertaken at the end of the main SCJS interview. Respondents were handed the interviewer's tablet computer and guided by the interviewer through a series of practice questions which explained how to use the computer. Where respondents were unable or unwilling to use the tablet computer themselves, interviewers administered the interview, showing the respondent the screen and helping them to input their answers. Participation was voluntary, with 10,235 (85%) of the 12,050 respondents to the main survey completing the self-completion questionnaire. Non-response was higher among adults aged 60 and over (see Annex 2 – **section A.2.5**).

A more detailed explanation of the methodology for the survey can be found in the SCJS 2012/13 technical report.⁵

⁴ „New drugs“ – refers to legal or illegal psychoactive substances that were not included in the SCJS drugs module prior to 2010/11 and may be sold in different forms including branded products or mixtures as well as single „named“ substances.

⁵ The technical report is available from the Scottish Government website: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/crime-and-justice-survey/publications/SCJS2012-13-TR>.

The data in this report has been weighted so that it is representative of the population (see Annex A.2.7 for information on weighting).

1.3.1 Statistical significance

A range of tests for statistical significance in the report were carried out using the Pearson chi-square test in SPSS. All significant associations in the report were found to be statistically significant at the $p < 0.001$ level. Tests for strength of association were carried out using Phi and Cramer's V tests in SPSS.

The assessments of statistical change over time which are presented in this report use estimated confidence intervals around survey results rounded to one decimal place to examine whether the change is statistically significant. The estimated confidence intervals used in these tests use generic SCJS design factors of 1.3 for 2012-13 and 1.5 for earlier surveys. More detail on the derivation of these design factors is available in Annex 4 of the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2012/13: Main Findings report. Statistically significant changes are highlighted in bold in tables in this report. Changes stated between previous sweeps of the SCJS and the SCJS 2012/13 represent a decrease or increase in percentage points.

1.4 Data Strengths and Limitations

1.4.1 Data strengths

The SCJS Drug Use survey is the best source of data available on prevalence of illicit drug use in the general adult population of Scotland. It is also the primary data source available on the prevalence of cocaine use in Scotland.

1.4.2 Data limitations

Under-reporting and under-representation of illicit drug use is a main concern of this survey. It is likely that there will be an under-representation of some groups who take drugs. In part, this will be due to the fact that some people who use drugs may live in accommodation not covered by a survey of private households (such as the SCJS) including, for example, hostels, prisons and student halls of residence. The survey is likely to under-represent those with the most problematic or chaotic drug use, some of whom may live in accommodation previously described and some of whom may live in private households covered by the survey, yet they may be rarely be at home or be unable to take part in an interview due to the chaotic nature of their lives.

Despite using Computer Assisted Self-completion Interviewing (CASI) for this module, it is likely there will be a certain amount of underreporting of illicit drug use among survey respondents. Illicit drug use is an illegal activity and as such some individuals may have felt uncomfortable reporting that they have taken illicit drugs, despite reassurances about confidentiality and anonymity.

Questions cover past use over varying periods (*ever*, in the *last year* and in the *last month*) and it is possible that some respondents may simply forget occasional uses of a certain drug, particularly if they last took it a long time ago. While under-reporting of drug use on surveys such as the SCJS is almost certain, it should be noted that the issues discussed above are unlikely to apply equally across all types of drugs. While a survey such as the SCJS is likely to provide an insight into the more commonly used drugs, in particular cannabis, it may be less effective in

providing information for some of the Class A drugs such as opiates or crack cocaine, where a sizeable number of those using these drugs may be concentrated in small sub-groups of the population not covered by the survey (Smith and Flatley, 2011).

It is also recognised that some people may report taking particular drugs when they have not actually done so. Respondents were therefore asked whether they had ever taken a fictitious drug „semeron“. Eleven respondents reported having ever taken semeron and these respondents have been excluded from the analysis in this report (making the overall sample 10,224 respondents).

Percentage figures in the report are displayed to one decimal place. However, it should be noted that there is in fact a range of uncertainty around all survey estimates and that the statistical testing conducted to assess change and differences between survey results (as outlined in section 1.3.1) are based on confidence intervals around survey estimates rounded to one decimal.

1.5 Classification of drugs

The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 classifies illegal drugs into three categories (Class A, B and C) according to the harm they cause. The 17 drugs or groups of drugs that respondents were asked about and their classification under the Act are:

- **Class A**, including cocaine, crack, crystal meth, ecstasy, LSD, magic mushrooms, heroin, methadone and amphetamines (if prepared for injection);⁶
- **Class B**, including amphetamines (in powdered form) and cannabis;
- **Class C**, including ketamine, temazepam, valium and anabolic steroids;
- **Not classified**, including poppers and glues, solvents, gas or aerosols.
- **‘New’ drugs**, including mephedrone and BZP, GBL, Synthetic Cannabinoids, Khat and Salvia Divinorum.

In addition to reporting by Class, a number of other composite drug groups are reported. These composite groups, and the individual drugs that they include, are:

- **Opiates**, including heroin and the illicit / non-prescribed use of methadone;
- **Stimulant drugs**, including cocaine, crack, crystal meth, ecstasy, amphetamines and poppers;
- **Psychedelics**, including LSD, magic mushrooms and ketamine;
- **Downers / tranquilisers**, including temazepam and valium.

The groups include illicit drugs across the legal classifications and reflect the drugs’ shared properties, effects and characteristics, providing an additional measure to the class-based categorisation. For example, stimulant drugs may be used interchangeably by the same people at similar times and in similar settings. Drugs

⁶ The SCJS does not collect details of whether amphetamine was prepared for injection or in powdered form. As injection as a method of taking drugs *ever* reported in the SCJS 2012/13 was relatively rare, all self-reported amphetamine use is included in Class B in the analysis that follows.

not included in the composite groups such as cannabis, anabolic steroids and glues, solvents, gas or aerosols, are included separately in appropriate figures where sufficient data are available to do this.

In addition to the 16 drugs included in the 2008/9 and 2009/10 surveys and the 5 new drugs included in the SCJS 2010/11 (mephedrone, BZP, GBL, synthetic cannabinoids and khat), the new drug salvia divinorum was added to the SCJS 2012/13. In the SCJS 2012/13 questionnaire, respondents were asked whether they had taken any of five drugs from a group of new drugs (BZP, GBL, synthetic cannabinoids, khat or salvia divinorum) and separately whether they had taken the new drug mephedrone. These new drugs have been excluded from the overall analysis presented in the report (therefore all percentages exclude new drugs) and the trend analysis to ensure consistency with previous sweeps of the SCJS. Section 2.7 of the report specifically examines use of new drugs. It should be recognised that as these drugs were previously (or currently) legal, for respondents reporting use of them *ever*, this does not necessarily represent an illicit activity.

1.6 A note on reference periods

In the survey, respondents were asked about their history of drug use over three different time periods. These, with their respective strengths and limitations, are:

- Self-reported use *ever*: whether respondents had used specific drugs *at some point in their lives*, providing useful contextual information when, for example, examining general attitudes to drugs. However, this is not a useful indicator of current drug use or recent trends since it can include people who have used a drug once, perhaps a long time ago;
- Use in the *last year*: whether respondents had used specific drugs in the year prior to interview. This time frame is generally regarded as the most stable measure of current drug use, especially when analysing trends over time;⁷
- Use in the *last month*: whether respondents had used specific drugs in the month prior to interview. This time frame provides the most up-to date information on usage. It is particularly focused on when considering drug dependency. However, since it is a relatively short time period it is more prone to variation, for example, it may miss people who use drugs regularly but who have not done so within the last month.

1.7 Comparing the SCJS 2012/13 with the CSEW 2012/13

Due to the fact that the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW) 2012/13 self-completion questionnaire was asked of respondents aged between 16 and 59 years while the SCJS was asked of respondents of 16 years and over (i.e. including those aged 60 or over), care should be taken when comparing SCJS and CSEW data. In this report, where comparisons are made with the CSEW 2012/13, the SCJS 2012/13 data have been filtered to exclude those aged 60 years and over. With regards to the self-completion module on drugs, the methodology and time frame of the CSEW 2012/13 were largely similar to the SCJS 2012/13 although there were

⁷ As interviewing for the SCJS 2012/13 was continuous over the course of 12 months from April 2012 to the end of March 2013, the reported measure of „in the last year“ covers a 23 month period which varies according to the date of the interview. More information on the survey „reference period“ is available in the Technical Report: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Crime-Justice/crime-and-justice-survey/publications/SCJS2012-13-TR>.

slight differences in the specific drugs that respondents were asked about.⁸ The prevalence figures for drug use *in the last year* and *ever* in England and Wales in section 2.2 of the report are based on the following drugs only: powder cocaine, crack cocaine, ecstasy, LSD, magic mushrooms, ketamine, heroin, methadone, amphetamines, methamphetamine, cannabis, tranquilisers, anabolic steroids, amyl nitrite and any other pills/powders/drugs smoked.

1.8 Structure of the report

The report proceeds as follows:

Chapter 2 focuses on prevalence of illicit drug use in Scotland exploring trends in self-reported drug use from the SCJS 2008/09 to the SCJS 2012/13 and in comparison to the CSEW 2012/13 and looking at self-reported drug use by drug composite group, legal classification and specific drug type. This chapter also examines variations in self-reported drug use by demographic, socio-economic and geographical factors. Lastly this chapter focuses on prevalence of being offered drugs and the prevalence of new drugs.

Chapter 3 focuses on the experiences of those who reported drug use. This chapter begins by examining self-reported drug use *in the last year* before going on to specifically focus on the experiences of adults over 16 who have used one or more illicit drugs *in the last month* looking at frequency of use; drug dependency; ease of obtaining drugs in the last month; and accessibility of drugs. This chapter will then examine experience of drug use *in the last year* with regards to specific drugs, polydrug use and joint use of alcohol and drugs. This chapter concludes by examining experience of drug use *ever* by specifically looking at the age at which drug was first used; the drug first used; and methods of taking drugs.

Annex 1 contains additional data tables showing the percentage of adults who reported taking illicit drugs in the last month, the last year and ever. The data are broken down by a range of demographic, experiential and area-related variables.

Annex 2 provides information on the methods employed in the SCJS 2012-13, focussing specifically on the self-completion questionnaire. This includes information on the questionnaire, disclosure of sensitive information, drugs classification, interview techniques, and the weighting used in the analysis of the results.

⁸ More information on the drugs asked about in the CSEW 2012/13 is available in the Home Office (2013) Drug Misuse report and in the user guide:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/225122/Drugs_Misuse201213.pdf
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/224235/drug-misuse-user-guide.pdf

1.9 Conventions used in figures and tables

The following conventions are used in the figures and tables for this report, including the annexes.

Figures and tables

Each figure or table has a title (1), the data source (survey and year) (2), a base definition and the unweighted base figures (3), and the SPSS data file variable name (4)⁹. For example:

(1) Figure 2.3: % of adults aged 16 or over reporting use of drugs by composite group

(2) SCJS 2012/13

(3) Base: Adults aged 16 or over (10,224)

(4) Variable Names: QEVE, Q12M, Q1M

Unweighted base

All SCJS percentages and rates presented in the figures and tables are based on weighted data (see Annex 2 for further details). However, an unweighted base is given below the figure, or in the table, which represents the number of respondents interviewed in the specified group. All unweighted bases are rounded to base 10. Percentages and rates where the unweighted base is less than 50 are excluded from the report.

Percentages

Row or column percentages may not add to 100 per cent due to rounding. Most figures / tables present cell percentages where the figures refer to the percentage of respondents that have the attribute being discussed. The complementary percentage to add to 100 per cent may not be shown. Respondents could refuse to answer any question they did not wish to answer. The majority of questions also had a „don't know“ option. Percentages are often not shown for these response categories.

A percentage may be quoted in the report text for a single category that is identifiable in the figures / tables only by summing two or more component percentages. In order to avoid rounding errors, the percentage has been recalculated for the single combined category and therefore may differ by one percentage point from the sum of the percentages derived from the figures / tables. Percentages in the figures in the main body of the report are displayed to one decimal place.

⁹ The SPSS variable name is also often the question name.

2 PREVALENCE OF ILLICIT DRUG USE IN SCOTLAND

2.1 Introduction

This chapter looks at the prevalence of illicit drug use in Scotland. The chapter examines overall trends in drug use reported to the SCJS between 2008/09 and 2012/13; variation in types of drug used; and socio-demographic and geographic variation in drug use. The chapter also examines the likelihood of being offered drugs and the prevalence of new drugs.

Chapter Findings

Self-reported drug use and trends over time

There has been a statistically significant decrease in self-reported illicit drug use *in the last month, in the last year and ever* between the SCJS 2008/09 and the SCJS 2012/13. The percentage of adults reporting taking one or more illicit drugs *in the last year* decreased from 7.6% to 6.2% of adults between 2008/09 and 2012/13. For those aged 16-59 only, reported drug use (*in the last year*) was similar in Scotland (8.5%) to England and Wales (8.2%) (Home Office, 2013).

Types of drugs reported

As in previous years, cannabis was the most commonly reported drug used by all adults: 5.1% of adults reported taking cannabis *in the last year*. The next most commonly reported drugs were cocaine (1.7%), ecstasy (1.3%), tranquilisers (0.8%), amphetamines (0.7%), and poppers (0.5%). There has been a statistically significant decrease in the number of adults reporting use of cannabis (-1.1 percentage points), cocaine (-1.0 percentage points), ecstasy (-0.5 percentage points) and tranquilisers (-0.4 percentage points) *in the last year* between 2008/09 and 2012/13.

Looking at drug use by legal classification, the SCJS 2012/13 found that 2.6% of adults reported use of Class A drugs; 5.3% of adults reported use of Class B drugs; and 1% of adults reported use of Class C drugs *in the last year*. There has been a statistically significant decline in reported use *in the last year* of Class A (-0.8 percentage points) and Class B (-1.1 percentage points) drugs between 2008/09 and 2012/13.

Variations in drug use

As in previous surveys, gender and age were found to be associated with illicit drug use with men and those aged 16-24 reporting higher levels of drug use *in the last year*. There has been a statistically significant decrease in the number of women reporting illicit drug use *in the last year* with 3.3% of women reporting taking one or more illicit drugs *in the last year* in the SCJS 2012/13 in comparison to 4.3% of women in 2008/09. There has been a statistically significant reduction of 7.1 percentage points from 23.5% to 16.4% of adults aged 16-24 reporting illicit drug use *in the last year* between 2008/09 and 2012/13. Self-reported illicit drug use was also significantly associated with socio-economic and geographic factors.

Being offered drugs

There has been a statistically significant decrease between 2008/09 and 2012/13 in those reporting that someone has offered to give or sell them at least one type of illicit drug *in the last year* with one in ten adults (10.6%) reporting that someone had

offered to give or sell them at least one type of illicit drug *in the last year* compared with 13.7% in 2008/09.

New Drugs

There are six new drugs included in the SCJS 2012/13 (mephedrone and a new drugs category comprising BZP, GBL, synthetic cannabinoids, khat and salvia divinorum). 0.5% of adults reported having taken any of the new drugs in *the last year*.

2.2 Self-reported drug use

The SCJS 2012/13 provides estimates of the percentage of adults aged 16 or over who report that they have used illicit drugs based on answers provided for three periods of time: in the last month; in the last year; and ever. Comparisons with the previous three sweeps of the SCJS help to put these findings in context and reveals that the percentage of adults reporting using one or more illicit drugs has been declining. **Table 2.1** and **Figure 2.1** show this decline in the number of adults reporting illicit drug use for all three time periods used in the survey between the SCJS 2008/09 and the SCJS 2012/13.¹⁰ The decline was significant comparing drug use reported in the 2008/09 survey with that reported in 2012/13. However, there were no statistically significant changes between 2010/11 and 2012/13. In the SCJS 2012/13:

- 3.3% of adults reported having used one or more illicit drugs *in the last month* (the month prior to the survey interview). This is compared with 4.4% in 2008/09, 4.2% in 2009/10 and 3.5% in 2010/11;
- 6.2% of adults reported having used one or more illicit drug *in the last year*. This is compared with 7.6% in 2008/09, 7.2% in 2009/10 and 6.6% in 2010/11;
- 23% of adults reported taking one of more illicit drug *at some point of their lives (ever)*. This is compared with 25.6% in 2008/09, 25.2% in 2009/10 and 23.7% in 2010/11.

Table 2.1: % reporting use of any of the listed drugs and percentage change from SCJS 2008/09 and SCJS 2010/11 to SCJS 2012/13

SCJS 2008/09; SCJS 2009/10; SCJS 2010/11; SCJS 2012/13

<i>Percentage of all adults aged 16 and over</i>	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	% change 2008/09 – 2012/13	% change 2010/11 – 2012/13
Ever	25.6	25.2	23.7	23.0	-2.6	-0.7
In last year	7.6	7.2	6.6	6.2	-1.4	-0.4
In last month	4.4	4.2	3.5	3.3	-1.1	-0.2
<i>Base</i>	10,960	13,410	10,980	10,220		

Base: adults aged 16 or over

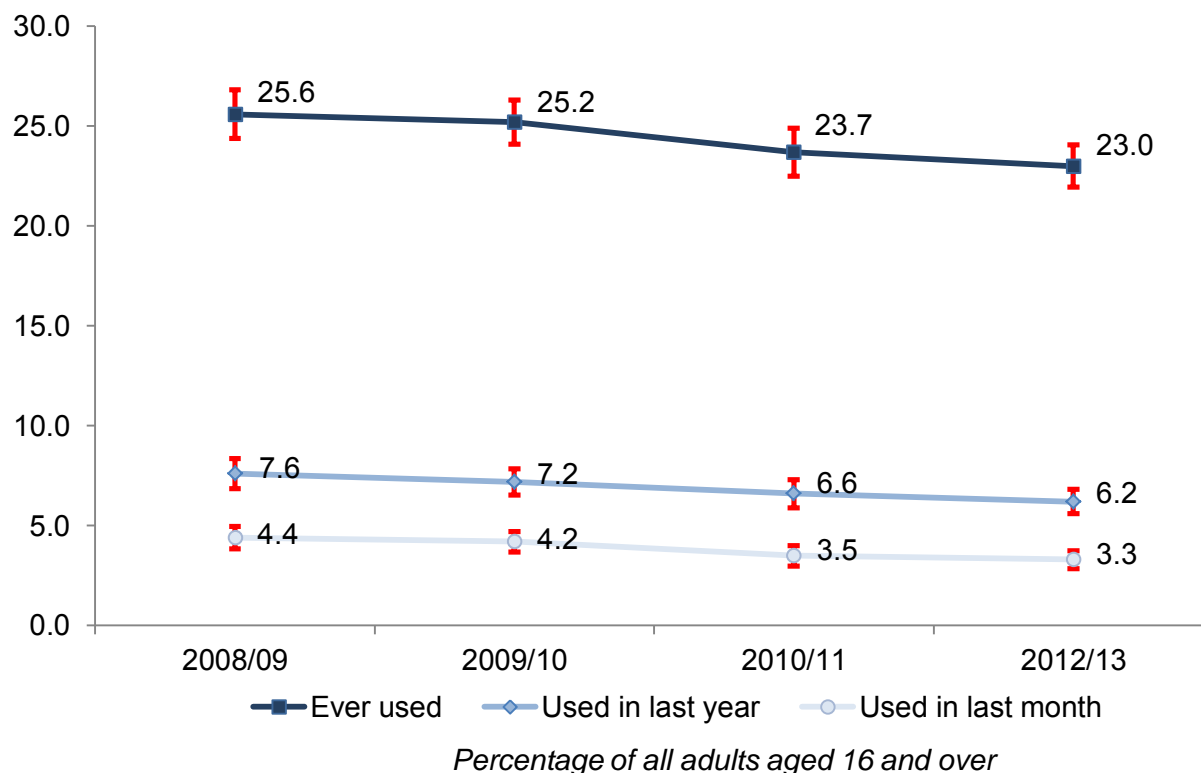
Variable Names: QEVE_ANY, Q12M_ANY, Q1M_ANY

*Note: data highlighted in **bold** indicates significant differences between sweeps see section 1.3.1 for further details*

¹⁰ Note that these figures exclude all new drugs included in each SCJS.

Figure 2.1: % reporting use of any of the listed drugs

SCJS 2008/09; 2009/10; SCJS 2010/11; SCJS 2012/13



Base: adults aged 16 or over (2008/09: 10,960, 2009/10: 13,410, 2010/11: 10,980, 2012/13: 10,220)

Variable Names: QEVE_ANY, Q12M_ANY, Q1M_ANY

Note: Error bars represent a 95% confidence interval – see section 1.3.1

The findings from the SCJS 2010/11 showed that self-reported illicit drug use ever, for 16-59 year olds, was lower in Scotland (31.4%) in comparison with the findings from the British Crime Survey (2010/11) for England and Wales (36.3%). A comparison with the Crime Survey for England and Wales (2012/13) (formerly the British Crime Survey), for those aged 16-59 only, shows that reported drug use (*in the last year*) was similar in Scotland (8.5%) to England and Wales (8.2%) (Home Office, 2013). This contrasts with self-reported drug use *at some point in their lives*, for 16-59 year olds only, which was lower in Scotland (30.3% compared to 35.9% in England and Wales) (Home Office, 2013).

2.3 Self-reported drug use by composite group and by class of drug

2.3.1 Self-reported drug use by composite group

Figure 2.2 shows self-reported drug use by composite drug groups: stimulants, psychedelics, downers/tranquilisers and opiates.¹¹ Figure 2.2 shows:

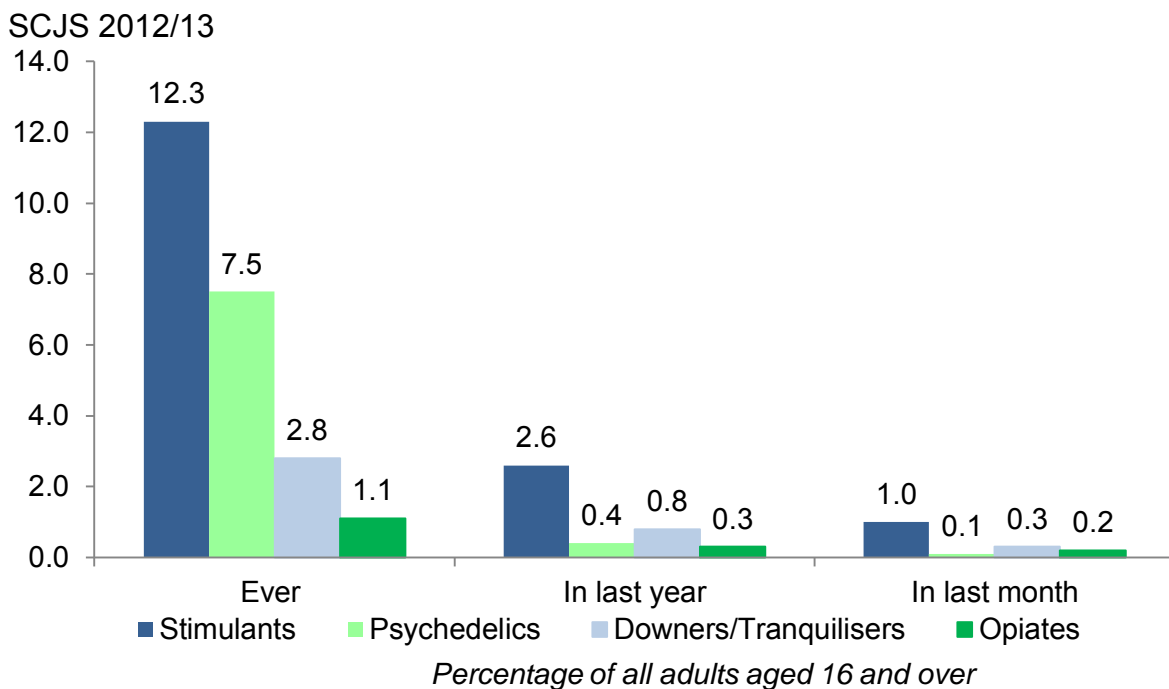
- One in eight adults (12.3%, 535,000) reported that they had taken stimulant drugs *at some point in their lives*; 2.6% of adults (112,000) reported use of stimulants *in the last year* and 1% (44,000) *in the last month*.

¹¹ Section 1.5 provides a list of drugs by composite group.

- Around one in twelve adults (7.5%, 327,000) reported that they had used psychedelics *at some point in their lives*; 0.4% of adults (19,000) reported use of psychedelics *in the last year* and 0.1% (5,000) *in the last month*.
- 2.8% of adults (123,000) reported that they had used downers/tranquilisers at some point in their lives; 0.8% (33,000) of adults reported use of downers / tranquilisers in the *last year* and 0.3% (12,000) *in the last month*.
- 1.1% of adults (49,000) reported that they had used opiates *at some point in their lives*; 0.3% of adults (14,000) reported use of opiates *in the last year* and 0.2% (11,000) *in the last month*.¹²

There has been a statistically significant decrease in reported use of stimulant drugs *in the last year* with 2.6% of adults reporting use of stimulants *in the last year* in 2012/13 in comparison to 3.9% of adults in 2008/09. There was also a statistically significant decrease in the number of adults reporting use of downers/tranquilisers (-0.4 percentage points) and the use of psychedelics (-0.3 percentage points) *in the last year* between 2008/09 and 2012/13. There was no change in the number of adults reporting use of opiate drugs between 2008/09 and 2012/13.

Figure 2.2: % reporting use of drugs by composite group



Base: Adults aged 16 or over (10,220)
 Variable Names: QEVE, Q12M, Q1M

¹² Prevalence of opiate use is particularly prone to under-estimation due to its association with problematic drug use. The ISD (2011) estimated that the prevalence rate of problem drug use (defined as problematic use of opiates including illicit and prescribed methadone use and/or the illicit use of benzodiazepines) was 1.7% in Scotland in 2009/10, amongst adults aged 15 and 64.

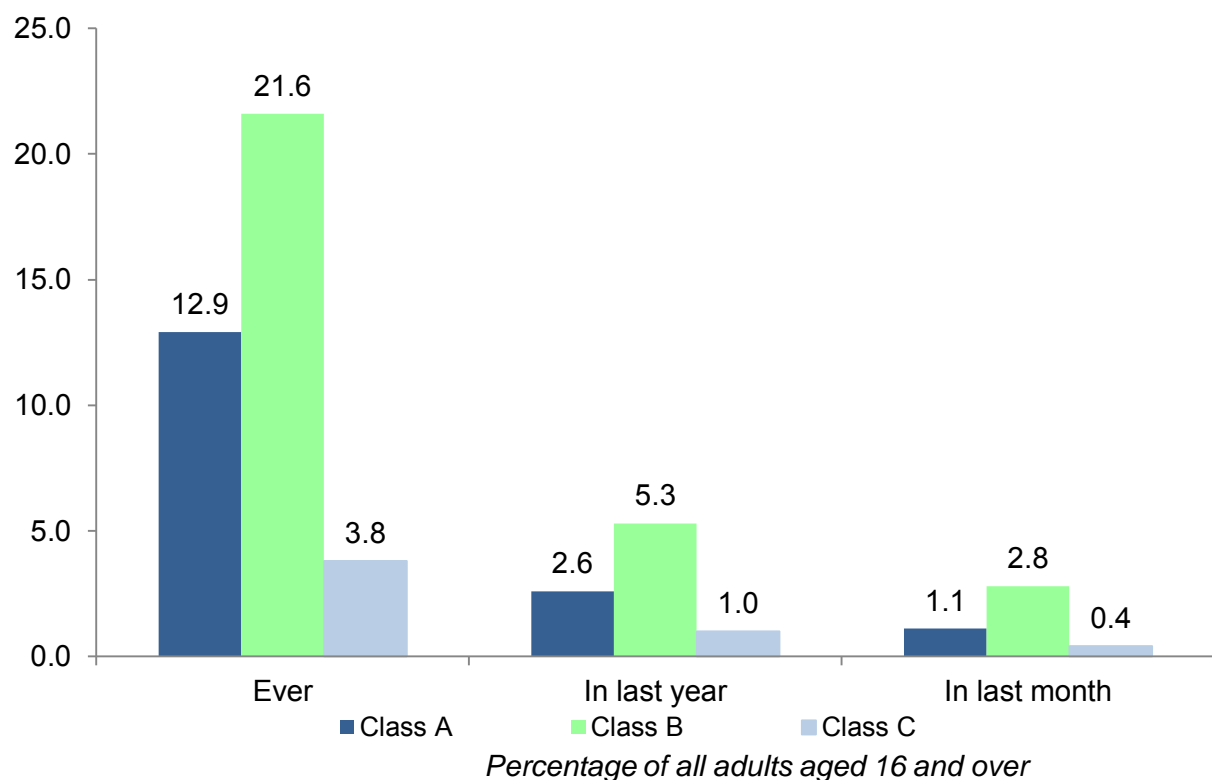
2.3.2 Self-reported drug use by legal classification

Figure 2.3 shows self-reported drug use by legal classification; Class A, Class B or Class C¹³:

- An estimated 12.9% of adults (561,000 people) reported having taken one or more Class A drugs *at some point in their lives (ever)*; 2.6% (114,000) of adults reported that they had taken one or more Class A drugs *in the last year* and 1.1% (50,000) *in the last month*.
- An estimated 21.6% of adults (936,000 people) reported having taken one or more Class B drugs *at some point in their lives*; 5.3% (230,000) of adults reported that they had taken one or more Class B drugs *in the last year* and 2.8% (121,000) *in the last month*.
- An estimated 3.8% of adults (163,000 people) reported having taken one or more Class C drugs *at some point in their lives*; 1.0% (45,000) of adults reported that they had taken one or more Class C drugs *in the last year* and 0.4% (17,000) *in the last month*

Figure 2.3: % of adults aged 16 or over reporting use of drugs by legal classification ever, in the last year and in the last month

SCJS 2012/13



Base: adults aged 16 or over (10,220)

Variable Names: QEVE, Q12M, Q1M

Table 2.2 reveals a statistically significant decrease in reported use of Class A and Class B drugs *in the last year* between 2008/09 and 2012/13. The decline in reported use of Class C drugs between 2008/09 and 2012/13 was not statistically significant.

¹³ Section 1.5 provides a list of drugs by legal classification.

Table 2.2: Trends in % of adults reporting illicit drug use in the last year by legal classification from 2008/09 to 2012/13

SCJS 2008/09; SCJS 2009/10; SCJS 2010/11; SCJS 2012/13

<i>Percentage of all adults aged 16 and over using drugs in the last year</i>	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	% change 2008/09 – 2012/13	% change 2010/11 – 2012/13
Class A	3.4	3.0	2.6	2.6	-0.8	-
Class B	6.4	6.2	5.7	5.3	-1.1	-0.4
Class C	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.0	-0.3	-0.2
Base	10,960	13,410	10,980	10,220		

Base: adults aged 16 or over

Variable Name: Q12M

Note: **Bold text** indicates significant differences between sweeps, see section 1.3.1 for further details.

2.4 Self-reported drug use by specific drug

The SCJS 2012/13 findings revealed that cannabis was the most commonly reported drug used by all adults; this was also a key finding from the SCJS 2010/11. It was found that:

- 21.1% of adults reported taking cannabis *at some point in their lives*;
- 5.1% of adults reported taking cannabis *in the last year*, and
- 2.7% of adults reported taking cannabis *in the last month*.

For adults who had ever taken one or more illicit drugs *at some point in their lives*, the next most commonly reported drugs after cannabis were amphetamines (7.8%), ecstasy (7.8%), cocaine (7.2%), poppers (5.8%) and the psychedelic drugs: magic mushrooms (5.4%) and LSD (5.2%).

For adults who had taken one or more illicit drugs *in the last year*, the next most commonly reported drugs after cannabis were cocaine (1.7%), ecstasy (1.3%), tranquilisers (0.8%), amphetamines (0.7%), and poppers (0.5%).

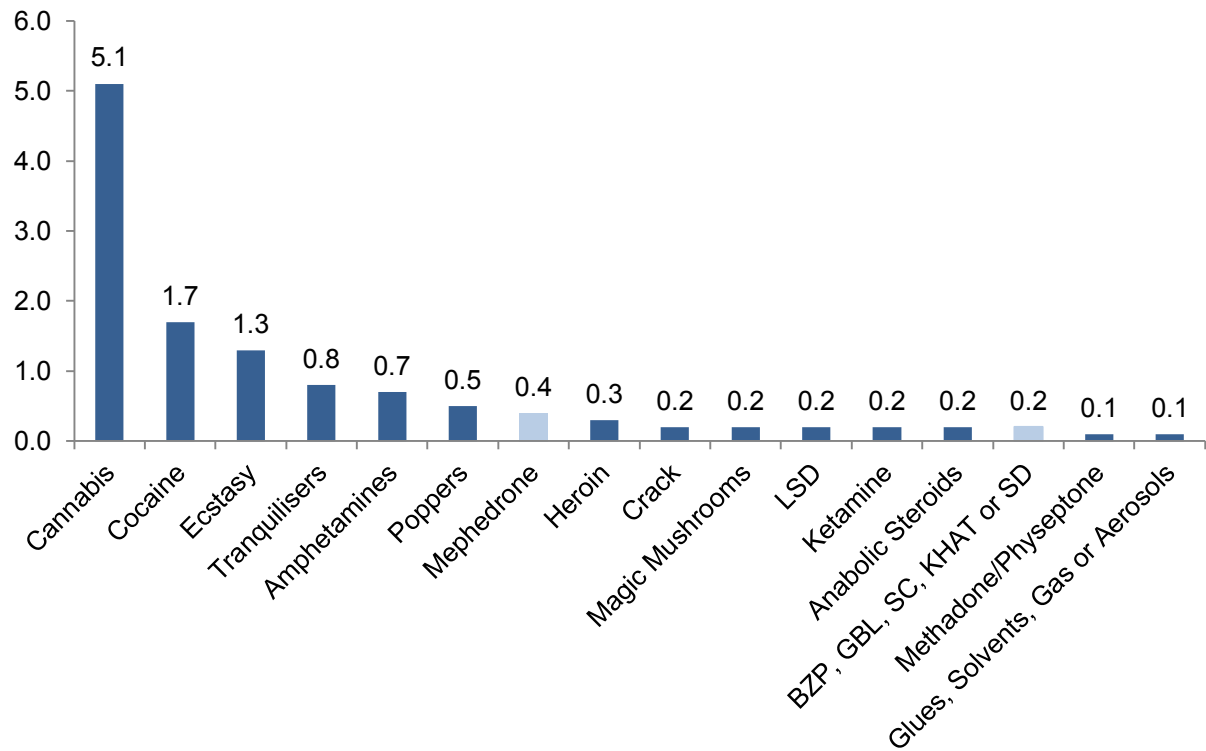
For adults who had taken one or more illicit drugs *in the last month*, the next most commonly reported drugs after cannabis were cocaine (0.6%), ecstasy (0.3%), tranquilisers (0.3%), amphetamines (0.2%) and heroin (0.2%).

Figure 2.4 shows the % of adults reporting illicit drug use *in the last year* by specific drug in ranked order, from the drug most commonly used to the drug least commonly used.¹⁴

¹⁴ The bars for new drugs (mephredone and the new drugs category comprising BZP, GBL, SC, Khat and SD), which are excluded from the overall analysis in the report, are shaded light blue.

Figure 2.4: % reporting drug use in the last year by drug used

SCJS 2012/13



Percentage of all adults aged 16 and over

Base: adults aged 16 or over (10,220)

Variable Name: Q12M

Table 2.3 shows that there has been a statistically significant decrease in the reported use of cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy and tranquilisers *in the last year* between 2008/09 and 2012/13. In 2012/13, 5.1% of adults reported using cannabis *in the last year* in comparison to 6.2% in 2008/09. In 2012/13, 1.7% of adults reported using cocaine *in the last year* in comparison to 2.7% in 2008/09. In 2012/13, 1.3% of adults reported using ecstasy *in the last year* in comparison to 1.8% in 2008/09. In 2012/13, 0.8% of adults reported using tranquilisers *in the last year* in comparison to 1.2% in 2008/09.

Table 2.3: Trends in % of adults reporting use of cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy and tranquilisers in the last year from 2008/09 to 2012/13

Percentage of all adults aged 16 and over using drugs in the last year	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	% change	% change
					2008/09	2010/11
Cannabis	6.2	6.1	5.6	5.1	-1.1	-0.5
Cocaine	2.7	2.1	1.9	1.7	-1.0	-0.2
Ecstasy	1.8	1.9	1.4	1.3	-0.5	-0.1
Tranquilisers	1.2	1.0	1.1	0.8	-0.4	-0.3
<i>Base</i>	10,960	13,410	10,980	10,220		

SCJS 2008/09; SCJS 2009/10; SCJS 2010/11; SCJS 2012/13

Base: adults aged 16 or over

Variable Name: Q12M

*Note: **Bold text** indicates significant differences between sweeps, see section 1.3.1.*

2.5 Variations in self-reported drug use

2.5.1 Variation by gender

Self-reported drug use in the last month, in the last year and ever was significantly¹⁵ associated with gender.¹⁶ Men reported higher levels of illicit drug use than women (see **figure 2.5** in section 2.6.2):

- 29.3% of men reported taking an illicit drug *at some point in their lives* in comparison to 17.2% of women;
- 9.4% of men reported taking an illicit drug *in the last year* in comparison to 3.3% of women;
- 5.3% of men reported taking an illicit drug *in the last month* in comparison to 1.6% of women.

Table 2.4 reveals a decrease in illicit drug use *in the last year* by women (-1.0 percentage points) and by men (-1.7 percentage points) between 2008/09 and 2012/13. The small decrease in percentage points between 2008/09 and 2012/13 for self-reported drug use by women *in the last year* was statistically significant. However, the decline in reported illicit drug use between 2008/09 and 2012/13 for men and the decline between 2010/11 and 2012/13 for both men and women were not statistically significant.

¹⁵ Significant at the $p < 0.001$ level.

¹⁶ The strength of the association between gender and drug use for all three time periods was not strong. The strongest variation in relation to gender was in self-reported drug use ever.

Table 2.4: Trends in reported illicit drug use in the last year by gender from 2008/09 to 2012/13

SCJS 2008/09; SCJS 2009/10; SCJS 2010/11; SCJS 2012/13

<i>Percentage of all adults aged 16 and over</i>	Men (%)	Men (Base)	Women (%)	Women (Base)
2008/09	11.1	4,800	4.3	6,160
2009/10	10.1	5,910	4.5	7,500
2010/11	9.5	4,730	3.9	6,250
2012/13	9.4	4,420	3.3	5,800
% change 2008/09 to 2012/13	-1.7		-1.0	
% change 2010/11 to 2012/13	-0.1		-0.6	

Base: adults aged 16 or over

Variable Name: Q12M

*Note: **Bold text** indicates significant differences between sweeps, see section 1.3.1.*

2.5.2 Variation by age

Self-reported drug use in the last month, in the last year and ever was significantly¹⁷ associated with age.¹⁸ Dividing the survey respondents into four age groups, it was found that the youngest age groups (16-24 years and 25-44 years) had the highest levels of self-reported drug use for all three time periods (see **figure 2.5**):

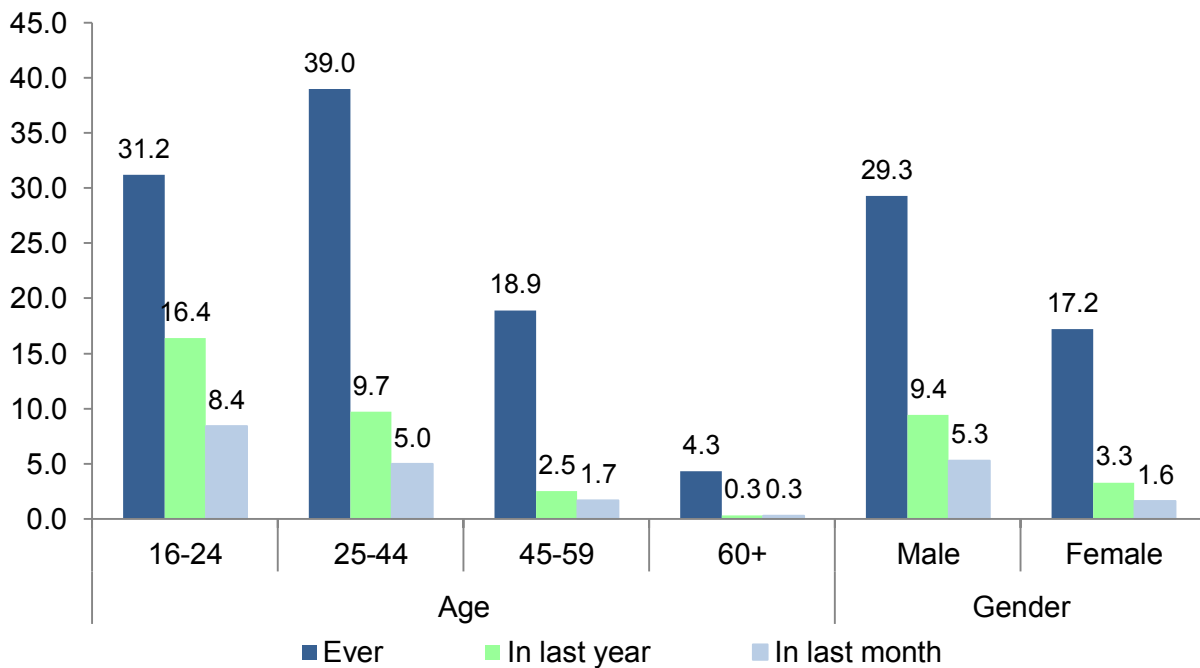
- 25-44 year olds had the highest reported level of illicit drug use *at some point in their lives* (39%) in comparison to 31.2% of 16-24 year olds; 18.9% of 45-59 year olds; and 4.3% of adults aged 60 or over;
- 16.4% of 16-24 year olds reported taking an illicit drug *in the last year* decreasing to 9.7% of 25-44 year olds; 2.5% of 45-59 year olds; and 0.3% of those aged over 60;
- 8.4% of 16-24 year olds reported taking an illicit drug *in the last month* decreasing to 5% of 25-44 year olds; 1.7% of 45-59 year olds and 0.3% of those aged over 60.

¹⁷ Significant at the $p < 0.001$ level.

¹⁸ A strong relationship was found between age and self-reported drug user ever.

Figure 2.5: Variation in drug use ever, in the last year and in the last month by gender and age

SCJS 2012/13



Percentage of adults aged 16 and over within age and gender group

Base: adults aged 16 or over with age and gender group (16-24 860; 25-44 3,100; 45-59 2,730; 60+ 3,540; Male; 4,420 Female; 5,800)

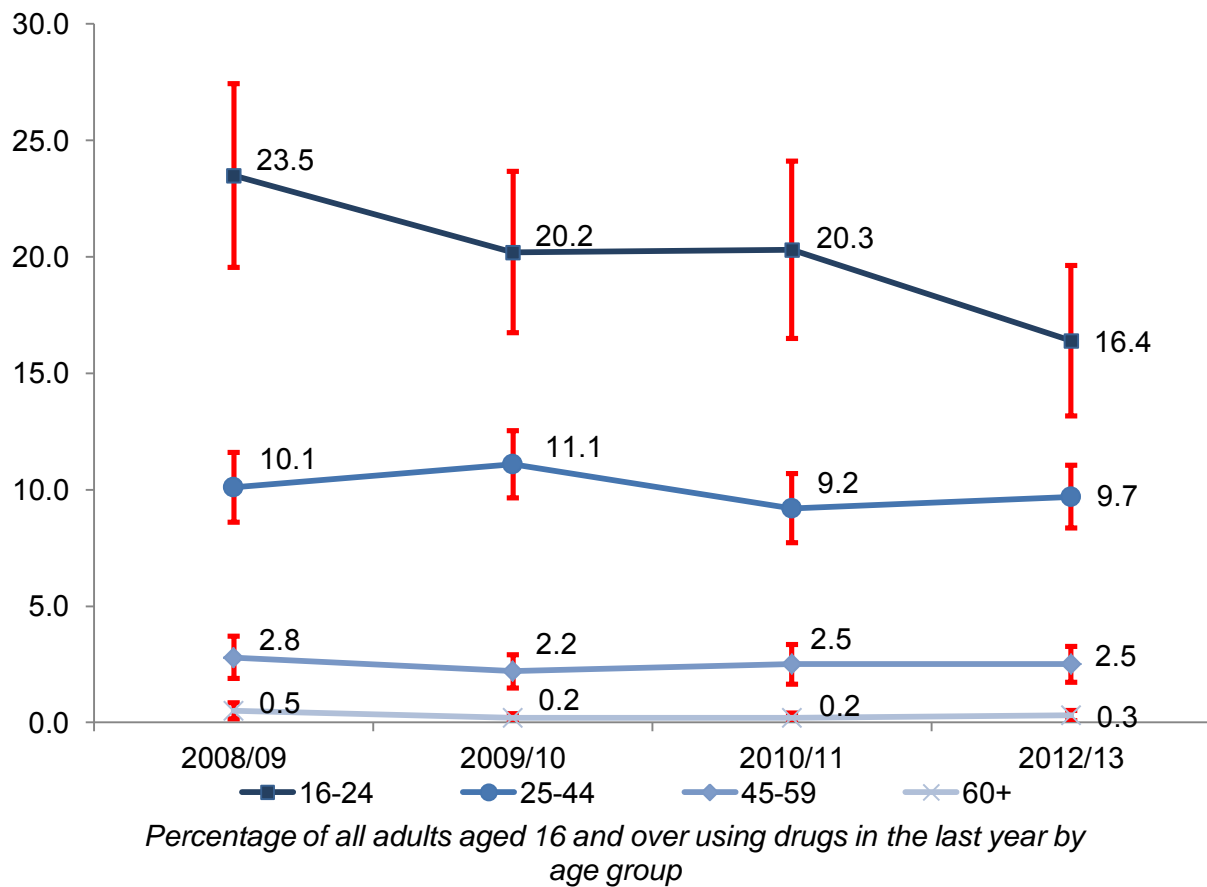
Variable Names: QEVE_ANY, Q12M_ANY, Q1M_ANY

Figure 2.6 shows a statistically significant decrease in reported use of illicit drugs *in the last year* by 16-24 year olds between 2008/09 and 2012/13.

- 16.4% of 16-24 year olds reported taking any illicit drug in the last year in the SCJS 2012/13 signalling a downward trend from the previous SCJS surveys where 23.5% of 16-24 year olds in 2008/09, 20.2% of 16-24 year olds in 2009/10 and 20.3% of 16-24 year olds in 2010/11 reported taking any illicit drug *in the last year*. This represents a statistically significant reduction of 7.1 percentage points between 2008/09 and 2012/13.
- There were no statistically significant changes in reported drug use by other age groups *in the last year*.

Figure 2.6: Trends in reported drug use in the last year by age from 2008/09 to 2012/13

SCJS 2008/09; SCJS 2009/10; SCJS 2010/11; SCJS 2012/13



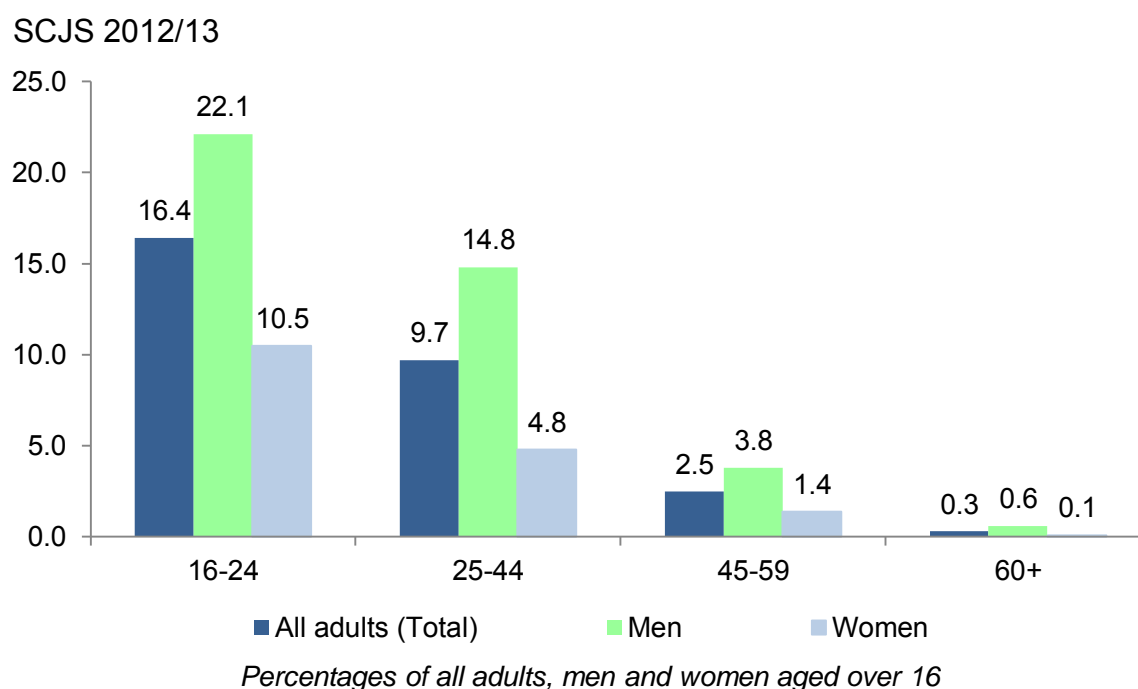
Base: adults aged 16 or over¹⁹
 Variable Name: Q12M, TABAGE

2.5.3 Variation by age and gender

For both sexes, the highest level of reported illicit drug use *in the last year* was for the youngest age group with 22.1% of men and 10.5% of women aged 16-24 reporting illicit drug use *in the last year*. Reported illicit drug use decreased for both men and women as they got older (see **figure 2.7**).

¹⁹ Base: adults aged 16 and over (SCJS 2008/09: 16-24 1,000, 25-44 3,550, 45-59 2,910, 60+ 3,500; SCJS 2009/10: 16-24 1,160, 25-44 4,110, 45-59 3,550, 60+ 4,590; SCJS 2010/11: 16-24 970, 25-44 3,300, 45-59 2,920, 60+ 3,790; SCJS 2012/13 16-24 860, 25-44 3,100, 45-59 2,730, 60+ 3,540).

Figure 2.7: Variation in drug use in the last year by gender and age



Base: adults aged 16 or over in each age group by gender (All adults (Total) 10,220; Men 4,420; Women 5,800)
 Variable Name: Q12M

2.5.4 Variation in drug use by other factors

Self-reported drug use *in the last year* was significantly²⁰ associated with socio-economic classification²¹; housing tenure²²; urban/rural classification; victim status²³ and area deprivation. The strongest differences in self-reported drug use *in the last year* were in relation to housing tenure²⁴ (see **figure 2.8**).

- Those classified in the routine and manual socio-economic group were more likely to report drug use *in the last year* (8.6% compared to 6.2% in the intermediate occupation group and 5.3% in the managerial and professional group). Of those classed as „never worked and long-term unemployed“ - 4.7% reported illicit drug use *in the last year*.
- Those who own their own property were less likely to report using illicit drugs *in the last year* (3.5% compared to 12.2% who privately rent and 10.5% who rent socially).

²⁰ Significant at the $p < 0.001$ level.

²¹ Details of the National Statistics socio-economic categories can be found on the ONS website - <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/guide-method/classifications/current-standard-classifications/soc2010/soc2010-volume-3-ns-sec--rebased-on-soc2010--user-manual/index.html>

²² Note: Not all respondents to the questionnaire classified themselves in any of the four NS-SEC categories or in the three housing tenure categories and therefore the sub-categories do not add up to the overall base sample for NS-SEC group or Housing Tenure.

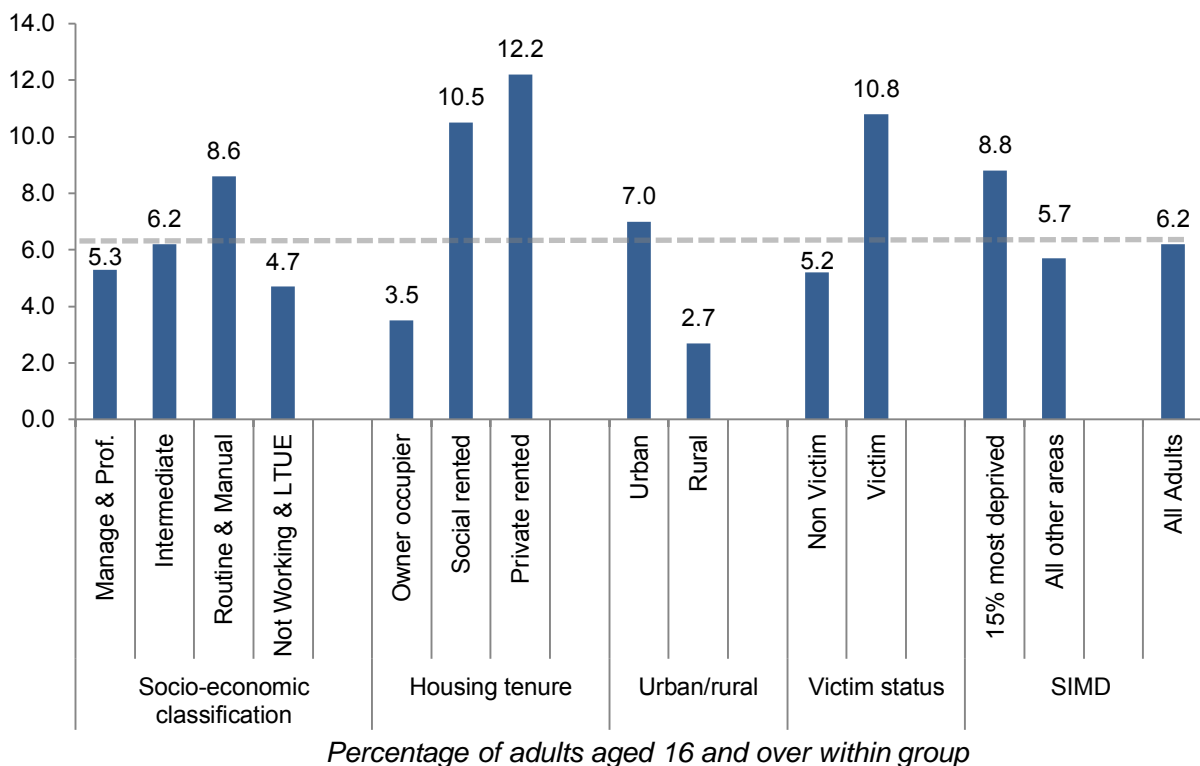
²³ A victim is defined as a respondent who reported crimes or offences in the main questionnaire (excludes sexual offences and threats) which are within the scope of the survey, took place in Scotland and occurred within the reference period.

²⁴ Strength of association measured using Phi/Cramer's V tests.

- Those who live in urban areas were more likely to report using illicit drugs *in the last year* (7% compared to 2.7% of those living in rural areas).
- Victims of crime were more likely to report using illicit drugs *in the last year* (10.8% compared to 5.2% of non-victims).
- Those classified as living in the 15% most deprived areas based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation²⁵ were more likely to report using illicit drugs *in the last year* than those not living in the 15% most deprived areas (8.8% compared to 5.7%).

Figure 2.8: % reporting illicit drug use in the last year by socio-economic group, housing tenure, urban/rural location, victim status and SIMD Index

SCJS 2012/13



Base: adults aged 16 or over in group²⁶

Variables Names: Q12M_ANY; TABNSSEC; TABTEN; TABURBRUR; VICFLAG3; SIMD_TOP

2.6 Being offered drugs in the last year

The SCJS 2012/13 estimated that around one in ten adults (10.6%) reported that someone had offered to give or sell them at least one type of illicit drug *in the last year*. Comparing this to previous sweeps of the SCJS reveals a statistically

²⁵ Details of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation can be found on the Scottish Government website - <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SIMD>

²⁶ Base sizes are for all socio-economic groups (Management & Professional 1,990; Intermediate 1,460, Routine and Manual, 2,200, Never Worked & Long Term Unemployed, 3,770), housing tenure groups (Owner occupier 6,510, Social rented 2,310, Private Rented 1,230), urban/rural location (Urban 8,110, Rural 2,110), victim status (Non-Victim 8620, Victim 1,600), and SIMD index (15% most 1,470, All other areas, 8,620).

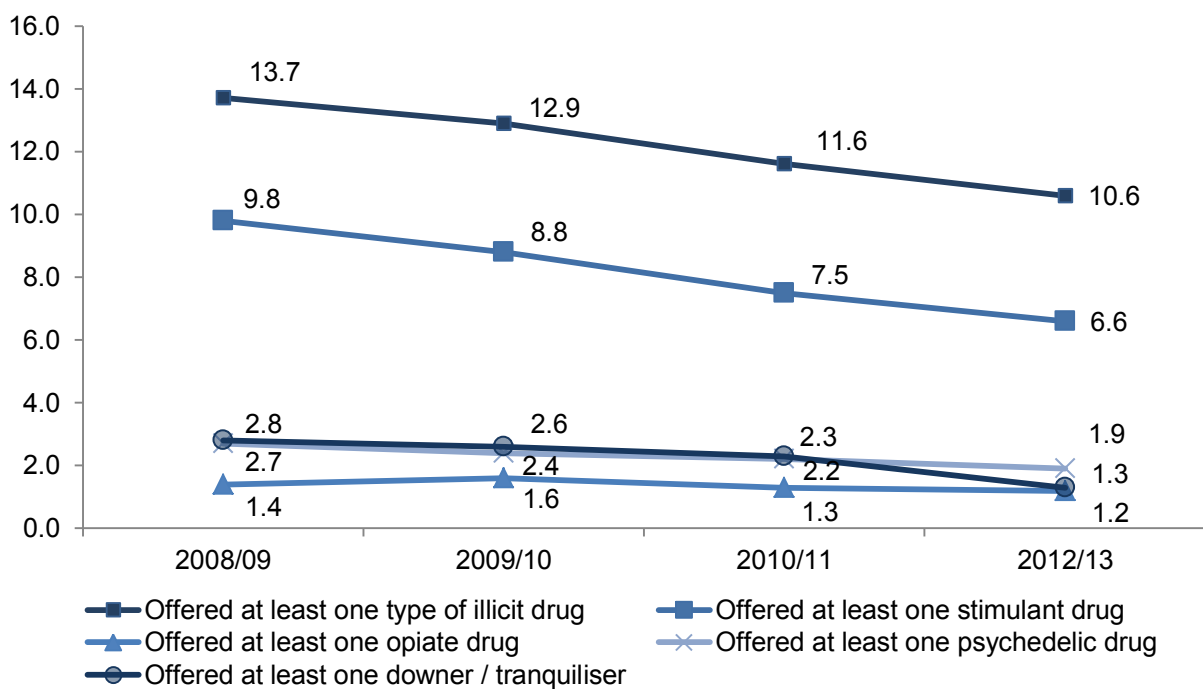
significant decline in those reporting that someone had offered to give or sell them at least one type of illicit drug *in the last year* with 13.7% of adults reporting being offered drugs in the SCJS 2008/09 and 11.6% in the SCJS 2010/11 (a drop of 3.1 percentage points).

Compared with previous sweeps of the SCJS, the SCJS 2012/13 found (see figure 2.10):

- 6.6% of adults reported being offered at least one stimulant drug *in the last year* signalling a statistically significant decline from the SCJS 2008/09 where 9.8% of adults reported being offered stimulant drugs (a fall of 3.2 percentage points);
- 1.3% of adults reported being offered tranquilisers/downers *in the last year* signalling a statistically significant decline in comparison to the SCJS 2008/09 (-1.5) and the SCJS 2010/11 (-1.0).

Figure 2.10 % being offered an illicit drug by composite group *in the last year* SCJS 2012/13 compared with previous sweeps

SCJS 2008/09; SCJS 2009/10; SCJS 2010/11; SCJS 2012/13



Percentage of all adults aged 16 and over

Base: adults aged 16 or over (2008/09 10,960, 2009/10: 13,410, 2010/11: 10,980, 2012/13: 10,220)

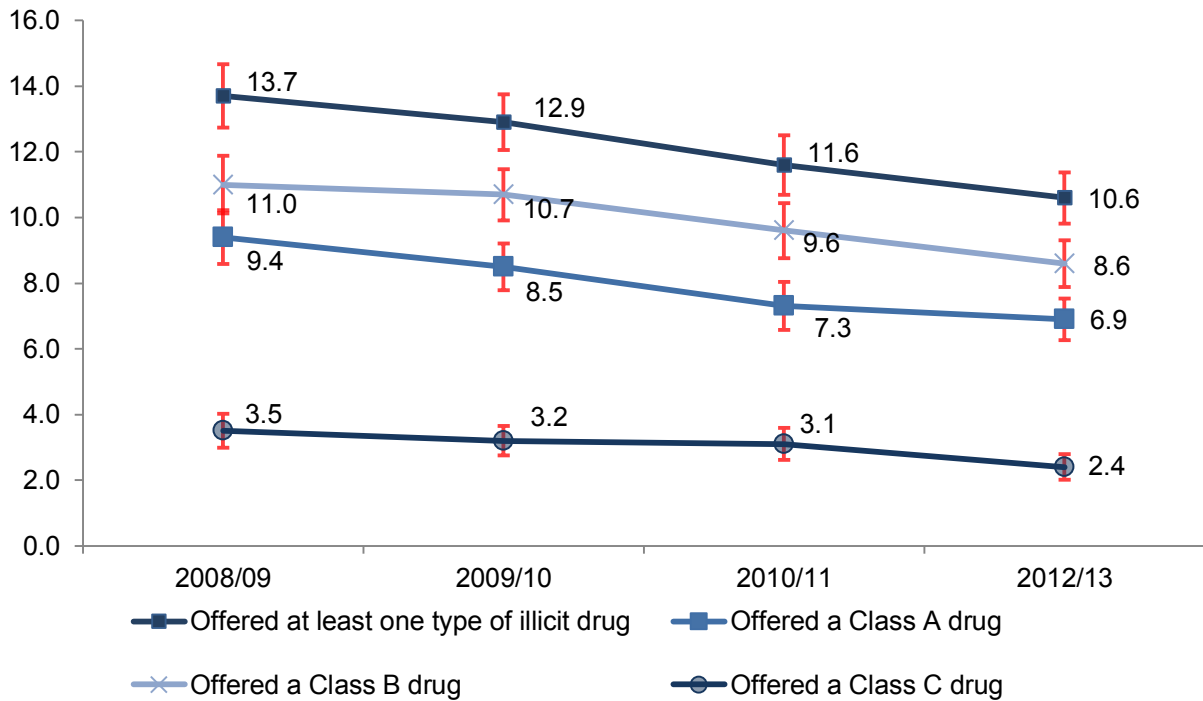
Variables Name: QOF2

Drugs legally classified as Class B were the most commonly reported to have been offered *in the last year* (8.6%). For all three types of drug class, comparisons with the SCJS 2008/09 reveal a statistically significant decline in adults reporting they have been offered drugs (Class A -2.5; Class B -2.4; Class C -1.1). There was also a

statistically significant decline in adults reporting being offered Class C drugs between 2010/11 and 2012/13 (-0.7). This is part of an overall declining trend over the last 4 sweeps of the SCJS (**figure 2.11**)

Figure 2.11 % being offered an illicit drug by legal classification *in the last year* SCJS 2012/13 compared with previous sweeps

SCJS 2008/09; SCJS 2009/10; SCJS 2010/11; SCJS 2012/13



Percentage of all adults aged 16 and over

Base: adults aged 16 or over (2008/09 10,960, 2009/10: 13,410, 2010/11: 10,980, 2012/13: 10,220)

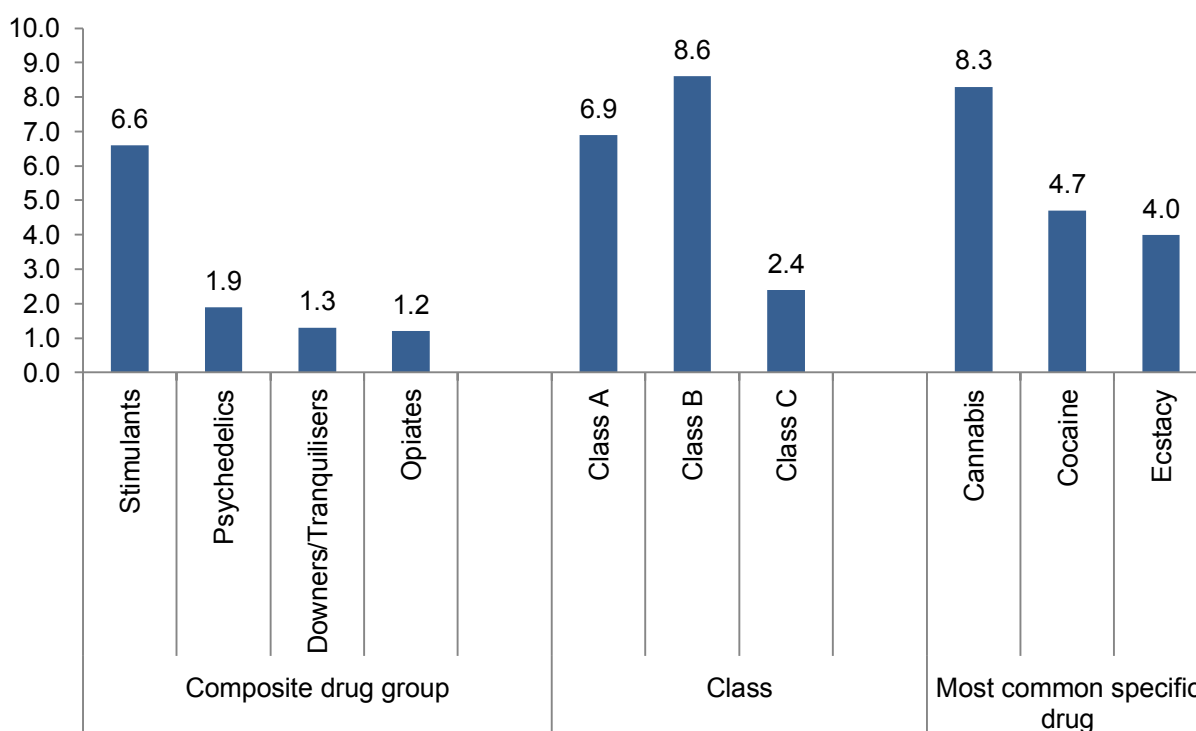
Variables Name: QOF2

Figure 2.12 shows the percentage of adults aged 16 or over who reported that someone had offered to give or sell them at least one type of illicit drug *in the last year* by composite drug group; legal classification of drugs; and the most commonly offered drugs (cannabis, cocaine and ecstasy).

Just less than one in ten adults (8.3%) reported being offered cannabis *in the last year*, 4.7% reported being offered cocaine and 4% reported being offered ecstasy. Comparing these figures with previous sweeps of the SCJS also revealed a statistically significant decrease between 2008/09 and 2012/13 (cannabis -2.0; cocaine -2.3; ecstasy -2.3).

Figure 2.12: % of adults aged 16 or over being offered drugs in the last year by type of drug

SCJS 2012/13



Percentage of all adults aged 16 and over

Base: Adults aged 16 or over (10,220)

Variable Name: QOF2

2.6.1 Variation in being offered drugs by gender

Bases: Men - 4,420; Women - 5,804

Men were more than twice as likely as women to report being offered an illicit drug *in the last year* (15.5% in comparison to 6.2%). Men were also more likely than women to report being offered each of the specific drugs.

2.6.2 Variation in being offered drugs by age

Bases: 16-24 - 859; 25-44 - 3,103; 45-49 2,727; 60+ 3,535

Over a quarter of 16-24 year olds (29.5%) reported being offered an illicit drug *in the last year*. In comparison, 15.5% of 25-44 year olds, 4.6% of 45-59 year olds and 0.9% of those aged over 60 reported being offered an illicit drug *in the last year*.

2.6.3 Variation in being offered drugs by other factors

Bases: Victim 1,602 Non-Victim 8,522; Manage & Prof 1,987; Intermediate 1,456, Routine & Manual 2,204, Not working and Long term Unemployed 3,768; Urban 8,114, Rural 2,110; Owner Occupier 6,513, Social rented 2,306, Private Rented 1,229; 15% most deprived areas 1,472, Remaining areas of Scotland 8,752.

Being offered drugs *in the last year* varied by socio-economic group, housing tenure, urban/rural classification, victim status and area deprivation.

- Those classified as working in the routine and manual occupations (15.6%) were more likely to have been offered illicit drugs *in the last year* than in any other occupation group (in comparison to 11.5% of the managerial and professional occupations group, 10.6% of the intermediate occupations group and 6% of those classed as not working or long-term unemployed).
- One in five of those who privately rent (20.8%) reported being offered illicit drugs *in the last year*, in comparison to 13.3% of those who socially rent and 7.7% of those who are owner occupiers.
- Those living in urban areas were almost twice as likely to report being offered illicit drugs *in the last year* compared to those living in rural areas (11.6% and 6.2% respectively).
- Victims of crime, as measured by the SCJS 2012/13, were more than twice as likely to have been offered illicit drugs *in the last year* as those who did not report being a victim of crime (18.5% and 9% respectively).
- Those classified as living in the 15% most deprived areas based on the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation were more likely to report being offered illicit drugs *in the last year* than those not living in the 15% most deprived areas (14.3% compared to 10%).

2.6.4 Variation in being offered drugs by drug use in the last year

Around one in ten adults (10.6%) reported that someone had offered to give or sell them illicit drugs *in the last year*. Of those who had not taken drugs *in the last year*, 6.4% said that they had been offered illicit drugs *in the last year*. This was also a finding in the SCJS 2010/11 and demonstrates that it is not necessarily the case that those reporting being offered illicit drugs would have actually used any illicit drug.

2.7 New Drugs

To ensure consistency with previous SCJS Drug Use reports, all new drugs were excluded from the main analysis in the rest of the report due to the small percentages involved. As previously mentioned, in the SCJS 2012/13 questionnaire, respondents were asked whether they had taken any of five drugs from a group of new drugs (BZP, GBL, synthetic cannabinoids, khat or salvia divinorum) and separately whether they had taken the new drug mephedrone. These same drugs were asked about in the 2010/11 survey, with the exception of salvia divinorum which was added for the first time in 2012/13.

- 2.3% of adults reported taking any of the new drugs *ever* in the SCJS 2012/13 in comparison to 1.8% in the SCJS 2010/11.
- 0.5% of adults reported taking any of the new drugs *in the last year* in the SCJS 2012/13 in comparison to 0.7% in the SCJS 2010/11
- 0.1% of adults reporting taking any of the new drugs *in the last month* in the SCJS 2012/13 in comparison to 0.2% in the SCJS 2010/11.

Self-reported use of new drugs *ever* varied significantly²⁷ by gender and by age. The strongest differences were in relation to age.²⁸ Of the 2.3% of adults who reported using any new drug *ever* (Base: 100), 3.6% of men reported using new drugs *at*

²⁷ Significant at the $p < 0.001$ level.

²⁸ Strength of association measured using Phi/Cramer's V tests.

some point in their lives in comparison to 1.1% of women. There were also variations in self-reported use of new drugs *ever* by age with the youngest age group (16-24) more likely to reported use of new drugs *at some point in their lives* (6.1%) in comparison to those aged 25 to 44 (3.8%) and those aged 45 to 59 (0.7%).

Whilst the percentage of adults *ever* using any of the new drugs has increased – the percentage of adults reporting use of the new drugs *in the last year* and *in the last month* has declined between 2010/11 and 2012/13. However, these changes were not statistically significant.

Similarly to the findings of the SCJS 2010/11, of the new drugs, mephedrone was the most commonly reported drug for all three time periods: 1.4% of respondents reported taking mephedrone *ever*, 0.4% reported taking it *in the last year*, and 0.1% reported taking it *in the last month*. Comparing this to the SCJS 2010/11 findings, whilst the percentage of adults reporting the use of mephedrone *ever* increased from 1.2% in 2010/11 to 1.4% in 2012/13 – the number of adults reporting use of mephedrone *in the last year* and *in the last month* has decreased (0.7% reported taking mephedrone in the last year and 0.2% reported taking mephedrone *in the last month* in the SCJS 2010/11). The decrease in the number of adults reporting use of mephedrone in *the last year* between 2010/11 and 2012/13 (-0.3) was the only statistically significant change amongst new drugs, however this finding should be treated with caution. The significance test found that the estimated change of 0.3 percentage points is on the borderline of significance at the 95% confidence level. In addition, it should be noted that the test is based upon survey estimates rounded to one decimal place (and indeed the tests also incorporate estimated survey design effects).

3 THE EXPERIENCES OF ADULTS REPORTING DRUG USE IN SCOTLAND

3.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the experiences of those who reported drug use. As previously mentioned, 23% of all adults over 16 said that they had used one or more illicit drugs *at some point in their lives*. Of the adults who had used drugs *at some point in their lives*, over one quarter (27%) had used drugs *in the last year*. Just over one in twenty of all adults (6.2%) said that they had used one or more illicit drugs *in the last year* with 3.3% saying that they had used one or more illicit drug *in the last month*. This chapter begins by examining self-reported drug use *in the last year* before going on to specifically focus on the experiences of adults over 16 who have used one or more illicit drugs *in the last month* looking at frequency of use; drug dependency; ease of obtaining drugs in the last month; and accessibility of drugs. This chapter has a particular focus on drug use *in the last month* as this time frame is most useful when examining drug dependency. This chapter then examines experience of drug use *in the last year* with regards to specific drugs; polydrug use; and joint use of alcohol and drugs. This chapter concludes by examining experience of drug use *ever* by specifically looking at age at which drug was first used; drug first used; and methods of taking drugs.

Chapter Findings

Self-reported drug use in the last year

Of the 6.2% of adults who reported using any illicit drugs *in the last year* (Base: 490), eight in ten (82.9%) said that they had used cannabis; 41.7% said that they had taken stimulants; 12.4% said that they had used downers/tranquilisers; 7% said that they had taken psychedelics; and 5.2% said that they had taken opiates in that time.

Frequency of drug use

Of adults who had used at least one type of illicit drug *in the last month* (3.3%, Base: 270), three quarters (75.9%) reported that cannabis was their most frequently used drug; one in ten (10.2%) reported that cocaine was their most frequently used drug; and 3.1% reported that ecstasy was their most frequently used drug *in the last month*.

Of adults who had used at least one type of illicit drug *in the last month* (3.3%, Base: 270), three in ten (30.2%) had used their most frequently used drug every day or almost every day and over a third (34.1%) had used their most frequently used drug once or twice in the last month.

Drug dependency

Of those who reported using drugs *in the last month* (3.3%, Base: 270):

- More than half (54.4%) reported that they did not feel dependent nor had tried to cut down and more than two fifths (44.6%) reported that they had felt dependent on the drug used most often *in the last month* or had tried to cut down but could not;

- More than a third (38.4%) said that they had tried to cut down on the drug they used most often *in the last month* and almost one quarter (23.2%) said that they felt dependent upon the drug used most often *in the last month*;
- Almost one fifth (17%) reported that they felt dependent and tried to cut down.

Ease of obtaining drugs

The majority of adults, who had taken drugs *in the last month* (Base: 270), said that it was either very easy (45.4%) or fairly easy (39%) to get hold of the drug used most often *in the last month*. Far fewer said that it was either fairly difficult (10.9%) or very difficult (4.4%) to get hold of the drug used most often *in the last month*.

Polydrug use/mixing alcohol and drugs

Amongst those that take drugs, polydrug use is common. Of those taking more than one drug *in the last year* (Base: 206), 54.1% of adults reported that they had taken different drugs together at the same time.

Of those who had taken at least one illicit drug *in the last year* (Base: 490), around three out of five adults (64.2%) reported that they had consumed alcohol at the same time as taking drugs.

First drug use

All respondents who reported having ever taken drugs (23%, Base: 2170) were asked what age they were when they first took drugs and what the first drug they used was.

- The most common age for first trying drugs was the late teens (16-19 years) with over half (51.2%) of those who had reported taking drugs *at some point in their lives* first trying them at this age.
- Around one quarter of adults (24.2%) said that they had first used drugs aged less than 16 and 0.8% said that they were less than 10 years old when they first tried drugs.

The majority of adults reported that their first drug used was cannabis (79.7%) with much fewer having first tried any stimulant drug (11.9%); any psychedelic drug (3.7%); or tranquilisers/downers (0.8%).

Methods of taking drugs

Of those adults who reported having used drugs *at some point in their lives*, the majority (92.2%) said that that they had taken them by smoking, sniffing or inhaling them.

3.2 Self-reported drug use in the last year and in the last month

Figure 3.1 shows the percentage of adults who had used each illicit drug *in the last year* looking only at adults who had used drugs *in the last year*.

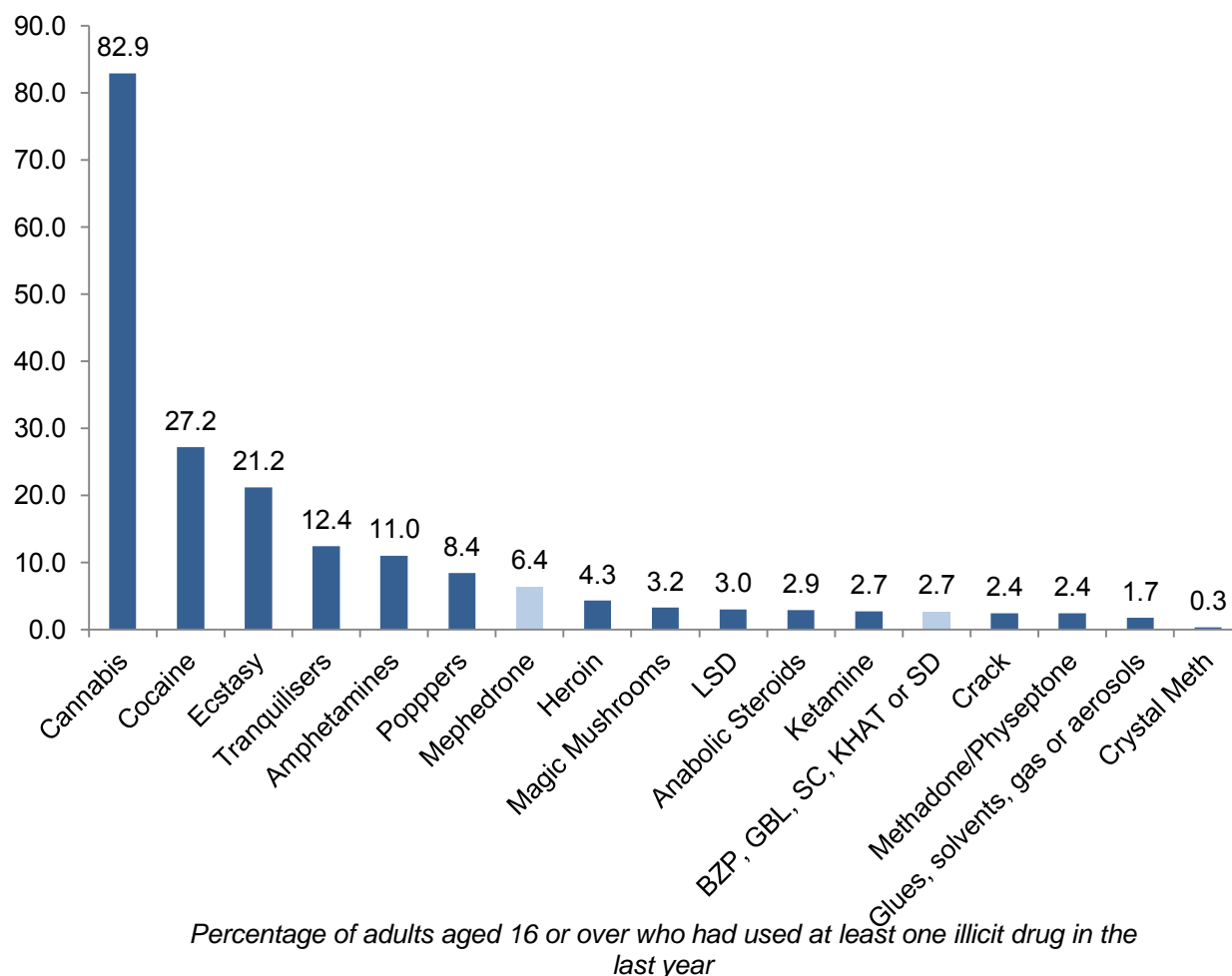
- More than eight in ten adults (82.9%) who reported using any illicit drugs *in the last year* said that they had used cannabis in that time. This represents a decrease in comparison to the SCJS 2010/11 (83.6%) however this was not statistically significant.

- Of all adults taking drugs *in the last year*, 41.7% said that they had taken stimulants; 12.4% said that they had used downers/tranquilisers; 7% said that they had taken psychedelics; and 5.2% said that they had taken opiates. There has been a decrease in the number of adults, who had used drugs *in the last year*, reporting use of stimulants, psychedelics and downers/tranquilisers *in the last year* but an increase in those reporting opiate use in comparison to the SCJS 2010/11 however there were no statistically significant changes.
- Of all adults taking drugs *in the last year*, 6.4% said that they had taken the new drug mephedrone and 2.7% said that they had taken any of the five drugs in the new drugs category.²⁹ (For information on those taking new drugs out of all adults see **section 2.7**).

²⁹ The bars for new drugs (mephedrone and the new drugs category comprising BZP, GBL, SC, Khat and SD), which are excluded from the overall analysis in the report, are shaded light blue.

Figure 3.1: % each drug type used where used one or more illicit drugs in the last year

SCJS 2012/13



Base: Adults aged 16 or over who had used at least one illicit drug in the last year (490)
Variable Name: Q12M

Examining only adults who had used drugs *in the last month* (3.3%), figure 3.2 shows the percentage of adults who had used each illicit drug *in the last month*.³⁰

- 80.7% of adults who said that they had used any illicit drug *in the last month* reported using cannabis in that time.
- 19.3% of adults who said that they had used any illicit drug *in the last month* reported using cocaine.
- Of all adults taking drugs *in the last month*, 30.2% of adults reported using stimulants; 8.2% of adults reported using tranquilisers/downers; 7.3% of adults reported using opiates; and 3.7% of adults reported using psychedelics. There has been a decrease in the number of adults, who had used drugs *in the last month*, reporting use of stimulants, psychedelics and downers/tranquilisers but an increase in those reporting opiate use *in the last*

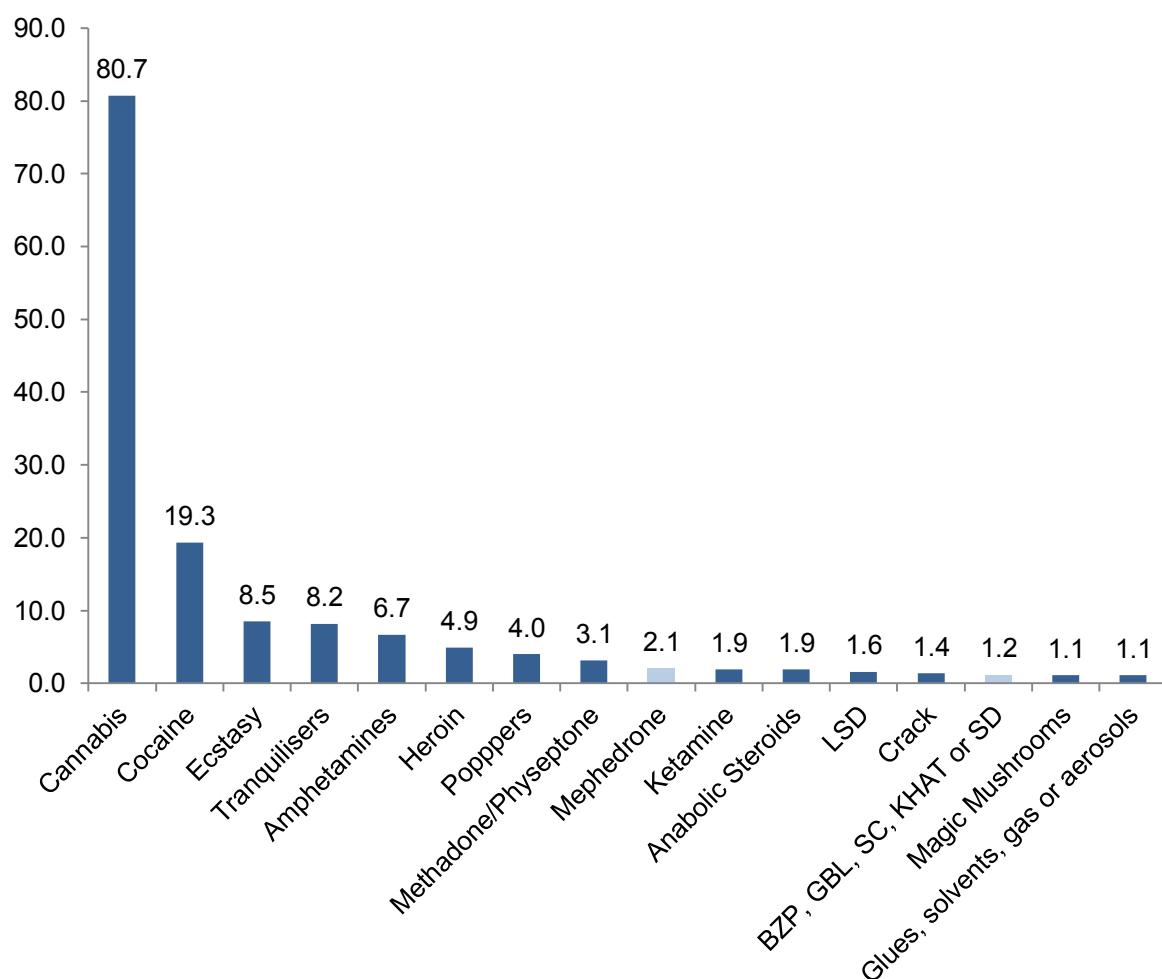
³⁰ The bars for new drugs (mephedrone and the new drugs category comprising BZP, GBL, SC, Khat and SD), which are excluded from the overall analysis in the report, are shaded light blue.

month between 2010/11 and 2012/13. However, these changes were not statistically significant.

- No respondents stated that they had used crystal meth *in the last month*.

Figure 3.2: % each drug type where used one or more illicit drugs in the last month

SCJS 2012/13



Percentage of adults aged 16 or over who had used at least one illicit drug in the last month

Base: Adults aged 16 or over who had used at least one illicit drug in the month (270)

Variable Name: Q1M

3.3 Experiences of drug use in the last month

This section examines the single illicit drug reported as being used most often *in the month prior to the survey interview*; the frequency with which that drug was used; perceptions of dependency on that drug; and access to that drug.

As previously mentioned cannabis was the most commonly reported drug used by all adults (5.1%) in the month before the survey interview. Looking only at those who reported drug use *in the last month* (3.3% of adults), it was found that:

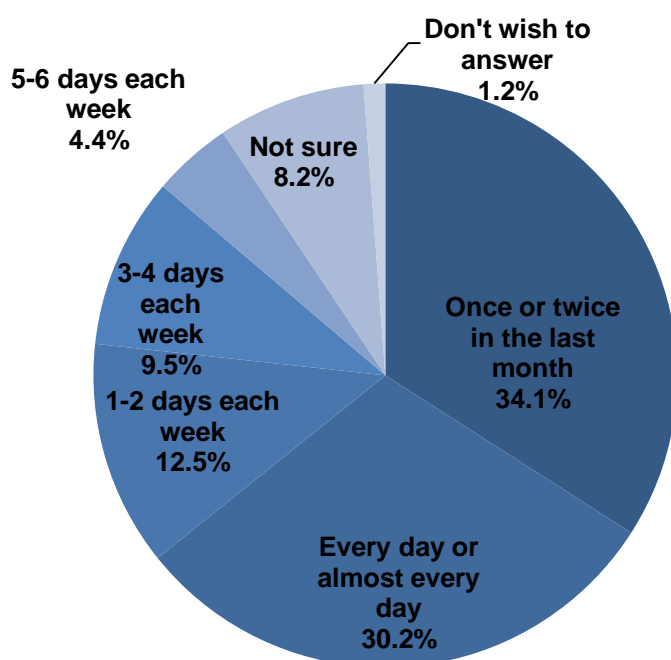
- Around three quarters of adults (75.9%) reported that cannabis was their most frequently used drug *in the last month*;
- Around one in ten adults (10.2%) reported that cocaine was their most frequently used drug *in the last month*;
- 3.1% of adults reported that ecstasy was their most frequently used drug *in the last month*;
- Stimulants were the most used drug *in the last month* (16.1% of adults reported use of this composite group);
- 3.5% of adults reported that opiate drugs were the most used *in the last month*;
- No adults reported crack, LSD, magic mushrooms, crystal meth, ketamine or glues, solvents, gas or aerosols as the drug used most often *in the last month*.

3.3.1 Drug used more often in the last month – frequency of use

Of the 3.3% of adults (Base: 270) who reported using drugs *in the last month*, around a third (34.1%) reported using their most frequently used drug once or twice *in the last month*. Three out of ten (30.2%) reported using their most frequently used drug on almost a daily basis. Around a quarter reported frequency of use of the drug they used most often *in the last month*, less than every day, but at least once a week or more, with just over one in ten (12.5%) reporting use of this drug 1-2 days a week, just under one in ten (9.5%) reporting using this drug 3-4 days each week and just under one in twenty (4.4%) using their most frequently used drug 5-6 days a week (see **figure 3.3**).

Figure 3.3: % who reported drug use in the last month by how frequently they have used the drug they use most often

SCJS 2012/13



Base: adults aged 16 or over who have used at least one illicit drug in the last month (270)
Variable Name: QDROFT

Table 3.1 shows the changes in frequency of use of the drug used most often *in the last month* between 2008/09 and 2012/13 and between 2010/11 and 2012/13. The table shows that there has been an increase from 20.9% to 30.2% in the number of adults reporting that they use their most frequently used drug every day or almost every day between 2008/09 and 2012/13. However, there were no statistically significant changes in frequency of use of the drug used most often *in the last month* between 2008/09 and 2012/13.

Table 3.1: Trends in frequency of use of the drug used most often in the last month from 2008/09 to 2012/13

Percentage of adults aged 16 and over who had used an illicit drug in the last month					% change 2008/09	% change 2010/11
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13	2012/13	2012/13
Once or twice in last month	38.1	34.5	37.4	34.1	-4.0	-3.3
Every day or almost every day	20.9	16.5	24.3	30.2	9.3	5.9
Base	380	440	310	270		

Base: adults aged 16 or over who had used at least one illicit drug in the last month
Variable: QDROFT

3.3.2 Variation in drug used most often in the last month and frequency of use

Frequency of use of the drug used most often *in the last month* varied by gender and by age. Frequency of drug use on an almost daily basis and frequency of drug use once or twice a month were specifically examined.³¹

Gender

Base: Adults aged 16 and over within group: Men: 200, Women: 70

- Men were more likely to report using their most frequently used drug on an almost daily basis *in the last month* (34.2%) in comparison to women (17.8%).
- Women were more likely to report using their most frequently used drug once or twice *in the last month* (50.3%) in comparison to men (28.9%).

Age

Bases: Adults aged 16 and over within group: Aged: 16-24 - 70; Aged: 25-44 - 150; Aged: 45-59 - 50; Aged 60+: #

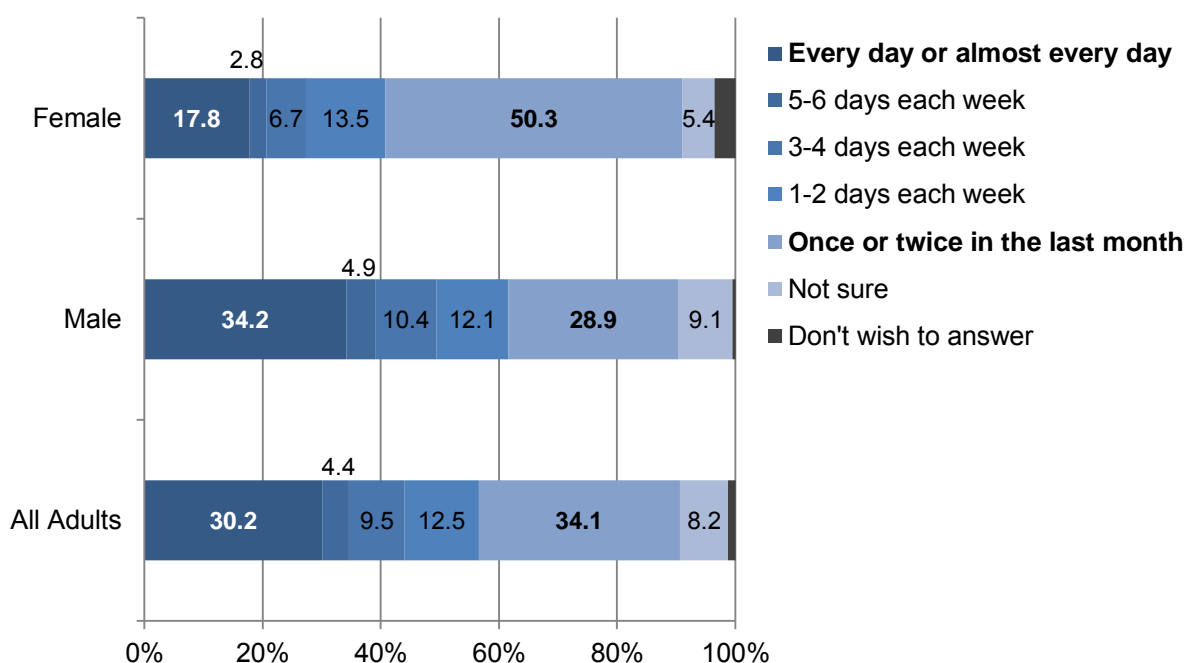
- Around three out of 10 of those aged 16 -24 (27.9%), 25-44 (29.3%) and 45-59 (34.6%) reported using their most frequently used drug on an almost daily basis.

Figure 3.4 illustrates the association between gender and frequency of drug use for the drug used most often *in the last month*.

³¹ Due to small base sizes it was not possible to test whether variations were statistically significant.

Figure 3.4: % frequency of drug use in the last month by gender

SCJS 2012/13



Percentage of adults aged 16 and over within group who had used an illicit drug in the last month

Base: adults, males and females aged 16 or over who had used at least one illicit drug in the last month (Adults: 270 Males: 200 Females: 70)

Variable Names: QDROFT and QDGEN

3.3.3 Drug Dependency

Of those who had used at least one illicit drug *in the last month* (3.3% of adults, Base: 270):

- Almost a quarter (23.2%) said that they felt dependent upon the drug they used most often *in the last month*;
- More than a third (38.4%) said that they had tried to cut down on the drug they used most often *in the last month* whilst almost two thirds (61.6%) said that they had not tried to cut down on the drug used more often *in the last month*;
- More than two fifths (44.6%) reported that they had felt dependent on the drug used most often *in the last month* or had tried to cut down but could not;
- Almost one fifth (17%) reported that they felt dependent and tried to cut down;
- More than half (54.4%) reported that they did not feel dependent nor had tried to cut down.

Drug dependency by specific drug

Of those who had used at least one illicit drug *in the last month* (Base: 270), when asked about the drug they used most often, one in five adults (20.1%) who used cannabis most often reported feeling they needed or were dependent on this drug; this was a much greater proportion than for other drugs:

- 20.1% said that they felt they needed/were dependent on cannabis;

- 2% said that they felt they needed/were dependent on any opiate drugs;
- 0.5% said they felt they needed/were dependent on any downers/tranquillisers;
- 0.5% said that they felt they needed/were dependent on any stimulant drugs

Variation in drug dependency by gender, socio-economic group, tenure and area deprivation

Of those who had used at least one illicit drug *in the last month* (Base: 270), when asked whether they felt dependent on or needed the drug they took most often, this response varied significantly³² by gender; socio-economic group; tenure; and area deprivation.

- 27.9% of men reported that they had felt dependent on the drug taken most often *in the last month* in comparison to 8.9% of women.
- 38.9% of adults in the never worked and long term unemployed socio-economic group said that they felt they needed/were dependent on the drug taken most often *in the last month* in comparison to 22.8% of those in the routine and manual socio-economic group.
- 36% of adults who socially rented said that they felt they needed/were dependent on the drug taken most often *in the last month* in comparison to 16.9% of those who privately rented and 8.1% of owner occupiers.
- 35.7% of adults living in the 15% most deprived areas in Scotland said that they felt they needed/were dependent on the drug taken most often *in the last month* in comparison to 19.7% of those who do not live in these areas.

3.3.4 Ease of obtaining drugs in the last month

Those who had taken drugs *in the last month* (Base: 270) were asked how difficult it was to get hold of the drug used most often *in the last month*. The majority said that this was very easy (45.4%) or fairly easy (39%) whilst far fewer said that it was either fairly difficult (10.9%) or very difficult (4.4%) to get hold of the drug used most often *in the last month*. There has been a decrease from 48.6% to 45.4% in the number of adults reporting that it was very easy to get hold of the drug use most often *in the last month* between 2008/09 and 2012/13. There has been an increase from 2.4% to 4.4% in the number of adults reporting that getting hold of the drug used most often *in the last month* was very difficult between 2008/09 and 2012/13. However, these changes were not statistically significant.

3.3.5 Access to drugs in the last month

Those who had taken drugs *in the last month* (Base: 270) were asked who or where they got the drug used most often *in the last month* from, with specific reference to the last time they took the drug.

- Over a third (36.8%) said that they had got their drug taken most often *in the last month*, the last time they used it, from „someone well known“ to them (e.g. a friend, neighbour or work colleague).
- One in five adults (21.6%) said that they got it from a known dealer.

³² Significant at the $p < 0.001$ level.

- One in ten adults (9.8%) said they had got it from a dealer not known to them personally.
- Just under one in ten (9.5%) said that they had got it from someone known to them only by sight or to speak to casually.
- 6.8% said that they had got it from a stranger.
- 1.8% said they had got it from a shop, 1.6% from a family member and 0.4% from the internet.

3.4 Experiences of drug use in the last year

This section will focus on the experience of drug use *in the last year* by examining experiences of the most commonly used drugs *in the last year*, polydrug use; and joint consumption of alcohol and drugs.

3.4.1 Experiences of use of most prevalent drugs

Cannabis

Base: 410

As previously mentioned, cannabis is the most used drug *in the last month, last year and ever*. All adults over 16 who had used cannabis *in the last year* were asked to describe their use of this drug. Of the 5.1% of adults who reported using cannabis *in the last year*:

- Over a quarter of adults (25.7%) said that it was something that they had tried once or twice;
- Nearly three fifths of adults (58.3%) said that it was something that they had used more than once or twice but would not or did not have difficulty giving it up if they wanted to;
- Three out of twenty adults (14.8%) said that cannabis was something that they needed or were dependent on at the time of the survey or in the last year.

Cocaine

Base: 140

After cannabis, cocaine was the next most commonly used drug *in the last year* (1.7%). Of all adults over 16 who reported using cocaine *in the last year*:

- Just over two fifths of adults (42.4%) said that it was something that they had tried once or twice;
- More than half of adults (55.7%) said that it was something that they had used more than once or twice but would not or did not have difficulty giving it up if they wanted to;
- 1.9% of adults said that cocaine was something that they needed or were dependent on at the time of the survey or in the last year.

Ecstasy

Base: 100

Ecstasy was the next most commonly used drug *in the last year* (1.3%). Of all respondents who reported using ecstasy *in the last year*:

- Just over two fifths of adults (42.1%) said that it was something that they had tried once or twice;
- More than half of adults (56.4%) said that it was something that they had used more than once or twice but would not or did not have difficulty giving it up if they wanted to;
- 0.3% of adults said that ecstasy was something that they needed or were dependent on at the time of the survey or *in the last year*.

Tranquillisers

Base: 60

Tranquillisers were the next most commonly used drug *in the last year* (0.8%). Of all respondents who reported using tranquilisers *in the last year*:

- Just less than a third of adults (31.1%) said that it was something that they had tried once or twice;
- Over a half of adults (53%) said that it was something that they had used more than once or twice but would not or did not have difficulty giving it up if they wanted to;
- Three out of twenty adults (15.9%) said that tranquilisers were something that they needed or were dependent on at the time of the survey or in the last year.

Amphetamines

Base: 60

Amphetamines were the next more commonly used drug in the last year (0.7%). Of all respondents who reported using amphetamines in the last year:

- A third of adults (33.6%) said that it was something that they had tried once or twice;
- Around two thirds of adults (64.1%) said that it was something that they had used more than once or twice but would not or did not have difficulty giving it up if they wanted to;
- 0.5% of adults said that amphetamines were something that they needed or were dependent on at the time of the survey or in the last year.

3.4.2 Polydrug use

Polydrug use is the use of more than one drug at the same time, often with the intention of enhancing or countering the effect of another drug. Adults over 16 were asked whether *in the last year* they had taken different drugs together at the same time. Of all adults over 16 taking more than one drug *in the last year* (Base: 206),

54.1% of adults reported that they had taken different drugs together at the same time and 45.9% said that they had not.

3.4.3 Alcohol and Drug Use

Of all respondents who had taken any illicit drugs *in the last year* (6.2% of adults; Base: 490), around two thirds of adults (64.2%) reported that they had consumed alcohol at the same time as taking drugs and just over a third of adults (35.8%) said that they had not.

Self-reported consumption of alcohol at the same time as taking drugs *in the last year* was significantly³³ associated with gender, age, socio-economic classification, housing tenure and area deprivation. The strongest differences³⁴ were in relation to socio-economic group and housing tenure (see **figure 3.5**).

- Men were more likely to report consuming alcohol at the same time as taking drugs than women (65.9% and 59.8% respectively).
- Those aged 16-24 were more likely to report consuming alcohol at the same time as taking drugs *in the last year* (67.6%) in comparison to 64.4% of those aged 25-44, 52.2% of those aged 45-59 and 53.7% of those over 60.
- Those in the managerial/professional socio-economic group were more likely to report consuming alcohol at the same time as taking drugs *in the last year* (72.6%) in comparison to 69.4% of adults in the intermediate group; 68.7% of adults in the routine and manual socio-economic group; and 50.4% of adults in the not working and long-term unemployed group.
- Owner occupiers were more likely to report consuming alcohol at the same time as taking drugs *in the last year* (72.8%) in comparison to 53.8% of those who socially rent and 65.0% who privately rent.
- Those not living in the SIMD 15% most deprived areas in Scotland were more likely to report consuming alcohol at the same time as taking drugs in the last year (66.9%) in comparison to 54.2% of adults living in the SIMD 15% most deprived areas.

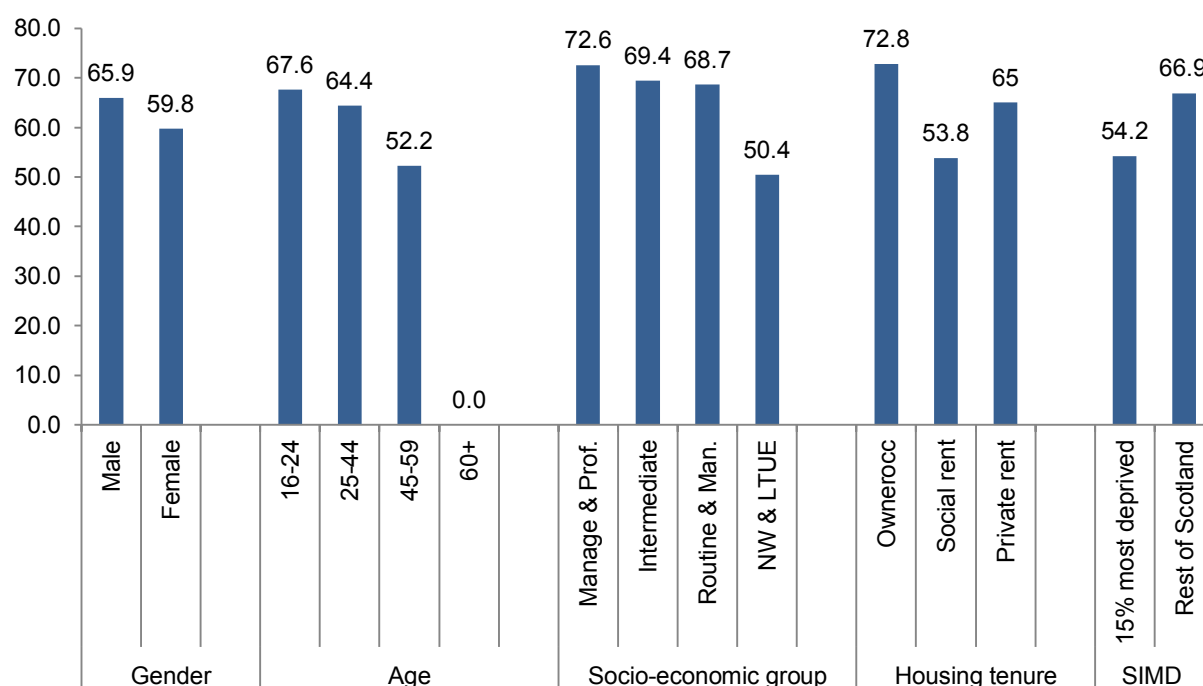
The SCJS 2012/13 findings specifically on joint consumption of alcohol and drugs amongst adults who self-reported taking any illicit drugs *in the last year* shows a different pattern than findings on drug use only *in the last year* when looking at socio-economic group, tenure and area deprivation. Those in the managerial/professional socio-economic group, those who are owner-occupiers and those not living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland were the most likely to report that they had consumed alcohol and drugs at the same time from all those who have taken drugs in the last year. These are the three groups which are the least likely to report any illicit drug use *in the last year* based on all respondents (see **figure 2.8**).

³³ Significant at the $p < 0.001$ level.

³⁴ Strength of association measured using Phi/Cramer's V tests.

Figure 3.5: % reporting consumption of alcohol at the same time as using drugs by gender, age, socio-economic group, housing tenure and SIMD Index

SCJS 2012/13



Percentage of adults aged 16 and over within group who had used one or more illicit drugs in the last year

Base: adults aged 16 or over who have reported use of one or more illicit drugs in the last year within group)³⁵

Variables Names: Q12MALC; QDGEN; TABAGE; TABN SSEC; TABTEN; SIMD_TOP

3.5 Experiences of adults who have taken drugs at some point in their lives

Having examined experiences of drug use *in the last month* and *in the last year* – this section will explore experiences of drug use of all adults who reported taking illicit drugs *at some point in their lives* (Base: 2170) through examining: age at which drugs used were first taken; first drug ever used; and methods of taking drugs.

3.5.1 Age at which drugs first taken

All adults aged 16 and over who reported having *ever* taken drugs were asked what age they were when they first took drugs. **Figure 3.6** shows that:

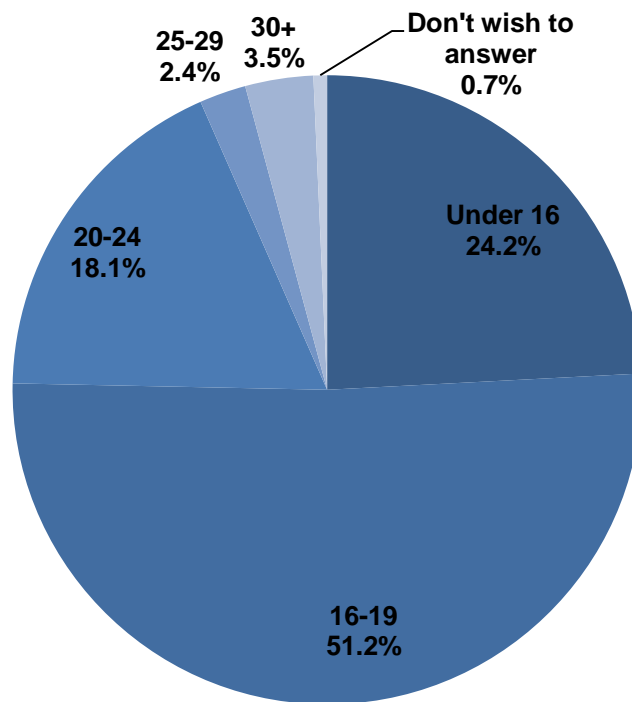
- The most common age for first trying drugs was the late teens (16-19) with over half (51.2%) of those who had reported taking drugs at some point in their lives first trying them at this age;

³⁵ Base sizes: Gender (Male: 340 Female: 160) : Age: (16-24: 130, 25-44: 280, 45-59: 80; 60+: #) Socio-economic groups (Manage & Prof: 80, Intermediate: 80, Routine and Man: 160, NW & LTU: 140), housing tenure groups (Owner occupied: 170, Social rented: 190, Private rented: 120) and SIMD index (15% most: 100, Rest of Scotland: 400)

- Around one quarter of adults (24.2%) said that they had first used drugs aged under 16 and of those 0.8% said that they were less than 10 years old when they first tried drugs;
- A small proportion of adults reported first trying drugs aged over 30 (3.5%).

Figure 3.6: Age at which drugs were first taken

SCJS 2012/13



*Base: adults aged 16 or over who had ever used at least one illicit drug (2170)
Variable Name: QDRAGE*

3.5.2 Variations in the age at which drugs first taken

Age at which drugs were first taken was significantly³⁶ associated with gender, socio-economic classification, housing tenure, victim status and area deprivation. The strongest differences³⁷ were in relation to socio-economic group and housing tenure.

- Men were more likely to report first taking drugs aged less than 16 (27.2%) in comparison to women (19.5%);
- Victims of crime were more likely to report first taking drugs aged less than 16 (31.2%) in comparison to non-victims (21.8%);
- Adults in routine & manual work (29.2%) and adults classified as not working or long-term unemployed (29%) were more likely to report having first taken drugs aged less than 16 than those in intermediate occupations (23.7%) and those in managerial and professional occupations (16.1%);

³⁶ Significant at the $p < 0.001$ level.

³⁷ Strength of association measured using Phi/Cramer's V tests.

- Those living in socially rented housing were more likely to report first taking drugs aged less than 16 (37.8%) than those living in private accommodation (25.9%) and owner-occupiers (16.9%);
- Those living in the SIMD 15% most deprived areas were more likely to report first taking drugs aged less than 16 (30.6%) compared with those not living in these areas (23%).

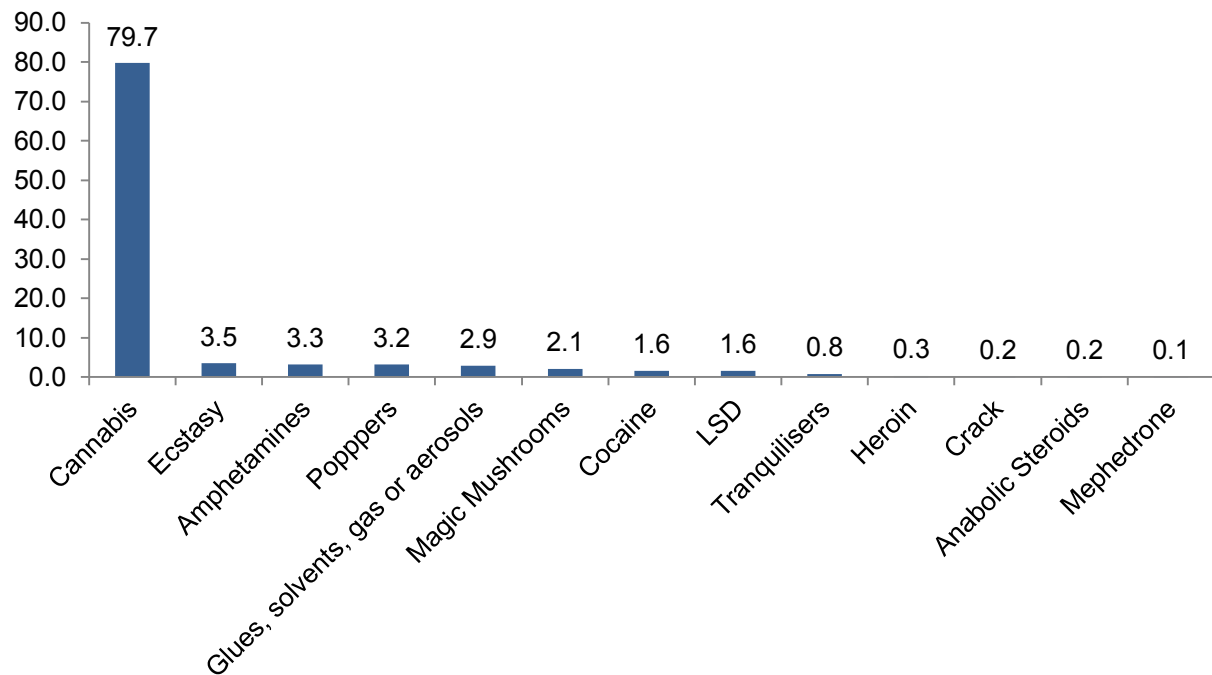
3.5.3 First drug ever used

Respondents who had *ever* used one or more illicit drugs were asked what the first drug they had ever used was (see **figure 3.7**).

- The majority of adults reported that their first drug used was cannabis (79.7%).
- Over one in ten adults (11.9%) reported that their first drug used was any stimulant drug with 3.5% having first tried ecstasy and 3.3% stated amphetamines, 3.2% stated poppers and 1.6% stated cocaine as their first drug used.
- 3.7% said that their first drug used was a psychedelic drug including 2.1% that stated magic mushrooms and 1.6% that stated LSD as first drug used.
- 0.8% of adults reported that their first drug used was any tranquilisers/downers.
- 2.9% said that their first drug used was glues, solvents, gas or aerosols.
- 0.3% of adults reported that their first drug used the opiate drug heroin.

Figure 3.7: First drug ever used

SCJS 2012/13



Percentage of adults aged 16 or over who had ever used at least one illicit drug

Base: Adults aged 16 or over who had ever used at least one illicit drug (2,170)

Variable Name: QDR1ST

Cannabis was the most commonly stated drug first used for all age ranges. Adults who first used drugs aged over 25 were more likely to report tranquilisers/downers as their first drug used (5.5%) in comparison to 0.8% of all adults. Of those who were under 16 years when they first used drugs, 10.8% said that their drug first used was either glues, solvents, gas or aerosols, this compares with a much lower first use of glues, solvents etc. by those aged 16-19 (0.5%) and those aged 20 or over (0.4%).

3.5.4 Methods of taking drugs ever tried

Of those adults who reported having used drugs *at some point in their lives*, the majority (92.2%) said that that they had taken them by smoking, sniffing or inhaling them. Around two in five (41.3%) also reported that they had tried to swallow, eat or drink drugs. 2.1% of adults said that they had injected drugs and 0.7% said that they had used another method.

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ANNEX 1: 2012/13 DATA TABLES

The following tables provide data for some of the key measures of illicit drugs use. Notes on how to read and interpret these tables are given below

Notes:

The classification of drugs used in this report is detailed in section 1.5.

The definition of time periods shown are:

Ever: at any time in an individual's life

In the last year: in the 12 months prior to interview

In the last month: in the month prior to interview

Base figures are shown in the bottom row of Annex 1 tables. Class refers to the legal classification of drugs. Composite drug groups include:

Any stimulants: cocaine, crack, crystal meth, ecstasy, amphetamines and poppers

Any opiates: heroin and methadone/ physeptone

Any psychedelics: LSD, magic mushrooms and ketamine

Any downers / tranquilisers: temazepam and valium

Any new drugs: BZP, GBL, khat, mephedrone, synthetic cannabinoids (SC) and salvia divinorum (SD)

Table abbreviations

„-“ indicates that no respondents gave an answer in the category

„*“ indicates an answer of less than 0.05%

indicates that base is < 50

Data Tables Contents:

Table **A1.1**: % of **adults aged 16 or over** who reported having *ever* used illicit drugs, used illicit drugs in the *last year*, and used illicit drugs in the *last month*

Table **A1.2A**: % of **adults aged 16 or over** who reported having *ever* used illicit drugs, **2008/09 vs 2009/10 vs 2010/11 vs 2012/13**

Table **A1.2B**: % of **adults aged 16 or over** who reported having in the *last 12 months* used illicit drugs, **2008/09 vs 2009/10 vs 2010/11 vs 2012/13**

Table **A1.2C**: % of **adults aged 16 or over** who reported having in *the last month* used illicit drugs, **2008/09 vs 2009/10 vs 2010/11 vs 2012/13**

Table **A1.3**: % of adults aged 16 or over who reported having *ever* used illicit drugs, used illicit drugs *in the last year*, and used illicit drugs *in the last month* by **gender**

Table **A1.4**: % of adults aged 16 or over who reported having *ever* used illicit drugs by **age group**

Table **A1.5**: % of adults aged 16 or over who reported having used illicit drugs *in the last year* by **age group**

Table **A1.6**: % of adults aged 16 or over who reported having used illicit drugs *in the last month* by **age group**

Table **A1.7** % of **men** aged 16 or over who reported having *ever* used illicit drugs by **age group**

Table **A1.8** % of **men** aged 16 or over who reported having used illicit drugs *in the last year* by **age group**

Table **A1.9** % of **men** aged 16 or over who reported having used illicit drugs *in the last month* by **age group**

Table **A1.10** % of **women** aged 16 or over who reported having *ever* used illicit drugs by **age group**

Table **A1.11** % of **women** aged 16 or over who reported having used illicit drugs *in the last year* by **age group**

Table **A1.12** % of **women** aged 16 or over who reported having used illicit drugs *in the last month* by **age group**

Table **A1.13**: Type of **drug first taken** and **age at which first taken** among **men** who reported ever using illicit drugs

Table **A1.14** Type of **drug first taken** and **age at which first taken** among **women** who reported ever using illicit drugs

Table **A1.15** % of **men** aged 16 or over who reported someone having **offered to sell or give them drugs** *in the last year* by **age group**

Table **A1.16** % of **women** aged 16 or over who reported someone having **offered to sell or give them drugs** *in the last year* by **age group**

Table **A1.17** **Polydrug and drug and alcohol use** *in the last 12 months* among adults over 16 using illicit drugs *in the last 12 months*

Table A1.1: % of adults aged 16 or over who reported having ever used illicit drugs, used illicit drugs in the *last year*, and used illicit drugs in the *last month*

SCJS 2012/13

<i>Percentage of all adults aged 16 and over</i>	Ever	In last year	In last month
CLASS A	12.9	2.6	1.1
Cocaine	7.2	1.7	0.6
Crack	0.7	0.2	*
Ecstasy	7.8	1.3	0.3
Heroin	1.0	0.3	0.2
Methadone/Physeptone	0.7	0.1	0.1
LSD	5.2	0.2	0.1
Magic mushrooms	5.4	0.2	*
CLASS B	21.6	5.3	2.8
Amphetamines	7.8	0.7	0.2
Crystal Meth	0.3	*	-
Cannabis	21.1	5.1	2.7
CLASS C	3.8	1.0	0.4
Anabolic Steroids	0.5	0.2	0.1
Ketamine	1.5	0.2	0.1
Tranquilisers	2.8	0.8	0.3
NOT CLASSIFIED			
Glues/solvents/gas/aerosols	1.9	0.1	*
Poppers	5.8	0.5	0.1
NEW DRUGS	2.3	0.5	0.1
Mephedrone	1.4	0.4	0.1
BZP, GBL, Khat, SC or SD	1.4	0.2	*
ANY STIMULANTS	12.3	2.6	1.0
ANY OPIATES	1.1	0.3	0.2
ANY PSYCHEDELICS	7.5	0.4	0.1
ANY DOWNERS / TRANQUILISERS	2.8	0.8	0.3
ANY DRUGS	23.0	6.2	3.3
ANY DRUGS EX. NEW DRUGS	23.0	6.2	3.3
Base (All respondents):	10,220	10,220	10,220

Variable Names: QEVE, Q12M, Q1M

Table A1.2A: % of adults aged 16 or over who reported having ever used illicit drugs, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2012/13

SCJS 2008/09; 2009/10; 2010/11; 2012/13

At some point in their lives				
<i>Percentage of all adults aged 16 and over</i>	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13
CLASS A	11.7	11.7	11.7	12.9
Cocaine	6.6	6.7	7.1	7.2
Crack	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.7
Ecstasy	7.2	7.4	7.2	7.8
Heroin	0.9	0.9	0.7	1.0
Methadone/Physeptone	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7
LSD	4.9	4.6	4.9	5.2
Magic mushrooms	5.5	5.3	5.2	5.4
CLASS B	23.6	23.5	22.2	21.6
Amphetamines	7.5	7.6	7.8	7.8
Crystal Meth	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Cannabis	22.9	22.9	21.6	21.1
CLASS C	5.7	4.8	5.2	3.8
Anabolic Steroids	0.5	0.4	0.3	0.5
Ketamine	1.2	1.3	1.2	1.5
Temazepam*	2.5	2.1	2.0	-
Valium*	4.2	3.4	3.9	-
Any Downers / Tranquilisers	5.0	4.1	4.6	2.8
NOT CLASSIFIED				
Glues/solvents/gas/aerosols	2.3	2.0	2.2	1.9
Poppers	6.5	6.6	6.4	5.8
ANY STIMULANTS	12.6	12.7	12.5	12.3
ANY OPIATES	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1
ANY PSYCHEDELICS	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.5
ANY DOWNERS / TRANQUILISERS	5.0	4.1	4.6	2.8
ANY DRUGS	25.6	25.2	23.7	23.0
Base (All respondents):	10,960	13,410	10,980	10,220

Variable Name: QEVE

Table A1.2B: % of adults aged 16 or over who reported having in the last 12 months used illicit drugs, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2012/13

SCJS 2008/09; 2009/10; 2010/11; 2012/13

In the last 12 months				
<i>Percentage of all adults aged 16 and over</i>	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13
CLASS A	3.4	3.0	2.6	2.6
Cocaine	2.7	2.1	1.9	1.7
Crack	0.2	0.1	1.9	0.2
Ecstasy	1.8	1.9	1.4	1.3
Heroin	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.3
Methadone/Physeptone	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1
LSD	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Magic mushrooms	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2
CLASS B	6.4	6.2	5.7	5.3
Amphetamines	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.7
Crystal Meth	*	*	*	*
Cannabis	6.2	6.1	5.6	5.1
CLASS C	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.0
Anabolic Steroids	0.1	*	0.1	0.2
Ketamine	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2
Temazepam*	0.4	0.4	0.3	-
Valium*	1.1	0.9	1.0	-
Any Downers / Tranquilisers	1.2	1.0	1.1	0.8
NOT CLASSIFIED				
Glues/solvents/gas/aerosols	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Poppers	1.0	0.9	0.6	0.5
ANY STIMULANTS	3.9	3.3	2.8	2.6
ANY OPIATES	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.3
ANY PSYCHEDELICS	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.4
ANY DOWNERS / TRANQUILISERS	1.2	1.0	1.1	0.8
ANY DRUGS	7.6	7.2	6.7	6.2
Base (All respondents):	10,960	13,410	10,980	10,220

*Separate data on Temazepam and Valium not available 2012/13

Variable Name: Q12M

Table A1.2C: % of adults aged 16 or over who reported having in the last month used illicit drugs, 2008/09 vs 2009/10 vs 2010/11 vs 2012/13

SCJS 2008/09; 2009/10; 2010/11; 2012/13

<i>Percentage of all adults aged 16 and over</i>	In the last month			
	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2012/13
CLASS A	1.8	1.3	1.2	1.1
Cocaine	1.2	0.7	0.7	0.6
Crack	0.1	0.1	0.1	*
Ecstasy	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.3
Heroin	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2
Methadone/Physeptone	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
LSD	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Magic mushrooms	0.2	0.1	0.1	*
CLASS B	3.6	3.7	3.0	2.8
Amphetamines	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2
Crystal Meth	*	*	-	-
Cannabis	3.5	3.6	2.7	2.7
CLASS C	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.4
Anabolic Steroids	*	*	0.1	0.1
Ketamine	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Temazepam*	0.1	0.2	0.1	-
Valium*	0.6	0.5	0.4	-
Tranquilisers	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.3
NOT CLASSIFIED				
Glues/solvents/gas/aerosols	*	*	*	*
Poppers	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
ANY STIMULANTS	1.9	1.3	1.2	1.0
ANY OPIATES	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2
ANY PSYCHEDELICS	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
ANY DOWNERS / TRANQUILISERS	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.3
ANY DRUGS	4.4	4.2	3.5	3.3
Base (All respondents):	10,960	13,410	10,980	10,220

*Separate data on Temazepam and Valium not available 2012/13

Variable Name: Q1M

Table A1.3: % of adults aged 16 or over who reported having ever used illicit drugs, used illicit drugs in the *last year*, and used illicit drugs in the *last month* by gender

SCJS 2012/13

<i>Percentage of all adults aged 16 and over</i>	Ever		In last year		In last month	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
CLASS A	17.3	8.9	4.1	1.3	1.9	0.4
Cocaine	10.3	4.3	2.7	0.8	1.2	0.2
Crack	1.0	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	*
Ecstasy	10.9	5.0	2.2	0.5	0.5	*
Heroin	1.4	0.6	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.1
Methadone/Physeptone	0.9	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
LSD	7.8	2.7	0.4	*	0.1	-
Magic mushrooms	8.3	2.7	0.4	*	0.1	-
CLASS B	27.7	15.9	8.0	2.9	4.3	1.4
Amphetamines	10.6	5.2	1.1	0.3	0.3	0.1
Crystal Meth	0.4	0.1	*	-	-	-
Cannabis	27.3	15.4	7.7	2.8	4.2	1.3
CLASS C	5.7	2.0	1.9	0.3	0.7	0.1
Anabolic Steroids	1.0	*	0.3	*	0.1	-
Ketamine	2.4	0.6	0.3	*	0.1	-
Tranquilisers	4.1	1.7	1.4	0.2	0.5	0.1
NOT CLASSIFIED						
Glues/solvents/gas/aerosols	3.0	1.0	0.2	*	0.1	-
Poppers	8.4	3.3	0.9	0.1	0.3	-
NEW DRUGS	3.6	1.1	0.8	0.2	0.2	*
Mephedrone	2.2	0.7	0.6	0.2	0.1	*
BZP, GBL, Khat, SC or SD	2.3	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.1	*
ANY STIMULANTS	16.3	8.7	4.1	1.2	1.7	0.3
ANY OPIATES	1.6	0.7	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.2
ANY PSYCHEDELICS	11.2	4.2	0.8	0.1	0.3	-
ANY DOWNERS / TRANQUILISERS	4.1	1.7	1.4	0.2	0.5	0.1
ANY DRUGS	29.4	17.2	9.4	3.3	5.3	1.6
ANY DRUGS EX. NEW DRUGS	29.3	17.2	9.4	3.3	5.3	1.6
<i>Base:</i>	<i>4,420</i>	<i>5,800</i>	<i>4,420</i>	<i>5,800</i>	<i>4,420</i>	<i>5,800</i>

Variable Name: QEVE, Q12M, Q1M

Table A1.4: % of adults aged 16 or over who reported having ever used illicit drugs by age group

SCJS 2012/13

<i>Percentage of all adults aged 16 and over within group</i>	At some point in their lives					
	All adults	16 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 59	60+	16 - 59
CLASS A	12.9	16.9	24.7	9.1	1.1	17.6
Cocaine	7.2	11.6	14.5	3.4	0.1	10.0
Crack	0.7	0.3	1.5	0.5	*	0.9
Ecstasy	7.8	10.8	17.3	2.9	*	10.9
Heroin	1.0	0.2	2.0	1.1	0.1	1.3
Methadone/Physeptone	0.7	0.4	1.6	0.5	-	1.0
LSD	5.2	2.8	10.9	4.4	0.5	7.0
Magic mushrooms	5.4	4.6	10.7	4.7	0.4	7.3
CLASS B	21.6	28.3	36.9	18.0	4.0	28.5
Amphetamines	7.8	7.5	16.2	5.7	0.3	10.7
Crystal Meth	0.3	-	0.4	0.5	*	0.4
Cannabis	21.1	28.2	35.6	17.8	4.0	27.8
CLASS C	3.8	4.7	8.2	1.6	0.2	5.1
Anabolic Steroids	0.5	1.2	0.9	0.2	*	0.7
Ketamine	1.5	2.5	3.1	0.5	-	2.0
Tranquilisers	2.8	2.5	6.6	1.2	0.2	3.9
NOT CLASSIFIED						
Glues/solvents/gas/aerosols	1.9	2.1	4.1	1.2	-	2.7
Poppers	5.8	7.0	12.4	3.0	0.1	8.0
NEW DRUGS	2.3	6.1	3.8	0.7	*	0.0
Mephedrone	1.4	4.1	2.2	0.4	-	2.0
BZP, GBL, Khat, SC or SD	1.4	4.0	2.2	0.5	*	1.9
ANY STIMULANTS	12.3	17.5	24.3	7.6	0.5	17.0
ANY OPIATES	1.1	0.5	2.3	1.2	0.1	1.6
ANY PSYCHEDELICS	7.5	6.3	15.0	6.5	0.8	10.2
ANY DOWNERS / TRANQUILISERS	2.8	2.5	6.6	1.2	0.2	3.9
ANY DRUGS	23.0	31.3	39.1	18.9	4.3	30.4
ANY DRUGS EX. NEW DRUGS	23.0	31.2	39.0	18.9	4.3	30.3
Base:	10,220	860	3,100	2,730	3,540	6,690

Variable Name: QEVE

Table A1.5: % of adults aged 16 or over who reported having used illicit drugs in the *last year* by age group

SCJS 2012/13

<i>Percentage of all adults aged 16 and over within group</i>	In the last year					
	All adults	16 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 59	60+	16 - 59
CLASS A	2.6	5.9	4.9	0.8	-	3.7
Cocaine	1.7	3.7	3.3	0.4	-	2.4
Crack	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	-	0.2
Ecstasy	1.3	3.4	2.5	0.2	-	1.8
Heroin	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.2	-	0.4
Methadone/Physeptone	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	-	0.2
LSD	0.2	0.4	0.4	-	-	0.3
Magic mushrooms	0.2	0.9	0.1	0.1	-	0.3
CLASS B	5.3	14.0	8.2	2.3	0.3	7.3
Amphetamines	0.7	1.8	1.1	0.3	-	0.9
Crystal Meth	*	-	0.0	-	-	*
Cannabis	5.1	13.8	7.8	2.3	0.3	7.1
CLASS C	1.0	2.4	1.9	0.3	-	1.4
Anabolic Steroids	0.2	0.6	0.3	-	-	0.2
Ketamine	0.2	0.5	0.3	-	-	0.2
Tranquilisers	0.8	1.3	1.6	0.3	-	1.1
NOT CLASSIFIED						
Glues/solvents/gas/aerosols	0.1	0.6	0.1	-	-	0.2
Poppers	0.5	1.6	0.8	0.1	-	0.7
NEW DRUGS	0.5	2.1	0.6	0.1	-	0.0
Mephedrone	0.4	1.6	0.5	0.1	-	0.5
BZP, GBL, Khat, SC or SD	0.2	0.7	0.2	-	-	0.2
ANY STIMULANTS	2.6	5.9	4.9	0.6	-	3.6
ANY OPIATES	0.3	0.1	0.8	0.3	-	0.5
ANY PSYCHEDELICS	0.4	1.3	0.7	0.1	-	0.6
ANY DOWNERS / TRANQUILISERS	0.8	1.3	1.6	0.3	-	1.1
ANY DRUGS	6.2	16.4	9.7	2.5	0.3	8.5
ANY DRUGS EX. NEW DRUGS	6.2	16.4	9.7	2.5	0.3	8.5
Base:	10,220	860	3,100	2,730	3,540	6,690

Variable Name: Q12M

Table A1.6: % of adults aged 16 or over who reported having used illicit drugs in the *last month* by age group

SCJS 2012/13

<i>Percentage of all adults aged 16 and over within group</i>	In the last month					
	All adults	16 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 59	60+	16 - 59
CLASS A	1.1	3.0	1.9	0.4	-	1.6
Cocaine	0.6	1.9	1.0	0.2	-	0.9
Crack	*	-	0.1	0.1	-	0.1
Ecstasy	0.3	1.0	0.4	*	-	0.4
Heroin	0.2	*	0.4	0.1	-	0.2
Methadone/Physeptone	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	-	0.1
LSD	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	-	0.1
Magic mushrooms	*	0.2	-	-	-	0.1
CLASS B	2.8	6.7	4.2	1.6	0.3	3.8
Amphetamines	0.2	0.3	0.5	*	-	0.3
Crystal Meth	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cannabis	2.7	6.4	4.0	1.6	0.3	3.6
CLASS C	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.2	-	0.5
Anabolic Steroids	0.1	0.2	0.1	-	-	0.1
Ketamine	0.1	0.3	0.1	-	-	0.1
Tranquilisers	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.2	-	0.4
NOT CLASSIFIED						
Glues/solvents/gas/aerosols	*	0.2	-	-	-	0.1
Poppers	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.1	-	0.2
NEW DRUGS	0.1	0.5	0.1	*	-	0.1
Mephedrone	0.1	0.3	0.1	*	-	0.1
BZP, GBL, Khat, SC or SD	*	0.2	*	-	-	0.1
ANY STIMULANTS	1.0	3.0	1.5	0.3	-	1.4
ANY OPIATES	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.2	-	0.3
ANY PSYCHEDELICS	0.1	0.4	0.2	-	-	0.2
ANY DOWNERS / TRANQUILISERS	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.2	-	0.4
ANY DRUGS	3.3	8.4	5.0	1.7	0.3	4.5
ANY DRUGS EX. NEW DRUGS	3.3	8.4	5.0	1.7	0.3	4.5
Base:	10,220	860	3,100	2,730	3,540	6,690

Variable Name: Q1M

Table A1.7 % of men aged 16 or over who reported having ever used illicit drugs by age group

SCJS 2012/13

<i>Percentage of all men aged 16 and over within group</i>	Ever - Men				
	All Men	16 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 59	60+
CLASS A	17.3	20.2	31.9	12.9	1.6
Cocaine	10.3	13.5	20.5	5.7	0.2
Crack	1.0	0.3	2.3	1.0	-
Ecstasy	10.9	12.5	23.6	4.5	0.1
Heroin	1.4	0.2	2.7	1.7	0.2
Methadone/Physeptone	0.9	0.4	2.0	0.8	-
LSD	7.8	4.1	15.5	7.4	0.8
Magic mushrooms	8.3	7.6	15.7	6.8	0.8
CLASS B	27.7	33.9	45.1	23.3	6.6
Amphetamines	10.6	9.3	21.0	8.3	0.6
Crystal Meth	0.4	-	0.7	0.8	-
Cannabis	27.3	33.9	43.9	23.1	6.6
CLASS C	5.7	6.2	12.0	2.6	0.4
Anabolic Steroids	1.0	2.3	1.7	0.3	0.1
Ketamine	2.4	3.1	5.1	0.8	-
Tranquilisers	4.1	3.4	9.1	2.0	0.3
NOT CLASSIFIED					
Glues/solvents/gas/aerosols	3.0	2.8	6.1	2.2	-
Poppers	8.4	7.9	18.1	4.8	0.1
NEW DRUGS	3.6	0.1	0.1	0.0	*
Mephedrone	2.2	5.3	3.5	0.7	-
BZP, GBL, Khat, SC or SD	2.3	6.4	3.4	0.9	*
ANY STIMULANTS	16.3	19.5	31.0	11.1	0.9
ANY OPIATES	1.6	0.4	2.9	1.9	0.2
ANY PSYCHEDELICS	11.2	9.4	21.2	9.4	1.2
ANY DOWNERS / TRANQUILISERS	4.1	3.4	9.1	2.0	0.3
ANY DRUGS	29.4	36.5	47.8	24.5	6.8
ANY DRUGS EX. NEW DRUGS	29.3	36.4	47.6	24.5	6.8
<i>Base:</i>	<i>4,420</i>	<i>380</i>	<i>1,310</i>	<i>1,170</i>	<i>1,560</i>

Variable Name: QEVE

Table A1.8 % of men aged 16 or over who reported having used illicit drugs *in the last year* by age group

SCJS 2012/13

<i>Percentage of all men aged 16 and over within group</i>	In the last year - Men				
	All Men	16 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 59	60+
CLASS A	4.1	8.9	7.4	1.2	-
Cocaine	2.7	4.9	5.2	0.8	-
Crack	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.3	-
Ecstasy	2.2	5.1	3.9	0.3	-
Heroin	0.4	0.1	0.8	0.5	-
Methadone/Physeptone	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.1	-
LSD	0.4	0.6	0.8	-	-
Magic mushrooms	0.4	1.8	0.3	-	-
CLASS B	8.0	18.5	12.4	3.6	0.6
Amphetamines	1.1	2.8	1.8	0.5	-
Crystal Meth	*	-	0.1	-	-
Cannabis	7.7	18.3	11.8	3.5	0.6
CLASS C	1.9	4.1	3.3	0.5	-
Anabolic Steroids	0.3	1.1	0.5	-	-
Ketamine	0.3	1.0	0.5	-	-
Tranquilisers	1.4	2.1	2.7	0.5	-
NOT CLASSIFIED					
Glues/solvents/gas/aerosols	0.2	1.1	0.1	-	-
Poppers	0.9	2.7	1.4	0.3	-
NEW DRUGS	0.1	3.2	1.0	0.1	-
Mephedrone	0.6	2.4	0.7	0.1	-
BZP, GBL, Khat, SC or SD	0.3	1.2	0.3	-	-
ANY STIMULANTS	4.1	8.7	7.5	1.1	-
ANY OPIATES	0.5	0.1	1.0	0.5	-
ANY PSYCHEDELICS	0.8	2.4	1.3	-	-
ANY DOWNERS / TRANQUILISERS	1.4	2.1	2.7	0.5	-
ANY DRUGS	9.4	22.1	14.8	3.8	0.6
ANY DRUGS EX. NEW DRUGS	9.4	22.1	14.8	3.8	0.6
Base:	4,420	380	1,310	1,170	1,560

Variable Name: Q12M

Table A1.9 % of men aged 16 or over who reported having used illicit drugs *in the last month* by age group

SCJS 2012/13

<i>Percentage of all men aged 16 and over within group</i>	In the last month - Men				
	All Men	16 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 59	60+
CLASS A	1.9	4.6	3.2	0.7	-
Cocaine	1.2	3.3	1.6	0.5	-
Crack	0.1	-	0.1	0.2	-
Ecstasy	0.5	1.8	0.8	*	-
Heroin	0.3	0.1	0.6	0.3	-
Methadone/Physeptone	0.1	-	0.2	0.1	-
LSD	0.1	0.2	0.3	-	-
Magic mushrooms	0.1	0.5	-	-	-
CLASS B	4.3	9.4	6.3	2.5	0.6
Amphetamines	0.3	0.2	0.9	*	-
Crystal Meth	-	-	-	-	-
Cannabis	4.2	9.4	6.0	2.5	0.6
CLASS C	0.7	1.1	1.4	0.5	-
Anabolic Steroids	0.1	0.4	0.2	-	-
Ketamine	0.1	0.5	0.2	-	-
Tranquilisers	0.5	0.2	1.1	0.5	-
NOT CLASSIFIED					
Glues/solvents/gas/aerosols	0.1	0.5	-	-	-
Poppers	0.3	0.7	0.3	0.3	-
NEW DRUGS	0.2	0.8	0.2	*	-
Mephedrone	0.1	0.6	0.1	*	-
BZP, GBL, Khat, SC or SD	0.1	0.2	0.1	-	-
ANY STIMULANTS	1.7	4.7	2.6	0.6	-
ANY OPIATES	0.3	0.1	0.7	0.4	-
ANY PSYCHEDELICS	0.3	0.8	0.4	-	-
ANY DOWNERS / TRANQUILISERS	0.5	0.2	1.1	0.5	-
ANY DRUGS	5.3	12.1	7.8	2.7	0.6
ANY DRUGS EX. NEW DRUGS	5.3	12.1	7.8	2.7	0.6
Base:	4,420	380	1,310	1,170	1,560

Variable Name: Q1M

Table A1.10 % of women aged 16 or over who reported having ever used illicit drugs by age group

SCJS 2012/13

<i>Percentage of all women aged 16 and over within group</i>	Ever - Women				
	All Women	16 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 59	60+
CLASS A	8.9	13.4	17.7	5.5	0.7
Cocaine	4.3	9.5	8.7	1.3	*
Crack	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.1	0.1
Ecstasy	5.0	9.0	11.1	1.4	-
Heroin	0.6	0.3	1.4	0.5	-
Methadone/Physeptone	0.5	0.4	1.3	0.1	-
LSD	2.7	1.4	6.4	1.6	0.3
Magic mushrooms	2.7	1.5	5.7	2.7	0.1
CLASS B	15.9	22.4	29.0	13.1	1.9
Amphetamines	5.2	5.6	11.5	3.2	0.1
Crystal Meth	0.1	-	0.2	0.1	*
Cannabis	15.4	22.3	27.6	12.8	1.9
CLASS C	2.0	3.0	4.5	0.6	0.1
Anabolic Steroids	*	-	0.1	0.1	-
Ketamine	0.6	1.9	1.1	0.1	-
Tranquilisers	1.7	1.5	4.2	0.5	0.1
NOT CLASSIFIED					
Glues/solvents/gas/aerosols	1.0	1.4	2.1	0.4	-
Poppers	3.3	6.0	7.0	1.4	*
NEW DRUGS	1.1	4.0	1.8	0.1	-
Mephedrone	0.7	2.8	1.0	0.1	-
BZP, GBL, Khat, SC or SD	0.5	1.4	1.0	0.1	-
ANY STIMULANTS	8.7	15.3	17.7	4.2	0.3
ANY OPIATES	0.7	0.6	1.7	0.5	-
ANY PSYCHEDELICS	4.2	3.0	8.8	3.7	0.4
ANY DOWNERS / TRANQUILISERS	1.7	1.5	4.2	0.5	0.1
ANY DRUGS	17.2	25.8	30.6	13.7	2.2
ANY DRUGS EX. NEW DRUGS	17.2	25.7	30.6	13.7	2.2
Base:	5,800	480	1,800	1,560	1,980

Variable name: QEVE

Table A1.11 % of women aged 16 or over who reported having used illicit drugs *in the last year* by age group

SCJS 2012/13

<i>Percentage of all women aged 16 and over within group</i>	In the last year - Women				
	All Women	16 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 59	60+
CLASS A	1.3	2.7	2.5	0.4	-
Cocaine	0.8	2.4	1.4	0.1	-
Crack	0.1	-	0.2	-	-
Ecstasy	0.5	1.6	1.1	-	-
Heroin	0.1	0.1	0.4	-	-
Methadone/Physeptone	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	-
LSD	*	0.2	-	-	-
Magic mushrooms	*	-	*	0.1	-
CLASS B	2.9	9.4	4.0	1.2	0.1
Amphetamines	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.1	-
Crystal Meth	-	-	-	-	-
Cannabis	2.8	9.1	3.8	1.2	0.1
CLASS C	0.3	0.5	0.6	*	-
Anabolic Steroids	*	-	0.1	-	-
Ketamine	*	-	0.1	-	-
Tranquilisers	0.2	0.5	0.5	*	-
NOT CLASSIFIED					
Glues/solvents/gas/aerosols	*	-	*	-	-
Poppers	0.1	0.3	0.3	-	-
NEW DRUGS	0.2	1.0	0.3	*	-
Mephedrone	0.2	0.9	0.2	*	-
BZP, GBL, Khat, SC or SD	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	-
ANY STIMULANTS	1.2	3.0	2.5	0.2	-
ANY OPIATES	0.2	0.1	0.5	0.1	-
ANY PSYCHEDELICS	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	-
ANY DOWNERS / TRANQUILISERS	0.2	0.5	0.5	*	-
ANY DRUGS	3.3	10.5	4.8	1.4	0.1
ANY DRUGS EX. NEW DRUGS	3.3	10.5	4.8	1.4	0.1
Base:	5,800	480	1,800	1,560	1,980

Variable name: Q12M

Table A1.12 % of women aged 16 or over who reported having used illicit drugs in the *last month* by age group

SCJS 2012/13

<i>Percentage of all women aged 16 and over within group</i>	In the last month - Women				
	All Women	16 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 59	60+
CLASS A	0.4	1.3	0.7	0.1	-
Cocaine	0.2	0.5	0.3	-	-
Crack	*	-	*	-	-
Ecstasy	*	0.2	0.1	-	-
Heroin	0.1	-	0.2	-	-
Methadone/Physeptone	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	-
LSD	-	-	-	-	-
Magic mushrooms	-	-	-	-	-
CLASS B	1.4	3.8	2.1	0.8	0.1
Amphetamines	0.1	0.5	0.1	0.1	-
Crystal Meth	-	-	-	-	-
Cannabis	1.3	3.3	2.0	0.8	0.1
CLASS C	0.1	-	0.2	*	-
Anabolic Steroids	-	-	-	-	-
Ketamine	-	-	-	-	-
Tranquilisers	0.1	-	0.2	*	-
NOT CLASSIFIED					
Glues/solvents/gas/aerosols	-	-	-	-	-
Poppers	-	-	-	-	-
NEW DRUGS	*	0.1	*	-	-
Mephedrone	*	-	*	-	-
BZP, GBL, Khat, SC or SD	*	0.1	-	-	-
ANY STIMULANTS	0.3	1.2	0.5	0.1	-
ANY OPIATES	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.1	-
ANY PSYCHEDELICS	-	-	-	-	-
ANY DOWNERS / TRANQUILISERS	0.1	-	0.2	*	-
ANY DRUGS	1.6	4.5	2.4	0.8	0.1
ANY DRUGS EX. NEW DRUGS	1.6	4.5	2.4	0.8	0.1
Base:	5,800	480	1,800	1,560	1,980

Variable name: Q1M

Table A1.13: Type of drug first taken and age at which first taken among men who reported ever using illicit drugs

SCJS 2012/13

<i>Percentage of all men aged 16 and over who ever took drugs within group</i>	All men reporting drug use	Age took first drug			
		Under 16	16-19	20-24	25 or over
CLASS A	11.4	7.7	12.4	14.8	10.9
Cocaine	1.7	0.5	1.7	3.3	2.1
Crack	*	-	0.1	-	-
Ecstasy	2.7	0.9	3.2	3.9	4.4
Heroin	0.2	0.3	0.3	-	-
Methadone/Physeptone	-	-	-	-	-
LSD	1.6	0.9	2.3	0.5	2.2
Magic mushrooms	2.4	3.6	2.4	0.9	2.2
CLASS B	82.9	79.0	85.6	85.2	77.3
Amphetamines	2.7	1.6	2.3	6.2	-
Crystal Meth	-	-	-	-	-
Cannabis	80.2	77.4	83.2	78.9	77.3
CLASS C	1.1	0.3	0.3	2.5	8.5
Anabolic Steroids	0.3	-	0.1	0.8	1.6
Ketamine	-	-	-	-	-
Tranquilisers	0.8	0.3	0.2	1.7	6.9
NOT CLASSIFIED					
Glues/solvents/gas/aerosols	3.6	11.7	0.9	-	-
Poppers	3.0	2.9	3.1	2.7	3.3
NEW DRUGS	0.2	-	0.1	1.1	-
Mephedrone	*	-	0.1	-	-
BZP, GBL, Khat, SC or SD	0.2	-	-	1.1	-
ANY STIMULANTS	10.1	5.9	10.5	16.1	9.8
ANY OPIATES	0.2	0.3	0.3	-	-
ANY PSYCHEDELICS	4.0	4.4	4.7	1.4	4.4
ANY DOWNERS / TRANQUILISERS	0.8	0.3	0.2	1.7	6.9
Base:	1,190	300	580	220	80

Variable Names: QDR1ST, QDRAGE

Table A1.14 Type of drug first taken and age at which first taken among women who reported ever using illicit drugs

SCJS 2012/13

<i>Percentage of all women aged 16 and over who ever took drugs within group</i>	All women reporting drug use	Age took first drug			
		Under 16	16-19	20-24	25 or over
CLASS A	14.7	13.9	16.3	12.3	12.1
Cocaine	1.6	0.4	2.5	0.7	1.1
Crack	0.4	0.6	0.5	-	-
Ecstasy	4.7	6.3	5.0	3.8	1.6
Heroin	0.3	-	0.2	1.0	-
Methadone/Physeptone	-	-	-	-	-
LSD	1.7	2.0	1.8	1.4	0.6
Magic mushrooms	1.6	3.0	1.5	0.3	3.1
CLASS B	83.3	73.7	84.2	88.4	89.0
Amphetamines	4.4	1.7	4.9	5.2	5.6
Crystal Meth	*	-	-	-	-
Cannabis	78.8	72.0	79.3	83.2	83.4
CLASS C	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.4	3.7
Anabolic Steroids	-	-	-	-	-
Ketamine	-	-	-	-	-
Tranquilisers	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.4	3.7
NOT CLASSIFIED					
Glues/solvents/gas/aerosols	1.8	8.6	0.1	-	0.8
Poppers	3.7	4.6	3.8	3.7	-
NEW DRUGS	0.1	-	-	0.4	-
Mephedrone	0.1	-	-	0.4	-
BZP, GBL, Khat, SC or SD	-	-	-	-	-
ANY STIMULANTS	14.8	13.6	16.7	13.4	8.4
ANY OPIATES	0.3	-	0.2	1.0	-
ANY PSYCHEDELICS	3.3	5.0	3.3	1.7	3.7
ANY DOWNERS / TRANQUILISERS	0.8	0.8	0.5	0.4	3.7
Base:	990	180	500	210	80

Variable Names: QDR1ST, QDRAGE

Table A1.15 % of men aged 16 or over who reported someone having offered to sell or give them drugs in the last year by age group

SCJS 2012/13

<i>Percentage of adults aged 16 and over</i>	All men aged					
	All adults	All men	16-24	25-44	45-49	60+
CLASS A	6.9	10.0	26.6	14.8	3.9	0.3
Cocaine	4.7	7.3	21.6	10.5	2.3	-
Crack	0.5	0.8	1.3	1.2	0.7	-
Ecstasy	4.0	6.0	18.0	8.4	1.7	*
Heroin	0.9	1.6	2.6	2.6	1.0	0.2
Methadone/Physeptone	0.5	0.9	0.2	2.0	0.8	-
LSD	1.0	1.6	3.8	2.6	0.6	-
Magic mushrooms	0.7	1.2	3.6	1.6	0.3	0.1
CLASS B	8.6	12.7	32.9	18.1	5.8	1.0
Amphetamines	2.2	3.5	8.7	5.3	1.6	-
Crystal Meth	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.2	-
Cannabis	8.3	12.2	31.9	17.2	5.4	1.0
CLASS C	2.4	3.9	10.7	5.3	1.6	0.4
Anabolic Steroids	0.6	1.3	4.1	1.8	0.1	0.1
Ketamine	1.0	1.7	6.4	1.8	0.6	-
Tranquilisers	1.3	1.8	2.8	3.0	1.2	0.4
NOT CLASSIFIED						
Glues/solvents/gas/aerosols	0.2	0.3	1.6	0.1	0.1	0.1
Poppers	1.2	1.8	5.0	2.5	0.9	-
NEW DRUGS	1.4	2.1	6.6	2.8	0.6	0.2
Mephedrone	1.1	1.7	5.1	2.5	0.4	0.1
BZP, GBL, Khat, SC or SD	0.4	0.6	2.0	0.5	0.2	0.1
ANY STIMULANTS	6.6	9.5	25.2	14.0	3.8	*
ANY OPIATES	1.2	1.9	2.8	3.5	1.2	0.2
ANY PSYCHEDELICS	1.9	3.2	9.9	4.2	1.0	0.1
ANY DOWNERS / TRANQUILISERS	1.3	1.8	2.8	3.0	1.2	0.4
ANY DRUGS	10.8	15.6	38.4	22.2	7.4	1.9
ANY DRUGS EXC. NEW DRUGS	10.6	15.5	38.4	22.1	7.3	1.6
Base:	10,220	4,420	380	1,310	1,170	1,560

Variable Name: QOF2

Table A1.16 % of women aged 16 or over who reported someone having offered to sell or give them drugs in the last year by age group

SCJS 2012/13

<i>Percentage of adults aged 16 and over</i>	All women aged					
	All adults	All women	16-24	25-44	45-49	60+
CLASS A	6.9	4.0	14.1	5.8	1.1	0.1
Cocaine	4.7	2.2	7.6	3.2	0.6	*
Crack	0.5	0.2	0.8	0.4	-	*
Ecstasy	4.0	2.2	9.3	2.6	0.4	-
Heroin	0.9	0.4	0.6	0.8	0.1	*
Methadone/Physeptone	0.5	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1	-
LSD	1.0	0.4	2.2	0.3	-	-
Magic mushrooms	0.7	0.2	1.0	0.3	-	-
CLASS B	8.6	4.8	17.1	6.6	1.6	0.2
Amphetamines	2.2	1.1	3.2	1.8	0.3	0.1
Crystal Meth	0.2	*	-	0.2	-	-
Cannabis	8.3	4.7	17.1	6.2	1.5	0.1
CLASS C	2.4	1.1	3.6	1.4	0.3	0.2
Anabolic Steroids	0.6	0.1	0.2	0.1	-	-
Ketamine	1.0	0.4	1.8	0.4	-	*
Tranquilisers	1.3	0.8	2.4	1.0	0.3	0.2
NOT CLASSIFIED						
Glues/solvents/gas/aerosols	0.2	0.1	-	0.4	-	-
Poppers	1.2	0.5	2.1	0.7	0.2	-
NEW DRUGS	1.4	0.8	3.3	0.8	0.2	0.1
Mephedrone	1.1	0.6	3.1	0.4	0.1	0.1
BZP, GBL, Khat, SC or SD	0.4	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.1
ANY STIMULANTS	6.6	3.9	13.8	5.5	1.1	0.1
ANY OPIATES	1.2	0.4	0.8	1.0	0.1	*
ANY PSYCHEDELICS	1.9	0.7	3.7	0.7	-	*
ANY DOWNERS / TRANQUILISERS	1.3	0.8	2.4	1.0	0.3	0.2
ANY DRUGS	10.8	6.4	21.0	9.3	2.1	0.5
ANY DRUGS EXC. NEW DRUGS	10.6	6.2	20.3	9.1	2.0	0.4
Base:	10,220	5,800	480	1,800	1,560	1,980

Variable Name: QOF2

Table A1.17 Polydrug and drug and alcohol use *in the last 12 months* among adults over 16 using illicit drugs *in the last 12 months*

SCJS 2012/13

<i>Percentage of adults 16 and over who have:</i>	Ever taken different drugs together at the same time, if have taken <i>more than one drug in the last 12 months</i>	<i>Base more than one drug in last 12 months</i>	Ever consumed alcohol at the same time as taking any drugs, if have taken <i>any drugs in the last 12 months</i>	<i>Base any drug in last 12 months</i>
GENDER				
Male	56.5	150	65.9	340
Female	45.3	60	59.8	160
VICTIM STATUS				
Victim of crime	62.7	60	59.6	150
Non-victim	50.6	150	66.2	350
TENURE				
Owner-occupier	50.3	60	72.8	170
Social renter	65.4	90	53.8	190
Private renter	38.2	50	65.0	120
DEPRIVATION				
15% most deprived	#	#	54.2	100
Rest of Scotland	52.6	160	66.9	390
ALL ADULTS	54.1	210	64.2	490
	<i>Variable name: Q12MMIX</i>		<i>Variable name: Q12MALC</i>	

ANNEX 2: SELF-COMPLETION METHODOLOGY

This section provides more detail about the self-completion section of the questionnaire for the SCJS 2012/13 specifically for the questions covering illicit drug use. Details are also included about the self-completion interview, the weighting used on the data and the classifications of illicit drugs used in this report.

Further information about the design of the SCJS is contained in Annex 2 of 2012/13 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey: Main Findings report and in the accompanying Technical Report.

A.2.1 The self-completion interview

Fieldwork for the SCJS 2012/13 was continuous and took place between the 1st of April 2012 and the 31st of March 2013.

Interviews were conducted face-to-face in-home and were administered by specially trained professional interviewers working for TNS BMRB using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI). For the self-completion interview, the questionnaire was completed by respondents on the interviewer's tablet PC (Computer Assisted Self-completion Interviewing – CASI). This ensures confidentiality when answering sensitive questions or those on illicit behaviour. The respondent was asked to follow the instructions on the screen of the tablet PC and enter their answers using a special pen to tap the touch screen appropriately.

85% of respondents completed the self-completion section and of those 66% entered their answers directly into the tablet PC themselves and 19% asked the interviewer to administer the questionnaire for them.

The average questionnaire length of the self-completion section was nine minutes and 41 seconds.

A.2.2 Questionnaire Content

The SCJS 2012/13 consists of three elements:

- The **main questionnaire** consists of a set of core modules asked of the whole sample, including demographics; and a set of **full and quarter-sample modules**, containing questions on a variety of topics;
- A **victim form questionnaire** which collects details about the separate incidents a respondent may have experienced during the reference period. This victim form can be repeated up to five times. The number of victim forms completed depends on the number and nature of incidents respondents experienced;
- A **self-completion questionnaire** covering sensitive issues, including illicit drug use. All respondents were asked to complete a self-completion questionnaire, but had the option to refuse this due to the sensitive nature of the questions.

Respondents to the self-completion questionnaire on illicit drug use were first asked whether they had used any of the 17 illicit drugs/drug groups ever and also whether they had taken the fictitious drug semeron. Those respondents who have taken drugs in the past are then asked if they have taken them in the last 12 months and, for those who have, whether they have taken them in the last month.

A series of follow-up questions are asked for the different groups, including:

- For those ever using, which drug was the first ever taken; at what age they first took drugs, and what methods of drug taking they have ever tried;
- For those using in the last 12 months, whether they have mixed these drugs, consumed alcohol at the same time as taking them, how they would describe their usage, and whether they have taken anything else in the last 12 months which they thought was a drug;
- For those taking drugs in the last month, which one they have taken most often, how difficult it is to get hold of, where they obtained it the last time they took it, and, in the last month, how many times they have used it, whether they felt dependant on it, tried to cut down and whether they managed to.
- Those who have ever used cannabis, cocaine, ecstasy, tranquiliser or amphetamine, but not used *any* drugs in the last 12 months are asked at what age they last took it, whether they have ever felt dependant on any of the drugs they have ever taken, and which ones, as well as, for those who have felt dependant, whether they received any help in stopping taking them and from whom.

The questions about which drugs respondents have taken are asked in a loop (i.e. „have you ever taken <drug name>?) rather than by selection from a single list of drugs.

A.2.3 Disclosure of sensitive information

Given the sensitive nature of the questions, especially as the majority of the questions on illicit drug use were on offending behaviours rather than victimisation (as opposed to the remainder of the self-completion questionnaire and the main questionnaire), a separate „Don't wish to answer" button was provided at the top of the screen at every question in the self-completion section of the questionnaire.

At the start of the questions on illicit drug use, respondents were reminded that the answers they gave were completely confidential, reminded not to answer the questions including any drugs for which they had a prescription, and asked to answer the questions honestly:

*“The following questions ask whether or not you have ever used drugs. Please answer them honestly. The answers you give are completely confidential. **Please DO NOT tell us about drugs you have been given on prescription.**”*

A.2.4 Drugs Classification

The classifications of drugs used in this report are detailed in **section 1.5**. However, there are two points of clarification which readers should note:

1. Amphetamines can be classified as either Class A (when prepared for injection) or Class B (in powdered form). Since questions used in the SCJS do not distinguish between the forms of the drug taken for the purposes of analysis, the report assumes that all amphetamine use is of the Class B type. This is consistent with the approach adopted by previous surveys, including the 2008/09 and 2009/10 SCJS.
2. The category “not classified” indicates that possession of these substances (poppers and glues, solvents, gas or aerosols) is not illegal but it is an offence to supply these substances if it is likely that the product is intended for abuse.

A.2.5 Non-response to the self-completion section

10,235 (85%) respondents to the main survey answered the self-completion questionnaire. **Table A2.1** compares the profile of respondents who answered the self-completion section of the questionnaire (including those who did so where the interviewer administered the questionnaire) and those who did not answer it:

- The table shows that there was no difference between men and women in conversion from the main interview to self-completion. However, the proportion of those completing the self-completion section decreased as the age group of the respondent increased, falling from 93.2% for 16 to 19 year olds to 62.8% for those aged 85 or older.

The most common reason for non-completion of the self-completion questionnaire given by respondents was running out of time (mentioned by 54%). Only 3.5% of respondents refused to complete the self-completion questionnaire because of worries about confidentiality.

Comparing the profile of respondents who completed the self-completion section in the SCJS 2012/13 (85%) to the previous two sweeps of the SCJS in 2010/11 (85%) and in 2009/10 (84%) shows that the response rate has remained very level. However, the response rate to the SCJS 2008/09 self-completion questionnaire was markedly lower at 69%. There is an ongoing trend evident in the SCJS 2012/13 and from the previous three sweeps of the SCJS where equal percentages of males and females completed the self-completion section and the percentage of respondents who answered the self-completion questionnaire decreased as age increased.

All data from the self-completion section has been weighted in order that the sample is representative of the population (see **A.2.7**).

Table A.2.1: Proportion of respondents completing self-completion section by age and gender

SCJS 2012/13

<i>% of respondents participating in self-completion section</i>	Male	Female	Overall
16 to 19	93.5	92.9	93.2
20 to 24	85.3	87.6	86.6
25 to 29	87.6	85.9	86.6
30 to 34	87.5	87.3	87.4
35 to 39	87.5	87.3	87.4
40 to 44	84.2	86.1	85.3
45 to 49	83.9	89.5	87.1
50 to 54	86.4	89.7	88.2
55 to 59	90.1	86.5	88.1
60 to 64	81.6	87.4	84.8
65 to 69	86.6	87.8	87.2
70 to 74	83.7	82.4	83.0
75 to 79	81.1	74.9	77.5
80 to 84	78.0	69.8	72.8
85 plus	65.5	61.4	62.8
Overall	85.0	85.0	85.0

A.2.6 Sample Profile

Table A2.2 provides the profile of the achieved sample of the self-completion section of the SCJS 2012/13 before weighting was applied and the weighted sample profile. In the SCJS 2012/13, men were underrepresented in the sample particularly men aged 16-24 and 25-44. Women aged 16-24 were under-represented in the sample but women in the remaining three age groups were over-represented. Weighting was applied to ensure that the sample was representative of the population.

Table A2.2: Unweighted and weighted sample profiles by age and gender

SCJS 2012/13

<i>Percentage</i>	Unweighted Sample³⁸	Weighted sample³⁹
Men		
16-24	3.8	7.3
25-44	12.8	15.8
45-59	11.5	12.3
60+	15.2	12.5
<i>Base</i>	<i>4,420</i>	<i>2,078,490</i>
Women		
16-24	4.6	7.1
25-44	17.6	16.2
45-59	15.2	13.2
60+	19.3	15.7
<i>Base</i>	<i>5,800</i>	<i>2,258,730</i>
All men	43.2	47.9
All women	56.8	52.1
Base (all respondents)	10,240	4,337,220

Base: All respondents to self-completion questionnaire (10,240)

³⁸ The unweighted sample includes eleven respondents who said they had taken semeron *at some point in their lives* and who were subsequently excluded from the data for the drugs questions

³⁹ For the SCJS 2012/13, the population totals used were the National Records of Scotland's (NRS) "Mid-2011 Population Estimates Scotland".

A.2.7 Weighting

The data from the SCJS 2012/13 was weighted by the Scottish Government in order to correct for unequal probabilities of selection and variations in response rates from different groups. Calibration weighting was used to derive weighted survey totals which match known population totals.⁴⁰ Separate weights were required for the self-completion section since not all respondents to the main section of the survey SCJS completed the self-completion section. The individual weight was applied to all of the questions included in this report as they all related to the experiences and opinions of individuals.

All data in this report is weighted data with the original base size provided in figure headings.

⁴⁰ The SCJS 2012/13 Technical Report provides more information on the weighting process.

Social Research series
ISSN 2045-6964
ISBN 978-1-78412-609-4

web only publication
www.scotland.gov.uk/socialresearch

APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA
DPPAS32156 (06/14)

