



Young Persons' Alcohol and Tobacco Survey 2017

Report

Mick Edwardson and Rebecca Robinson

May 2017

For further information on the work of Business Intelligence, please contact us at:

Business Intelligence
Lancashire County Council
Christ Church Precinct
Preston
PR1 8XJ

Tel: 0808 1443536

www.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-insight

Contents

1.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
1.1.	Key findings.....	1
1.1.1	<i>Alcohol</i>	1
1.1.2	<i>Tobacco</i>	2
1.1.3	<i>Electronic cigarettes</i>	2
1.1.4	<i>Energy drinks</i>	2
1.1.5	<i>Illegal substances</i>	3
1.1.6	<i>Risk-taking behaviour</i>	3
1.2.	Conclusions.....	4
1.2.1	<i>Alcohol</i>	4
1.2.2	<i>Tobacco</i>	4
1.2.3	<i>Electronic cigarettes</i>	4
1.2.4	<i>Energy drinks</i>	5
1.2.5	<i>Illegal substances</i>	5
1.2.6	<i>Risk-taking behaviour</i>	5
2.	INTRODUCTION.....	6
3.	RESEARCH OBJECTIVES	6
4.	METHODOLOGY.....	7
4.1.	Limitations	8
5.	DEMOGRAPHICS.....	9
6.	MAIN RESEARCH FINDINGS.....	11
6.1.	Alcohol.....	11
6.2.	Smoking	26
6.3.	E-cigarettes	31
6.4.	Energy drinks.....	35
6.5.	Illegal substances	38
6.6.	Risk-taking behaviour	40
7.	CONCLUSIONS.....	43
7.1.1.	<i>Alcohol</i>	43
7.1.2.	<i>Tobacco</i>	43
7.1.3.	<i>Electronic cigarettes</i>	43
7.1.4.	<i>Energy drinks</i>	44
7.1.5.	<i>Illegal substances</i>	44
7.1.6.	<i>Risk-taking behaviour</i>	44

1. Executive summary

Every two years, since 2005, Lancashire County Council's Trading Standards has taken part in a North West wide survey of 14-17 year olds on the subject of alcohol and tobacco use.

The 2017 survey was conducted online from 2 January to 31 March 2017. In total, 744 respondents who are 14-17 year old completed the survey for Lancashire.

1.1. Key findings

1.1.1 Alcohol

- Over two-fifths of respondents (45%) say they never drink alcohol. Only one in ten respondents (10%) say they drink alcohol once a week or more.
- A third of respondents who drink alcohol (33%) say that they never drink five or more alcoholic drinks on one occasion.
- Three-fifths of respondents who drink alcohol (60%) say they mostly drink at home, when their parents are in.
- Around one in seven respondents who drink alcohol (14%) say they mostly drink outside.
- Over two-thirds of respondents who drink alcohol (70%) say that their parents/guardians buy/give it to them.
- Respondents who drink alcohol are most likely to say that they drink bottles or cans of cider (50% say that in a typical week they drink at least one bottle or can of cider).
- A fifth of respondents (20%) say that they are aware of 'drinking dens' or 'party houses' in their area.
- Only one in ten respondents (10%) say that their parents/guardians allow them to get drunk.
- When respondents who drink alcohol were asked to agree or disagree with a number of statements about drinking alcohol, the statements that they are most likely to disagree with are: 'I have pretended to be drunk in the past' (94% disagree), 'I have pretended to drink alcohol in the past' (91% disagree) and 'I drink alcohol because there is nothing else to do' (85% disagree). The statements they are most likely to agree with are: 'I make sure I am not on my own when I am out drinking alcohol' (84% agree) and 'I always feel in control when I drink alcohol' (63% agree).
- About two-fifths of respondents agree that 'it is normal to get drunk' and that 'getting drunk is fun' (43% and 41% respectively), but only about a quarter of respondents (26%) agree that they are 'not really worried about the long-term health effects of drinking alcohol'.

1.1.2 Tobacco

- About three in every ten respondents (29%) say that at least one parent or guardian smokes.
- About one in ten respondents (9%) currently smoke.
- Two-thirds of respondents who smoke (66%) started smoking when they were aged 12 to 14.
- The most common responses to the question 'where do/did you get your cigarettes from?' are that 'friends under 18 buy/give them to me' (48%), 'friends over 18 buy/give them to me' (31%) and 'I buy cigarettes/tobacco myself from off-licences/shops' (31%).
- About a quarter of respondents who smoke (26%) say that they have bought illegal cigarettes in the last 12 months.
- Less than one in ten respondents (8%) say that they think that the statement 'it is a criminal offence to sell cigarettes to under 18s' is false.

1.1.3 Electronic cigarettes

- Over two-thirds of respondents (70%) say that they have never used electronic cigarettes.
- Only a third of respondents (32%) say that they tried a real cigarette before trying an e-cigarette. Three in ten respondents (30%) say that they have never tried a real cigarette, but have tried an e-cigarette. About three in ten respondents (28%) tried an e-cigarette before trying a real cigarette.
- Over half of respondents who have tried e-cigarettes (56%) say they use or have used someone else's and about a fifth of respondents (21%) say friends under 18 buy/give them to me.
- About a fifth of respondents (19%) say that they think that the statement 'it is a criminal offence to sell e-cigarettes to under 18s' is false.

1.1.4 Energy drinks

- About two-fifths of respondents (38%) say they drink energy drinks.
- Two-thirds of respondents who drink energy drinks (66%) say they drink two or less energy drinks in a typical week. More than one in twenty (7%) say they drink seven or more energy drinks in a typical week.
- About one in six of respondents who drink energy drinks (16%) say that they have felt ill from drinking them.

1.1.5 *Illegal substances*

- Over four-fifths of respondents (84%) say that they have never tried cannabis. About one in twenty respondents (4%) report using cannabis regularly¹.
- Around nine in ten respondents (91%) say that they have never tried legal highs.

1.1.6 *Risk-taking behaviour*

- About one every in thirty three respondents who drink alcohol (3%) say that they have regretted having sex with someone after drinking alcohol.
- About one in seven respondents (14%) say that they have been violent or in a fight whilst drunk.
- About one in six respondents (16%) say that they have been in a car when the person driving has been drinking alcohol.
- One in twenty respondents (5%) say that they have been in a car when the person driving has taken drugs.

¹ Respondents who reported using cannabis either sometimes or often.

1.2. Conclusions

1.2.1 Alcohol

It appears that the trend since the 2005 survey has been for an increasing proportion of respondents to say they never drink alcohol. However, the age profile of respondents should be considered when interpreting these figures. The results from 2013-2017 suggest that the proportion of respondents aged 15-17 who never drink has not changed and that any change is likely to be due to an increase in the proportion of 14 year olds who never drink. This said, the results of the 2011 survey by age indicate that, since 2011, the proportion of respondents who never drink has increased for each age group.

1.2.2 Tobacco

The trend since the 2007 survey has been for an increase in the proportion of respondents who say they have never tried smoking. The overall trend over time is supported by an increased proportion of respondents in each age group who say that they never smoke.

Illegal cigarettes are popular with smokers, as about a quarter of smokers have bought illegal cigarettes in the last 12 months.

1.2.3 Electronic cigarettes

Electronic cigarette use remains low, with less than one in twenty respondents saying they use them often. The proportion of respondents who have never used electronic cigarettes has remained relatively stable between the 2013, 2015 and 2017 surveys.

The results from the 2015 survey and 2017 survey suggest that the type of person trying electronic cigarettes may be changing. In the 2015 survey, most respondents who had tried electronic cigarettes had tried real cigarettes first. However, in the 2017 survey, respondents who had tried electronic cigarettes were most likely to have either never tried a real cigarette or to have tried an electronic cigarette before trying a real cigarette.

Ownership of electronic cigarettes is likely to be small as over half of respondents use or have used someone else's electronic cigarette.

1.2.4 Energy drinks

Since 2013, the proportion of respondents drinking energy drinks has decreased from nearly two-thirds of respondents to about two-fifths of respondents.

About one in six of these respondents say that they have felt ill from drinking energy drinks.

1.2.5 Illegal substances

Regular cannabis use is low with about one in twenty respondents reporting they use cannabis regularly². Over four-fifths of respondents say that they have never tried cannabis. Legal high use is lower than cannabis use with about nine in ten respondents saying that they have never tried legal highs.

1.2.6 Risk-taking behaviour

Risk-taking behaviour is relatively low. Only about one in every thirty three respondents who have drunk alcohol say that they have regretted having sex with someone after drinking alcohol, about one in seven respondents who drink alcohol say that they have been violent or in a fight whilst drunk, about one in six say that they have been in a car when the person driving has been drinking alcohol, and one in twenty respondents say that they have been in a car when the person driving has taken drugs.

² Respondents who reported using cannabis either sometimes or often.

2. Introduction

Every two years, since 2005, Lancashire County Council's Trading Standards have taken part in a North West wide survey of 14-17 year olds on the subjects of alcohol and tobacco use.

The 2017 questionnaire was designed and developed by Trading Standards North West and Mustard Research.

For respondents in Lancashire, the survey was conducted online and was administered through the 13 schools that signed up to take part.

The fieldwork period ran from 2 January to 31 March 2017. In total, 744 respondents who are 14-17 year old completed the survey for Lancashire.

As an incentive for schools to take part, and for them to encourage their pupils to complete the survey, any school that submitted 200 responses or more was offered a short report of the survey findings for their school. During the fieldwork period, to encourage them to submit a minimum of 200 responses, schools were provided with updates about the number of responses submitted from their pupils.

3. Research objectives

The objectives of this survey are to look at pupil's views about alcohol, tobacco and other substances and to identify general trends. Questions looked specifically at:

- attitudes towards and level of consumption of alcohol;
- level of consumption of various tobacco products;
- level of consumption of electronic cigarettes;
- level of consumption of energy drinks; and
- level of consumption of other substances such as 'legal highs'.

4. Methodology

The survey was completed online by pupils in 13 schools across Lancashire. The schools were signed up prior to the fieldwork period. Pupils were then encouraged to complete the questionnaire by their school. Many schools set time aside during lessons for their pupils to complete the questionnaire. The number of responses per school varied significantly. Three schools submitted over 150 responses and a further school submitted more than 50 responses. All other schools submitted less than 50 responses, with two schools not submitting any.

Pupils younger than 14 and older than 17 years old were able to complete the questionnaire. However, the study's focus is on 14-17 year olds. Therefore, the data presented in this report only includes pupils who are 14-17 years old.

The data was screened for responses from pupils who gave clearly inaccurate responses. The main criteria for the data cleaning was to remove pupils who clearly overstated their use of alcohol, tobacco and other substances.

Respondents who consistently gave clearly inaccurate answers were excluded from the analysis of all questions. In cases where respondents appear to have given clearly inaccurate answers for a few questions, only the clearly inaccurate responses were excluded from the analysis.

The number of respondents who were totally excluded from the analysis is 11. The questions which were cleaned are given below, with the number of responses cleaned:

- If you do drink alcohol outside (i.e. in the street, parks, shops, etc.) how many other people do you usually drink with? (30 responses)
- In a typical week, approximately how many of the following do you drink? (10 responses)
- How old were you when you first started or tried smoking? (4 responses)
- If yes [Have you ever been in a car when the person driving has been drinking alcohol?], was the person driving...? (45 responses)
- If yes [Have you ever been in a car when the person driving has taken drugs?], was the person driving...? (73 responses)
- If yes, how many high energy/caffeine drinks do you drink in a week? (8 responses)

4.1. Limitations

In charts or tables where responses do not add up to 100%, this is due to multiple responses or computer rounding.

The survey is not a random sample survey and the respondents are unlikely to be totally representative of the full population of pupils in Lancashire. Therefore, the findings should only be treated as indicative.

The findings of this survey show that age influences alcohol and tobacco use. Therefore, as the age profile of the sample changes each year, comparisons of survey results over time should also be treated with caution. For example, less than 1% of respondents in 2005 were 14 year olds, but in 2015 30% of respondents were 14 year olds and, in 2017, 44% of the respondents are 14 year olds.

The survey is aimed at respondents who live in Lancashire and respondents were asked to provide their postcode. However, only about 400 respondents provided a valid response - other respondents either left this question blank or provided a clearly inaccurate response. No data cleaning was performed based on the information respondents provided to the question about where they live.

5. Demographics

Around a quarter of respondents (26%) are male and around three-quarters (74%) are female. This split between male and female is notably different from previous years in which the split has been closer to 50% for each of the sexes.

Table 1 - Gender

	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017
Male	44%	49%	47%	51%	50%	41%	26%
Female	56%	51%	53%	49%	50%	59%	74%
	729	769	1,558	1,373	3,449	2,108	732

Over two-fifths of respondents (44%) are 14 years old and just under two-fifths of respondents (38%) are 15 years old. About one in eight of respondents (13%) are 16 years old and one in twenty respondents (5%) are 17 years old.

The age profile of respondents in 2017 is different than in previous years with a larger proportion of respondents being younger (82% of respondents are aged 14-15).

Table 2 - Age

	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017
14	0%	2%	1%	10%	38%	30%	44%
15	42%	42%	44%	53%	40%	36%	38%
16	57%	56%	55%	36%	19%	23%	13%
17	0%	1%	1%	1%	3%	11%	5%
No.	715	769	1,558	1,328	3,467	2,185	701

Respondents were asked to provide their postcode. These postcodes were then matched to each district in Lancashire. In total, only 414 respondents out of 744 provided a valid postcode. Of the respondents who provided a postcode, over half (54%) were from South Ribble.

Table 3 - Number of respondents in each district

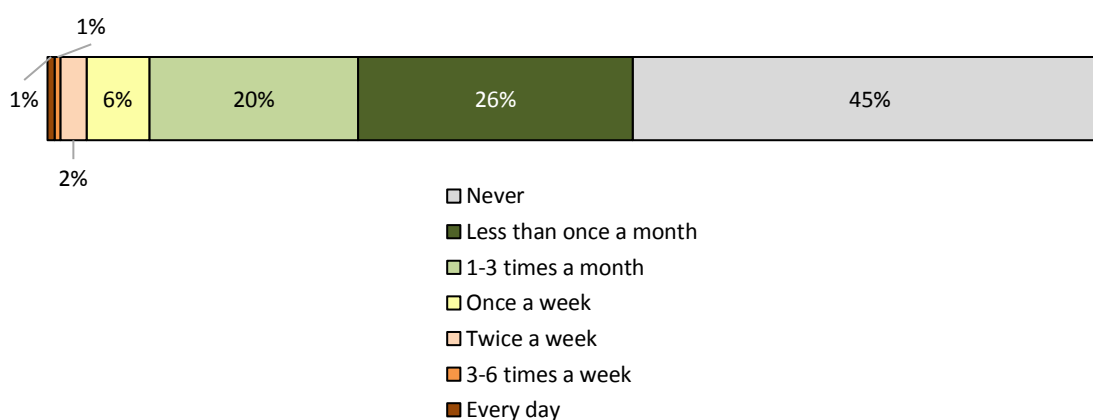
District	2017
Burnley	25
Chorley	5
Fylde	1
Hyndburn	17
Lancaster	78
Pendle	7
Preston	43
South Ribble	222
Ribble Valley	0
Rosendale	0
West Lancashire	9
Wyre	7
TOTAL	414

6. Main research findings

6.1. Alcohol

Respondents were asked how often they would say they drink alcohol. Over two-fifths of respondents (45%) say they never drink alcohol. Only one in ten respondents (10%) say they drink alcohol once a week or more. These figures are similar to the findings of the 2015 survey when around two-fifths of respondents (41%) said they never drink alcohol and about one in ten respondents (11%) said they drink once a week or more.

Chart 2 - How often would you say you drink alcohol?



Base: all respondents (737)

It appears that the trend since the 2005 survey has been for an increasing proportion of respondents to say they never drink alcohol. However, the age profile of respondents should be considered when interpreting these figures. The results from 2013-2017 suggest that the proportion of respondents aged 15-17 who never drink has not changed and that any change is likely to be due to an increase in the proportion of 14 year olds who never drink. This said, the results of the 2011 survey by age indicate that since 2011 the proportion of respondents who never drink has increased for each age group.

Table 4 - Proportion of respondents who never drink alcohol

	2005	2007	2009	2011	2013	2015	2017
Never drink alcohol	13%	11%	19%	21%	39%	41%	45%
Respondent base	693	971	1,618	1,449	3,442	2,185	741

By age, the largest proportion of respondents who report that they never drink alcohol are the youngest. This supports the same finding in previous surveys.

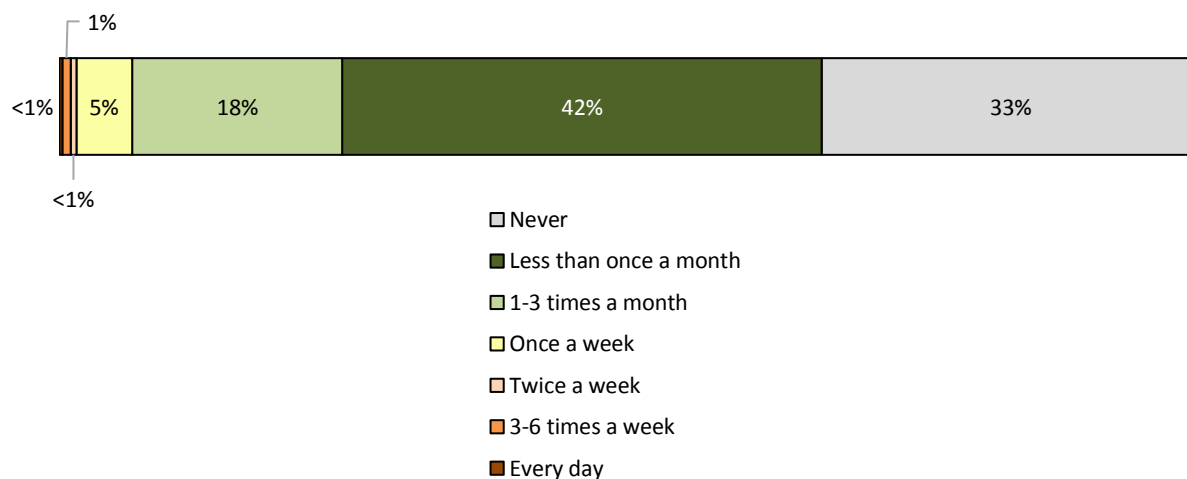
The figures for each age group should be treated with caution as the number of respondents in some of the age groups is small and is therefore likely to be subject to a significant amount of variation.

Table 5 - Never drink alcohol, by age over time

	Age							
	14		15		16		17	
	Never drink alcohol							
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2017	310	56%	263	37%	90	33%	37	16%
2015	372	57%	314	40%	156	31%	56	23%
2013	633	48%	511	37%	184	29%	19	16%
2011	33	25%	140	20%	85	18%	4	26%

Around a third of respondents who drink alcohol (33%) say that they never drink five or more alcoholic drinks on one occasion. This is similar to the 2015 survey, when about three in every ten respondents (29%) said that they never drink five or more alcoholic drinks on one occasion.

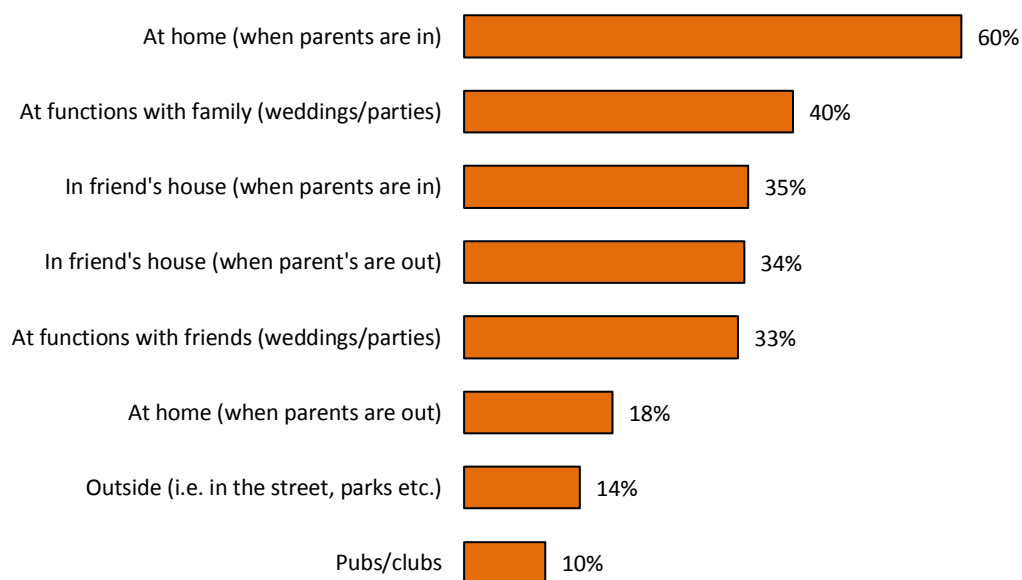
Chart 3 - How often would you say that you drink five or more alcoholic drinks on one occasion?



Base: respondents who drink alcohol (407)

Three-fifths of respondents who drink alcohol (60%) say they mostly drink at home, when their parents are in. This is an increase from 2015, when around half of respondents who drank alcohol (49%) said they mostly drank at home, when their parents were in.

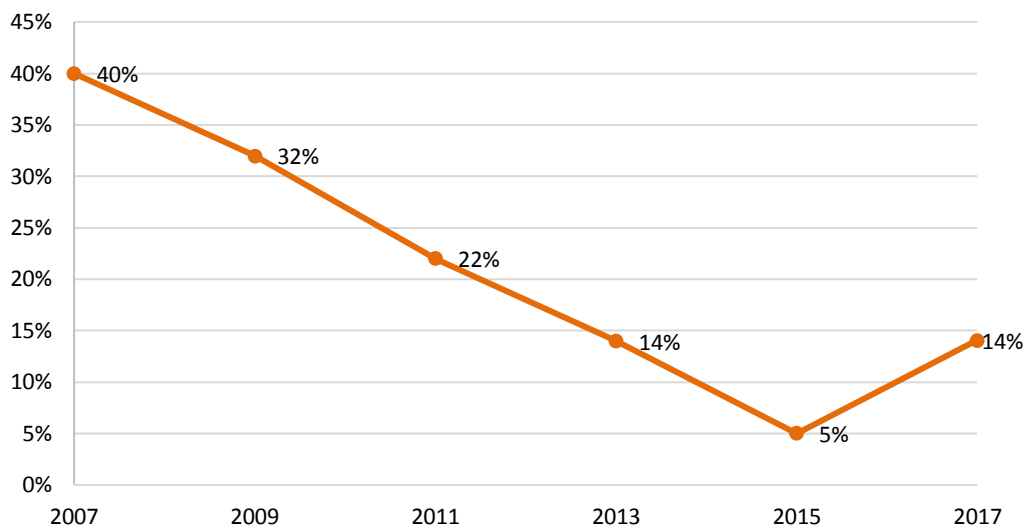
Chart 4 - Where do you mostly drink?



Base: respondents who drink alcohol (405)

One in seven respondents who drink alcohol (14%) say they mostly drink outside. The proportion of respondents who say they mostly drink outside has reduced considerably since 2007 when two-fifths of respondents who drank alcohol (40%) said they mostly drank outside.

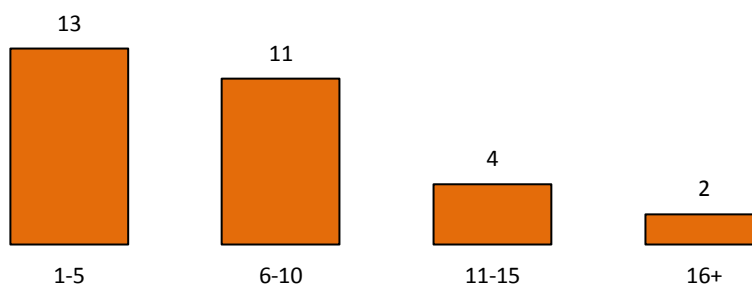
Chart 5 - Respondents who mostly drink outside, by year



Base: respondents who drink alcohol (405-2,089)

Only 30 respondents say that they drink alcohol outside. As the number of respondents is low, the figures presented below are actual figures and not percentages. About two-fifths of these respondents (13) say that they usually drink with five or less other people. A further third of these respondents (11) say that they usually drink outside with 6-10 other people and about a fifth (6) say that they usually drink outside with more than 10 people.

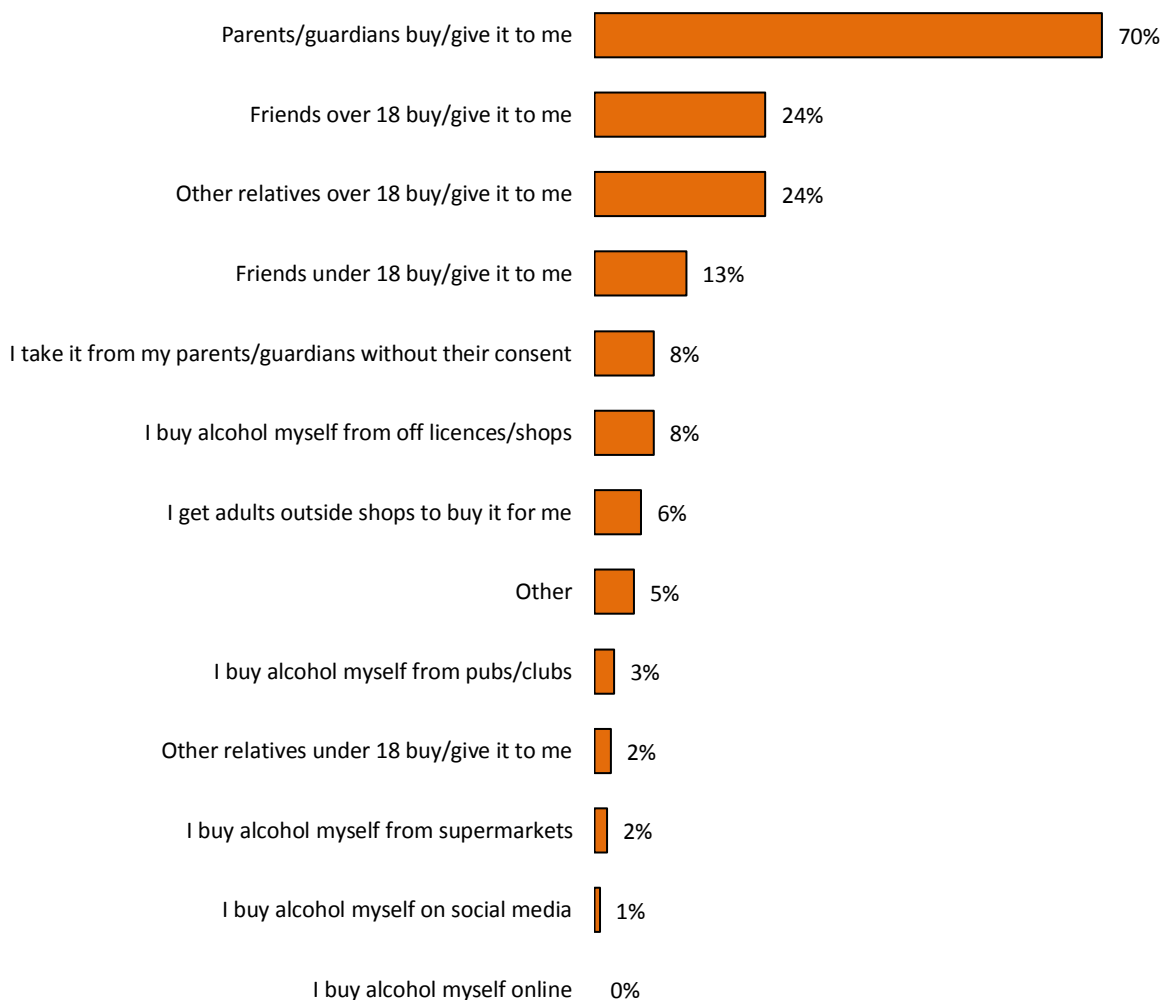
Chart 6 - If you do drink alcohol outside (i.e. in the street, parks, shops, etc.) how many other people do you usually drink with?



Base: respondents who drink alcohol outside (30)

Respondents who drink alcohol were then asked where they get their alcohol from. Over two-thirds of respondents who drink alcohol (70%) say that their parents/guardians buy/give it to them.

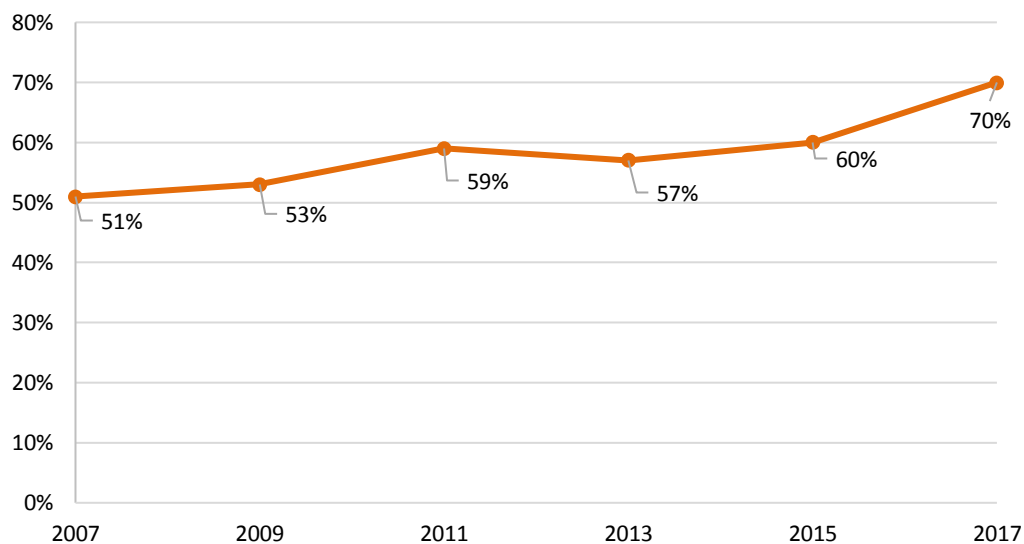
Chart 7 - Where do you get your alcohol from?



Base: respondents who drink alcohol (401)

Since 2007, there has been an increase in the proportion of respondents who drink alcohol who say that their parents/guardians buy/give it to them (51% in 2007 and 70% in 2017).

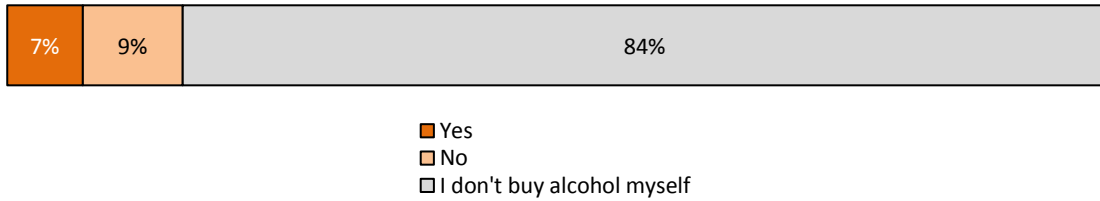
Chart 8 - Parents/guardians buy/give alcohol to me, by year



Base: respondents who drink alcohol (401-2,047)

Respondents who drink alcohol were then asked if they have ever been asked for ID when buying alcohol. Over four-fifths of these respondents (84%) say that they don't buy alcohol themselves.

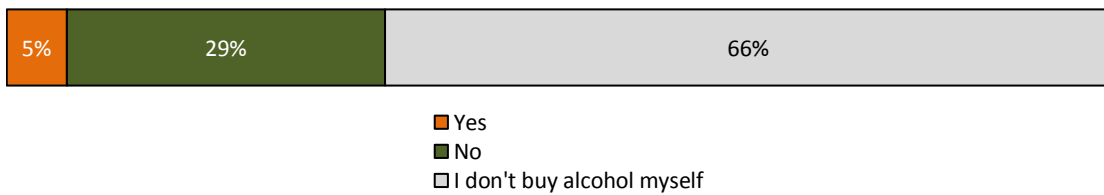
Chart 9 - Do you ever get asked for ID when buying alcohol?



Base: respondents who drink alcohol (407)

Respondents who drink alcohol were then asked if they have ever used someone else's ID to buy alcohol. One in twenty of these respondents (5%) say that they have used someone else's ID to buy alcohol.

Chart 10 - Have you ever used someone else's ID to buy alcohol?

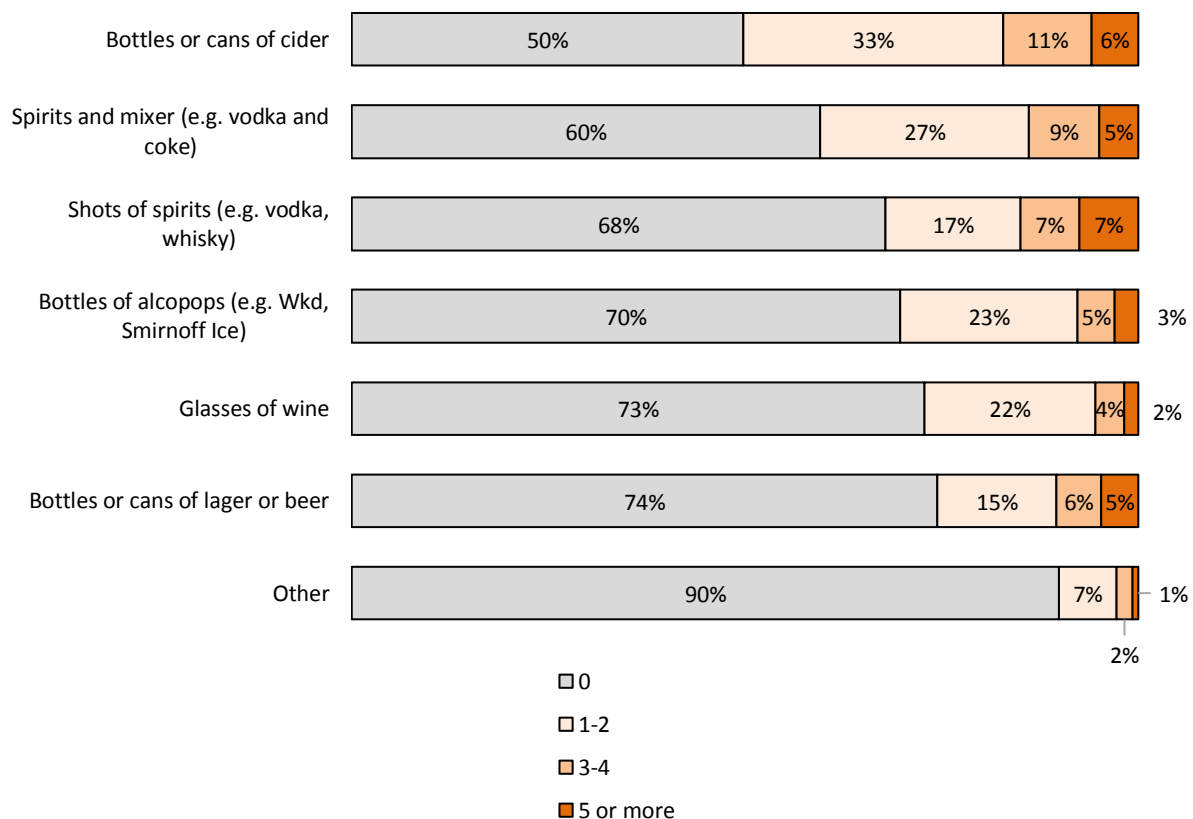


Base: respondents who drink alcohol (407)

Respondents who drink alcohol were asked how much of different types of alcoholic drinks they drink in a typical week.

These respondents were most likely to say that they drink bottles or cans of cider (50% say that in a typical week they drink at least one bottle or can of cider).

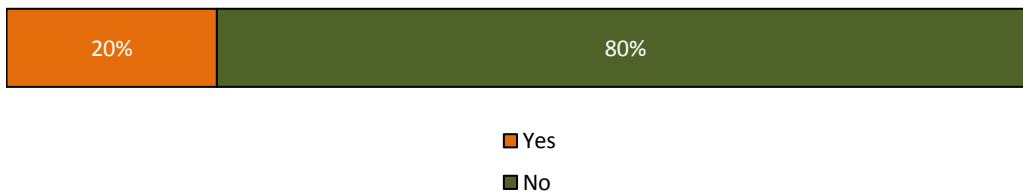
Chart 11 - In a typical week how many of the following do you drink?



Base: respondents who drink alcohol in a typical week (399-403)

All respondents were asked if they are aware of any 'drinking dens' or 'party houses' in their area. A fifth of respondents (20%) say that they are aware of them in their area. In 2015 a fifth of respondents (20%) also said that they were aware of 'drinking dens' or 'party houses' in their area, these figures, of about a fifth, are down from about three in ten respondents (30%) being aware of them in their area in 2013.

Chart 12 - Are you aware of any 'drinking dens' or 'party houses' in your area?



Base: all respondents (722)

All respondents were also asked what rules their parents/guardians have about them drinking alcohol. Only one in ten respondents (10%) say that their parents/guardians allow them to get drunk.

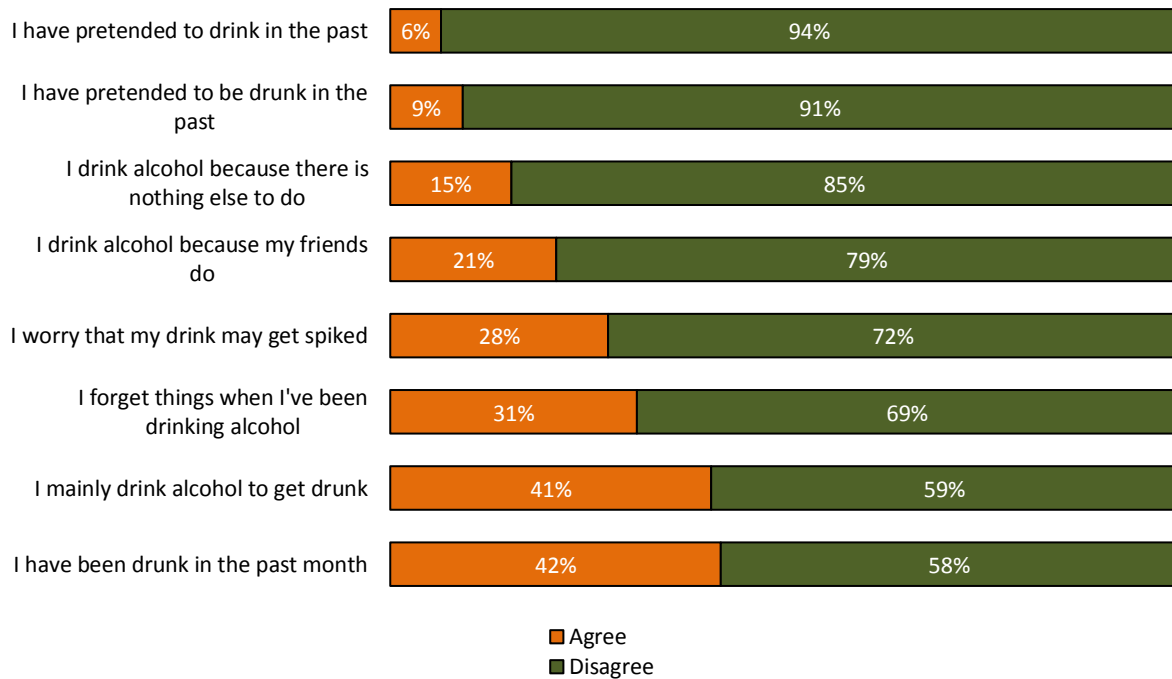
Chart 13 - What rules do your parents/guardians have about you drinking alcohol?



Base: all respondents (728)

Respondents who drink alcohol were then asked whether they agree or disagree with a number of statements about drinking alcohol. The statements that respondents are most likely to disagree with are: 'I have pretended to be drunk in the past' (94% disagree), 'I have pretended to drink alcohol in the past' (91% disagree) and 'I drink alcohol because there is nothing else to do' (85% disagree).

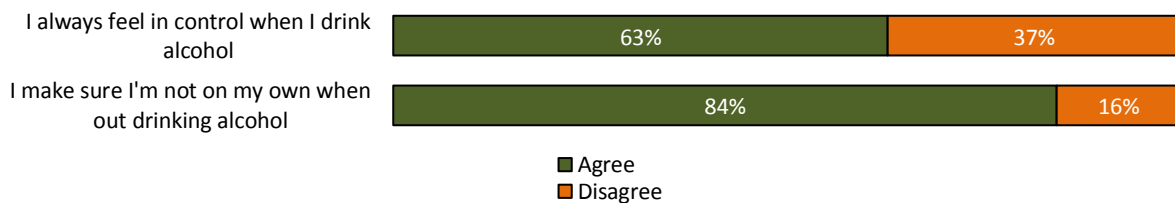
Chart 14 - Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements.



Base: respondents who drink alcohol (397-404)

The statements that respondents are most likely to agree with are: 'I make sure I am not on my own when I am out drinking alcohol' (84% agree) and 'I always feel in control when I drink alcohol' (63% agree).

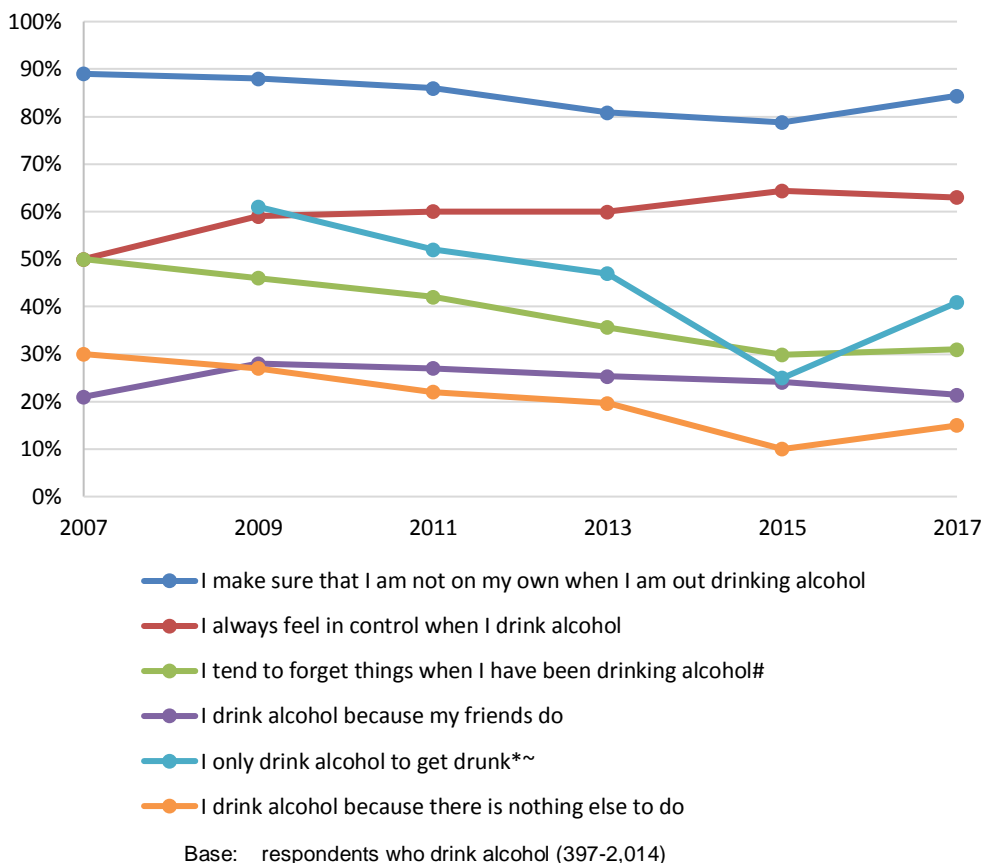
Chart 15 - Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements.



Base: respondents who drink alcohol (401-402)

Data has been collected for some, but not all, of the attitudes to alcohol statements since 2007. Looking at the responses to these statements over time suggests a general trend towards a more controlled attitude towards alcohol. For example, the proportion of respondents who only drink alcohol to get drunk has fallen from about three-fifths (61%) in 2009 to two-fifths (41%) in 2017~.

Chart 16 - Agreement with the statements about attitudes to alcohol, by year



* not asked in 2007

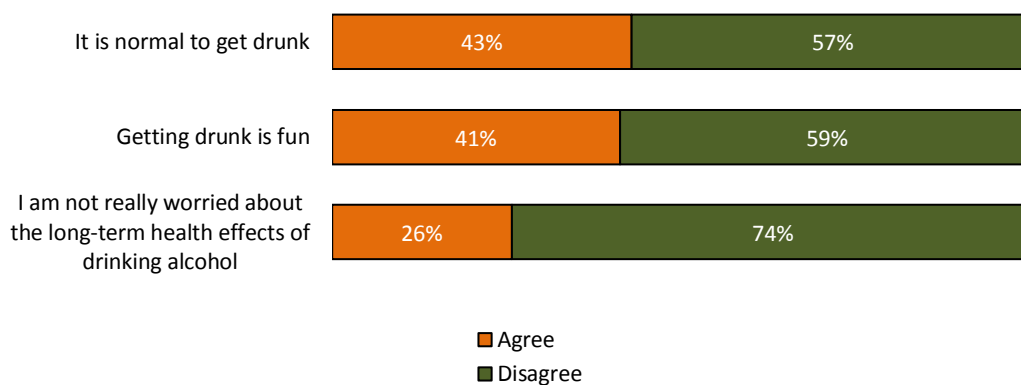
~ wording changed in 2017 to 'I mainly drink alcohol to get drunk'

wording changed in 2017. The words 'tend to' have been removed from the statement

All respondents were then asked whether they agree or disagree with some further statements about drinking alcohol.

About two-fifths of respondents agree that 'it is normal to get drunk' and 'getting drunk is fun' (43% and 41% respectively), but only about a quarter of respondents (26%) agree that they are 'not really worried about the long-term health effects of drinking alcohol'.

Chart 17 - Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements.

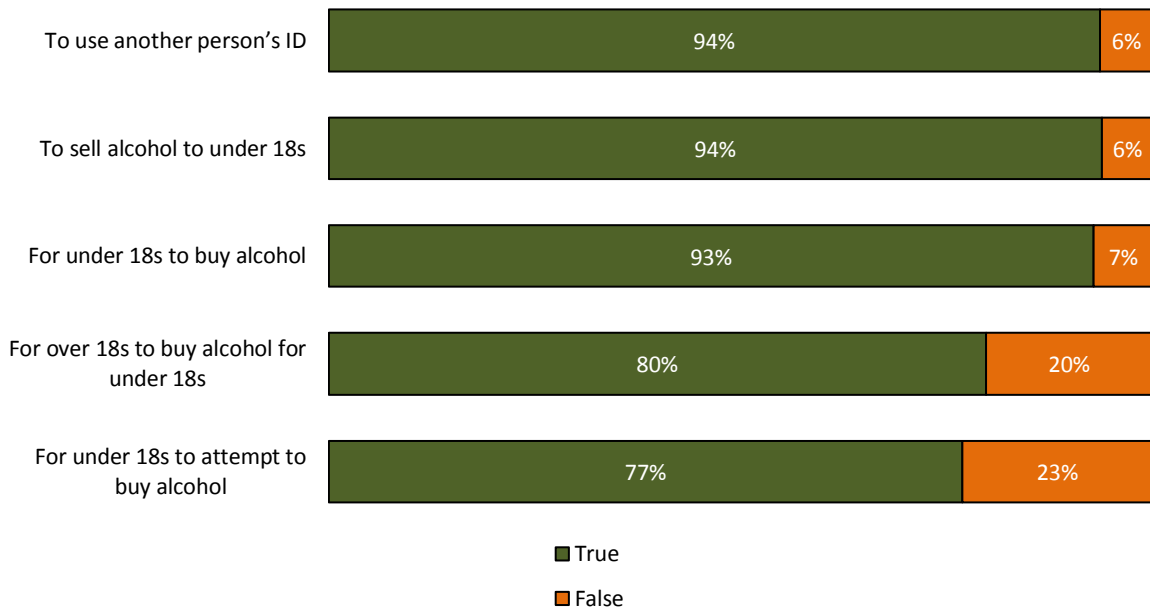


Base: respondents who drink alcohol (725-727)

All respondents were asked if a number of statements about alcohol were true or false.

Nearly all respondents say that it is 'true' that it is a criminal offence to use another person's ID (94%), to sell alcohol to under 18s (94%) and for under 18s to buy alcohol (93%).

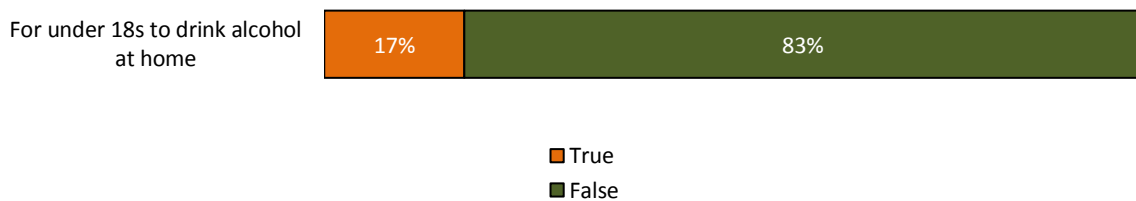
Chart 18 - Please indicate whether you think the following statements are true or false. It is a criminal offence...



Base: all respondents (724-734)

About one in six respondents (17%) that it is 'true' that it is a criminal offence for 18s to drink alcohol at home.

Chart 19 - Please indicate whether you think the following statements are true or false. It is a criminal offence...

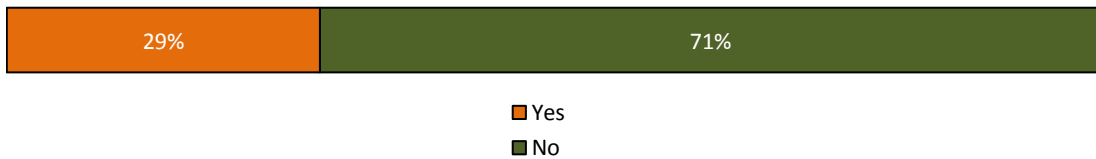


Base: all respondents (730)

6.2. Smoking

All respondents were asked if any of their parents/guardians smoke. About three in every ten respondents (29%) say that at least one parent or guardian smokes. This is down from two-fifths of respondents (40%) in 2013 who said that at least one parent or guardian smokes.

Chart 20 - Do any of your parents/guardians smoke?

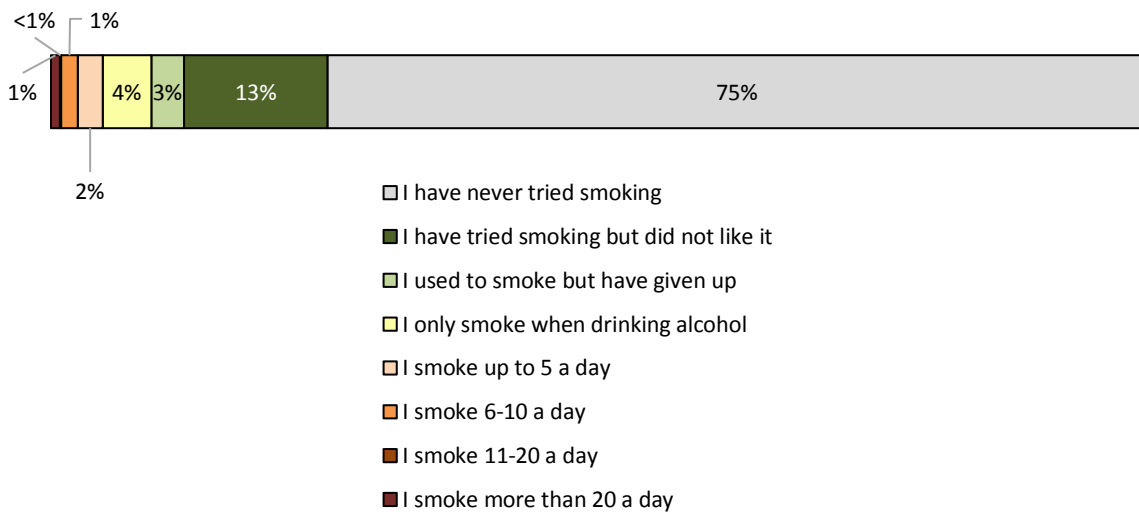


Base: all respondents (717)

Respondents were then asked which of several statements about smoking best describes them.

Three-quarters of respondents (75%) say that they have never tried smoking. About one in ten respondents (9%) currently smoke, down from about one in six respondents (16%) in 2013.

Chart 21 - Which of the following best describes you?

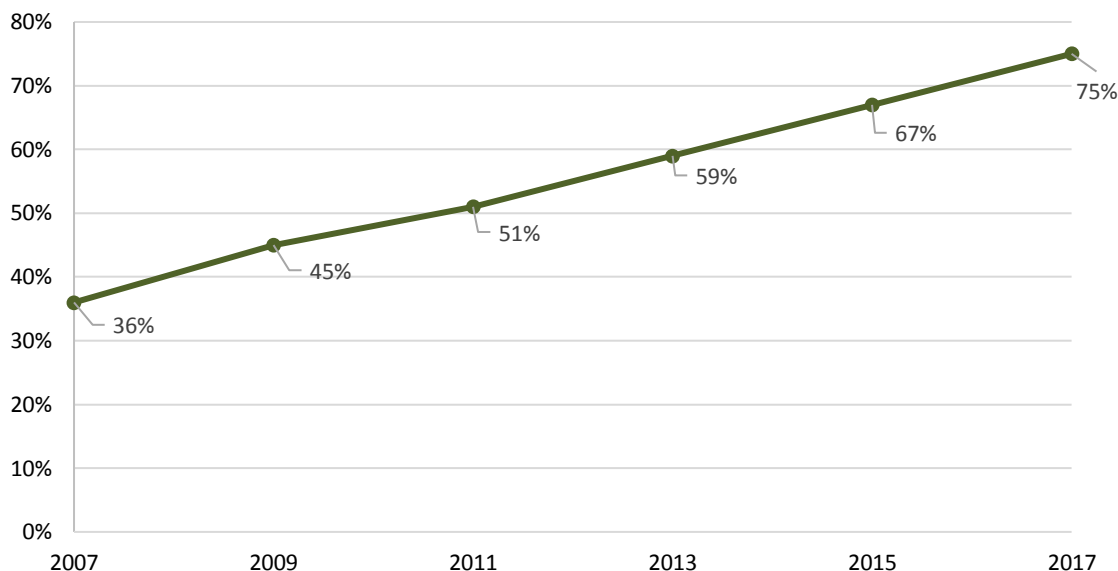


Base: all respondents (740)

Respondents who drink alcohol and respondents whose parents smoke are less likely to say that they have never tried smoking (60% and 63% respectively).

The proportion of respondents who say they have never smoked has steadily increased from about a third of respondents (36%) in 2007 to three-quarters of respondents (75%) in 2017.

Chart 22 - Proportion of respondents who have never tried smoking, by year



Base: all respondents (740-3,430)

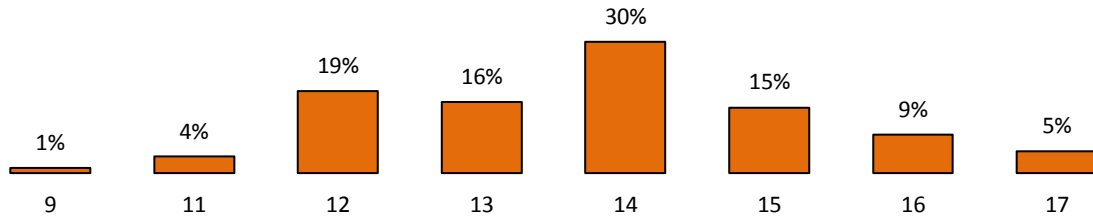
The overall trend over time is supported by an increase proportion of respondents in each age group who say that they never smoke. For example, the number of respondents aged 16 who say they have never smoked has increased from 51% in 2013 to 71% in 2017.

Table 6 - Never smoke, by age over time

	Age							
	14		15		16		17	
	Never smoke							
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
2017	251	82%	191	73%	64	71%	17	46%
2015	499	77%	545	70%	296	59%	105	43%
2013	891	68%	790	57%	326	51%	30	26%

Respondents who have smoked, even if they have stopped now, were then asked how old they were when they started smoking. Two-thirds of these respondents (66%) started smoking when they were aged 12 to 14.

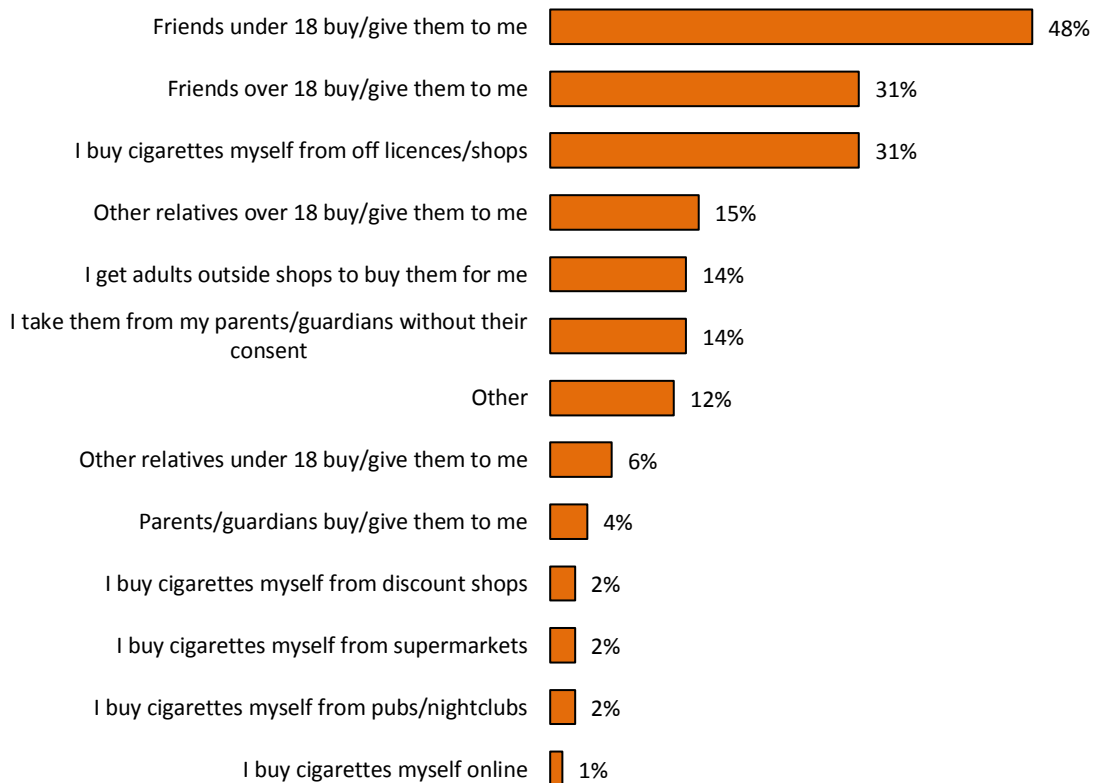
Chart 23 - How old were you when you started smoking?



Base: respondents who smoke/have smoked in the past (79)

Respondents who smoke were then asked where they get their cigarettes/tobacco from. The most common responses are that 'friends under 18 buy/give them to me' (48%), 'friends over 18 buy/give them to me' (31%) and 'I buy cigarettes/tobacco myself from off-licences/shops' (31%).

Chart 24 - Where do/did you get your cigarettes from?

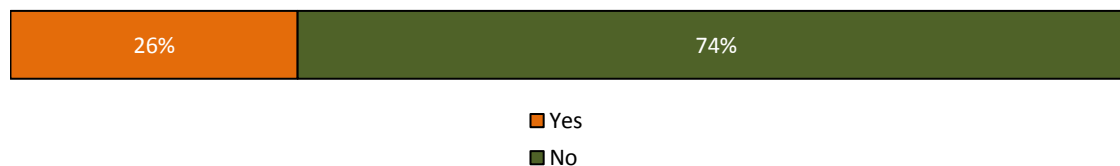


Base: respondents who smoke (81)

Respondents who smoke were then asked if they had bought any illegal cigarettes in the last 12 months.

About a quarter of respondents who smoke (26%) say that they have bought illegal cigarettes in the last 12 months.

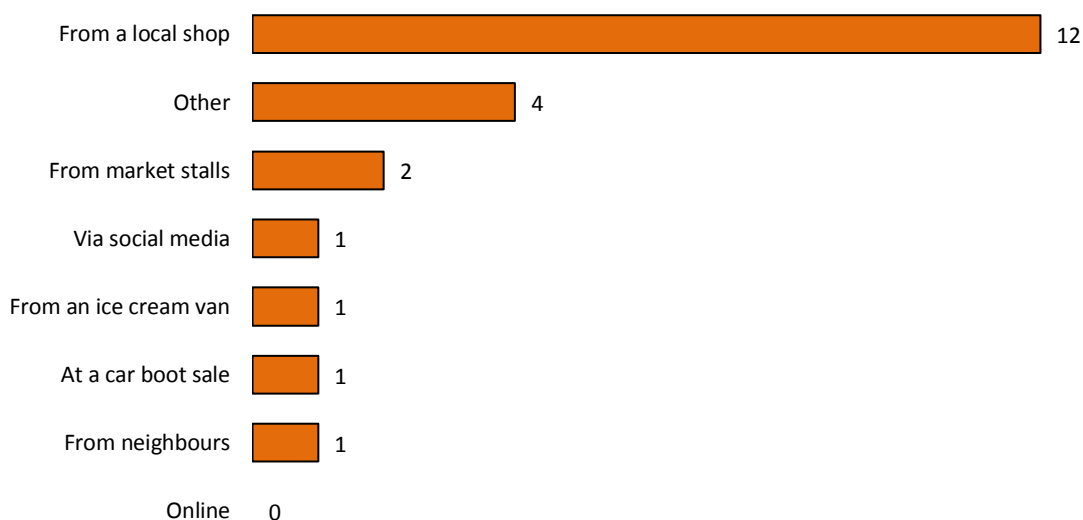
Chart 25 - In the last 12 months have you bought any illegal cigarettes?



Base: respondents who smoke (86)

Of the 22 respondents who say that they have bought illegal cigarettes in the last 12 months, 12 respondents say that they bought them from a local shop.

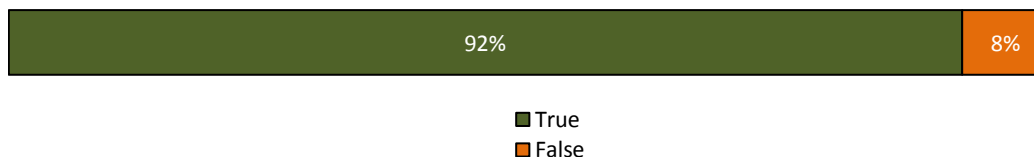
Chart 26 - Where did you buy [illegal cigarettes] from?



Base: respondents who smoke and who have bought illegal cigarettes in the last 12 months (20)

All respondents were asked if it is true or false that it is a criminal offence to sell cigarettes to under 18s. Less than one in ten respondents (8%) say that they think that the statement 'it is a criminal offence to sell cigarettes to under 18s' is false.

Chart 27 - Please indicate whether you think the following statement is true or false. It is a criminal offence to sell cigarettes to under 18s?



Base: all respondents (730)

6.3. E-cigarettes

All respondents were then asked about their use of electronic cigarettes.

Over two-thirds of respondents (70%) say that they have never used them. In 2015 around two-thirds of respondents (64%) said they had never used them and in 2013 nearly three-quarters of respondents (73%) said they had never used them³.

Chart 28 - Which of the following statements best describes your experience of e-cigarettes?



- I have never tried them
- I have tried them once or twice
- I use them sometimes (more than once a month)
- I use them often (more than once a week)

Base: all respondents (734)

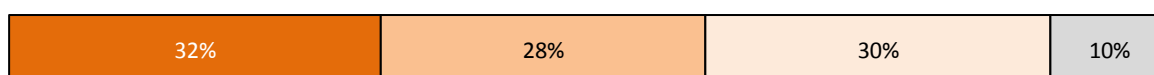
³ The question asked in 2013 was worded differently and respondents could only provide a 'yes' or 'no' answer. The question was 'Have you ever bought or tried electronic cigarettes?'

Respondents who use electronic cigarettes were then asked if they had tried a real cigarette or electronic cigarette first.

In 2015 nearly three-quarters of respondents (71%) said that they had tried a real cigarette first, but in 2017 this had decreased to only a third (32%) of respondents saying that they had tried a real cigarette first.

Three in ten respondents (30%) say that they have never tried a real cigarette but have but have tried an e-cigarette and about three in ten respondents (28%) tried an e-cigarette before trying a real cigarette.

Chart 29 - Which of the following applies to you?



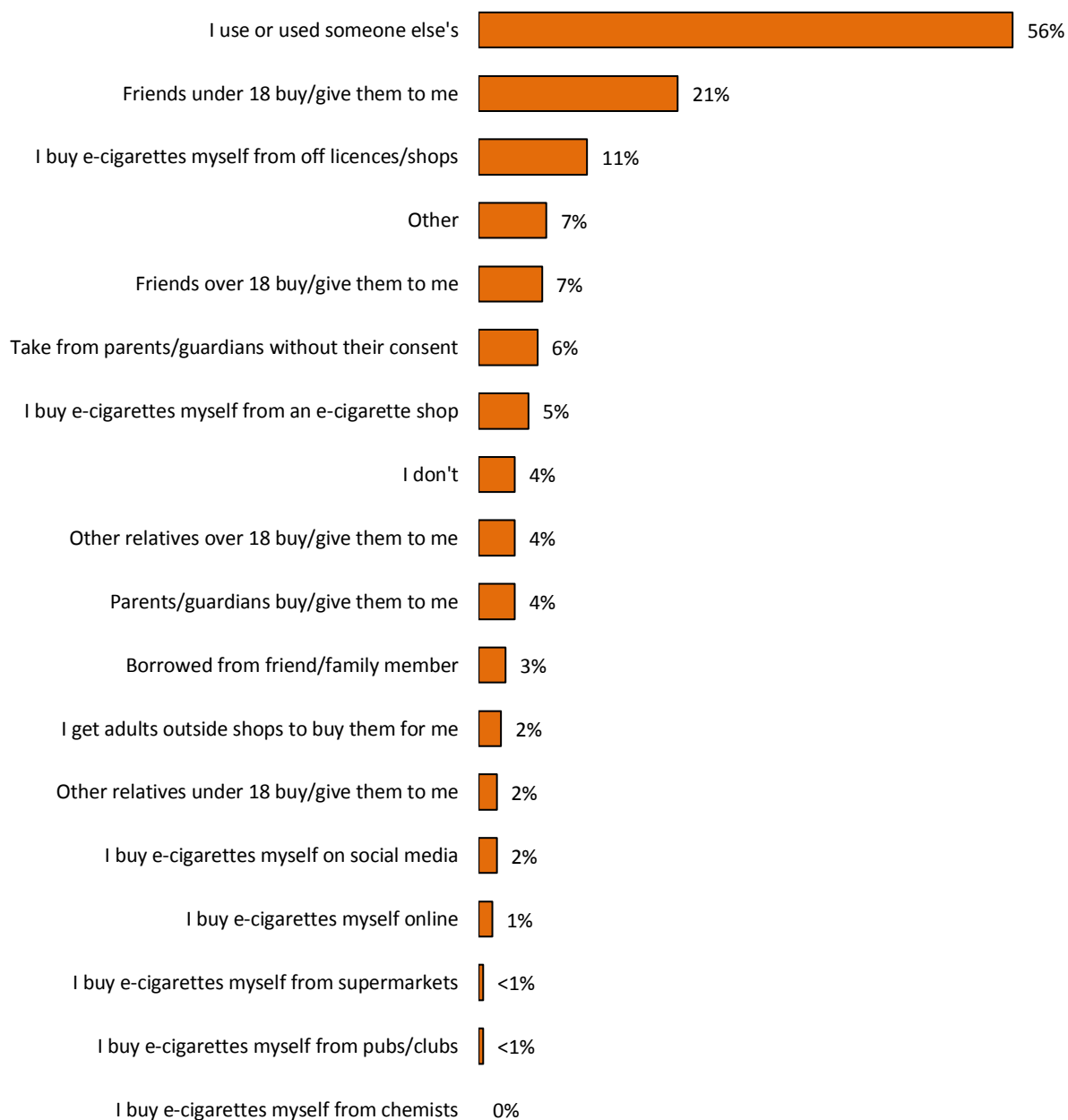
- I tried smoking a real cigarette/tobacco before I first tried an e-cigarette
- I tried an e-cigarette before I first tried smoking a real cigarette
- I have never smoked a real cigarette but have tried an e-cigarette
- I don't remember

Base: respondents who use electronic cigarettes (218)

Respondents who use electronic cigarettes were then asked where they get their electronic cigarettes from.

Over half of respondents (56%) say 'I use or used someone else's' and about a fifth of respondents (21%) say 'friends under 18 buy/give them to me'.

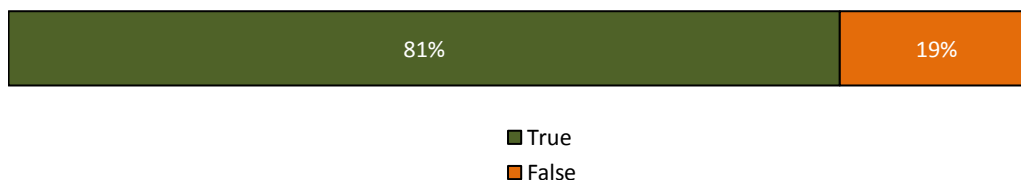
Chart 30 - Where do or did you get your e-cigarettes from?



Base: respondents who use electronic cigarettes (211)

All respondents were asked if it is true or false that it is a criminal offence to sell e-cigarettes to under 18s. About a fifth of respondents (19%) say that they think that the statement 'it is a criminal offence to sell e-cigarettes to under 18s' is false.

Chart 31 - Please indicate whether you think the following statement is true or false. It is a criminal offence to sell e-cigarettes to under 18s?

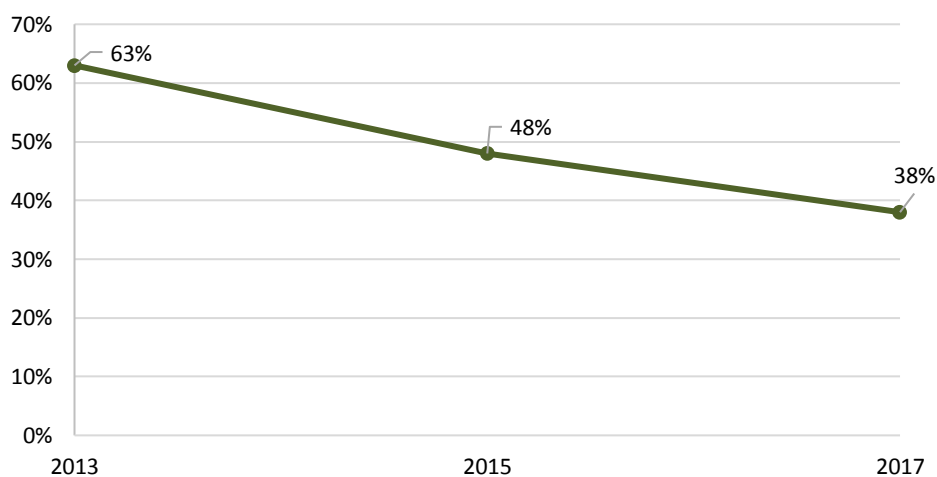


Base: all respondents (723)

6.4. Energy drinks

All respondents were asked if they drink energy/high caffeine drinks. About two-fifths of respondents (38%) say they drink energy drinks, down from nearly two-thirds of respondents (63%) in 2013.

Chart 32 - Do you drink energy/high caffeine drinks?*



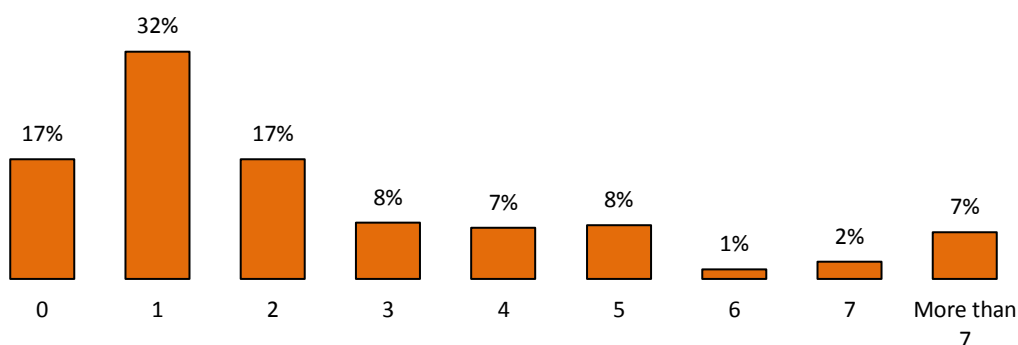
Base: all respondents (723-3,392)

*The question in 2017 was amended to include the words 'high caffeine'.

Male respondents are more likely than female respondents to say they drink energy drinks (66% and 29% respectively).

Respondents who drink energy drinks were then asked how many they drink in a typical week. Two-thirds of these respondents (66%) say they drink two or less energy drinks in a typical week. More than one in twenty respondents (7%) say they drink more than seven energy drinks in a typical week.

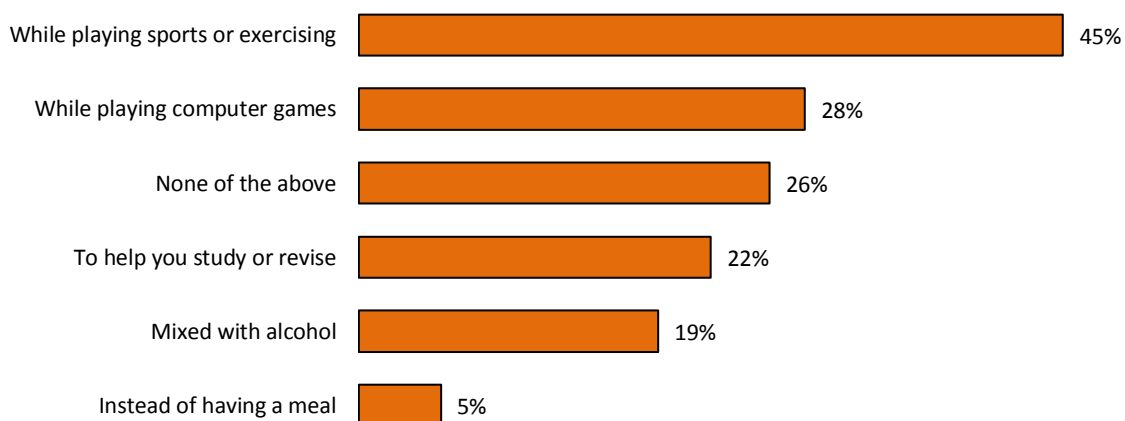
Chart 33 - If yes, how many high energy/caffeine drinks do you drink in a week?



Base: respondents who drink energy drinks (287)

Respondents who drink energy drinks were then presented with a number of examples of where people might drink energy drinks and were asked if they drink energy drinks in these situations. Of the examples provided, respondents who drink energy drinks were most likely to say they drink them while playing sport or exercising (45%) and least likely to say they drink them instead of having a meal (5%).

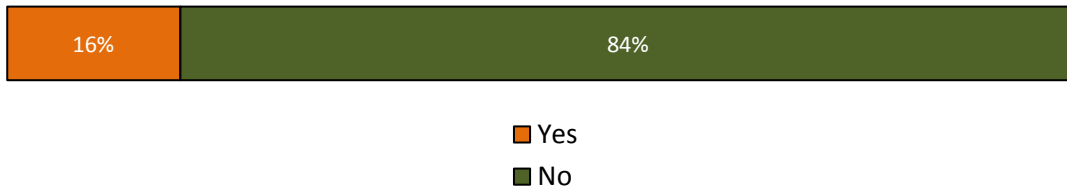
Chart 34 - Do you drink energy drinks?



Base: respondents who drink energy drinks (269)

Respondents who drink energy drinks were then asked if drinking energy drinks has ever made them feel ill. About one in six of these respondents (16%) say that they have felt ill from drinking energy drinks.

Chart 35 - Has drinking energy drinks ever made you feel ill?



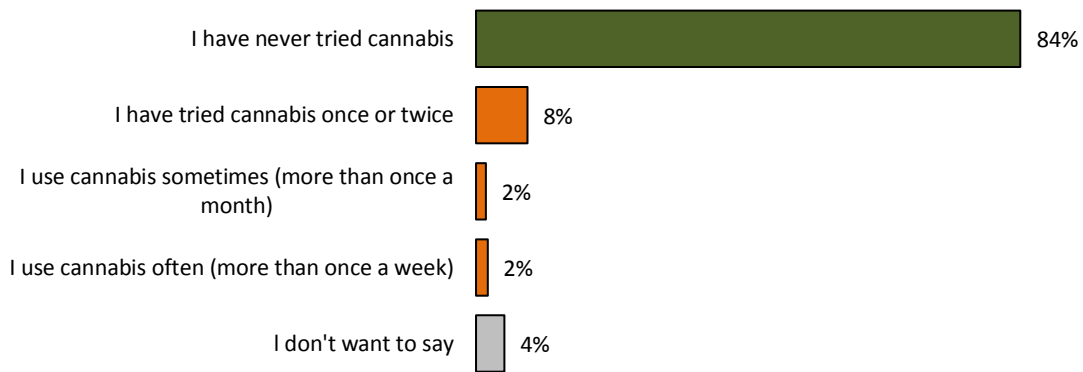
Base: respondents who drink energy drinks (269)

6.5. Illegal substances

All respondents were asked about their experience of cannabis. Over four-fifths of respondents (84%) say that they have never tried cannabis. This is the same proportion of respondents (84%) who reported that they had never tried cannabis in the 2015 survey.

About one in twenty respondents (4%) report using cannabis regularly⁴. Again, this is the same proportion of respondents (4%) who reported using cannabis regularly in the 2015 survey.

Chart 36 - Which ONE of the following statements is the closest to describing your experience of cannabis?

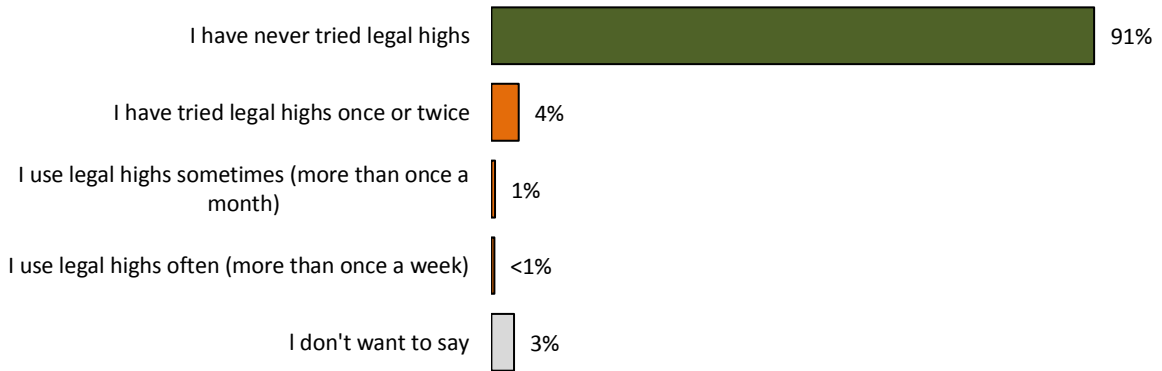


Base: all respondents (728)

⁴ Respondents who reported using cannabis either sometimes or often.

All respondents were also asked about their experience of legal highs. Over nine in ten respondents (91%) say that they have never tried legal highs. This is also the same proportion (91%) of respondents who reported that they have never tried legal highs in the 2015 survey.

Chart 37 - Which ONE of the following statements is the closest to describing your experience of legal highs?

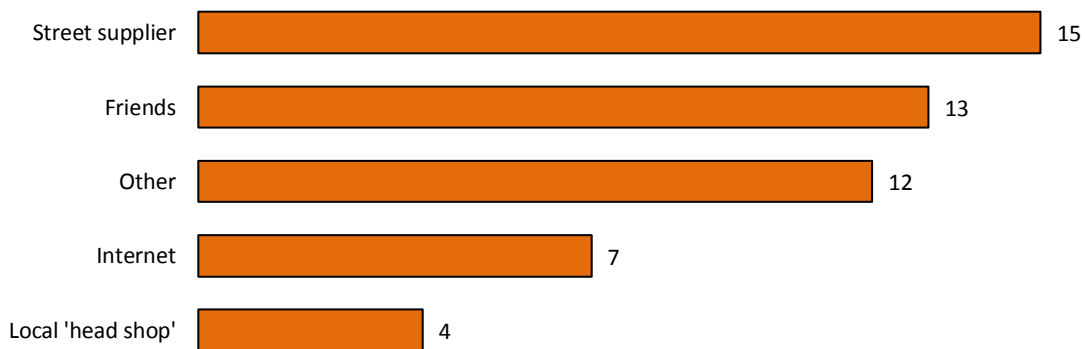


Base: all respondents (727)

Respondents who say they have used legal highs were then asked where they get them from. As only 47 respondents answered this question the figures presented below are actual figures and not percentages.

Respondents were most likely to say that they get their legal highs from a street supplier (15 respondents).

Chart 38 - Where do or did you get your legal highs from?

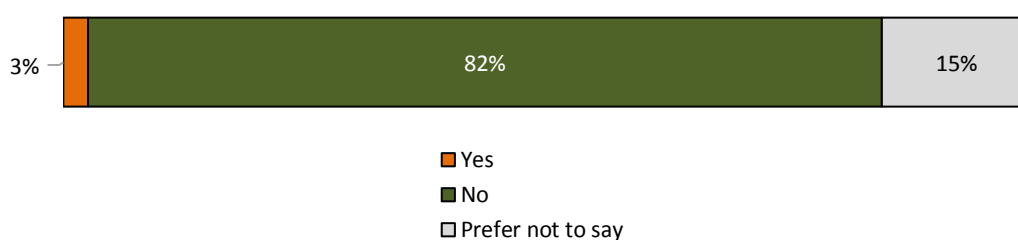


Base: respondents who have used legal highs (47)

6.6. Risk-taking behaviour

Respondents who drink alcohol were asked if they have ever regretted having sex with someone after drinking alcohol. About one every in thirty three of these respondents (3%) say that they have regretted having sex with someone after drinking alcohol.

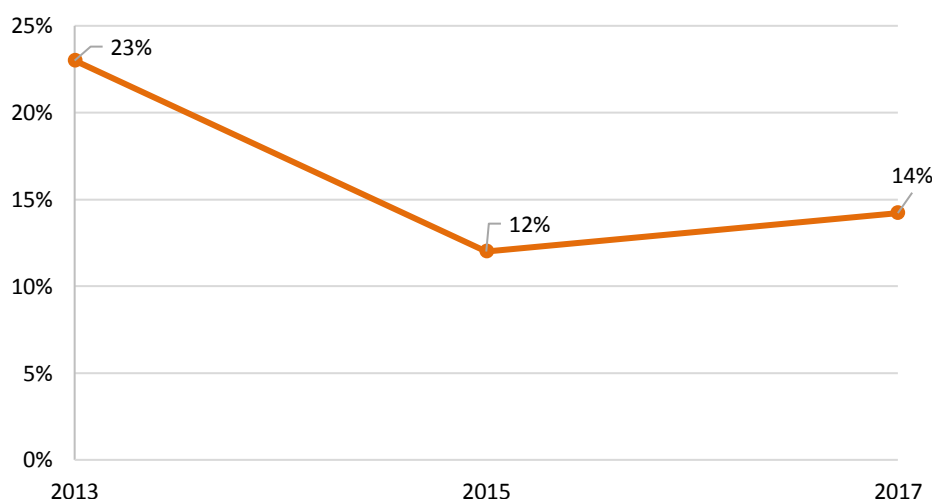
Chart 39 - Have you ever regretted having sex with someone after drinking alcohol?



Base: respondents who drink alcohol (397)

Respondents who drink alcohol were also asked if they have ever been violent or in a fight whilst drunk. About one in seven respondents (14%) say that they have been violent or in a fight whilst drunk. In the 2013 survey nearly a quarter of respondents (23%) said that they had been violent or in a fight whilst drunk.

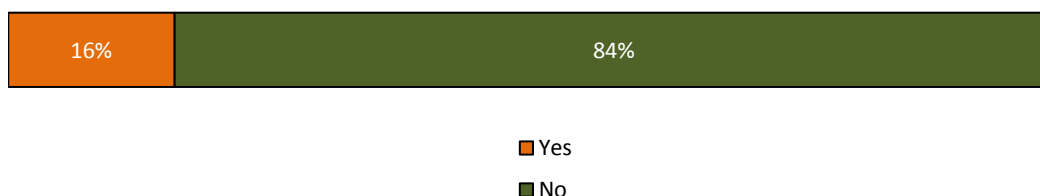
Chart 40 - Have you ever been violent or in a fight whilst drunk?



Base: respondents who drink alcohol (397-2,084)

All respondents were asked if they have ever been in a car when the person driving has been drinking alcohol. About one in six respondents (16%) say that they have been in a car when the person driving has been drinking alcohol.

Chart 41 - Have you ever been in a car when the person driving has been drinking alcohol?



Base: all respondents (723)

Respondents who have been in a car when the person driving has been drinking alcohol were then asked about the age of the person driving. About a fifth of these respondents (18%) say the person was aged 25 or younger and about four-fifths (82%) say the person driving was older than 25.

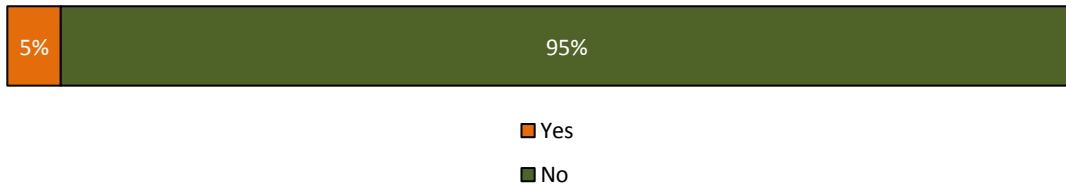
Chart 42 - If yes, was the person driving...?



Base: respondents who have been in a car when the person driving has been drinking alcohol (114)

All respondents were asked if they have ever been in a car when the person driving has taken drugs. One in twenty respondents (5%) say that they have been in a car when the person driving has taken drugs.

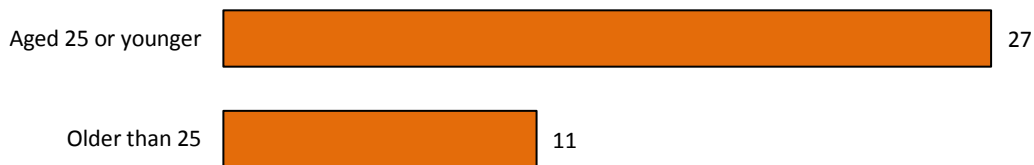
Chart 43 - Have you ever been in a car when the person driving has taken drugs?



Base: all respondents (713)

Respondents who have been in a car when the person driving has taken drugs were then asked about the age of the person driving. Only 38 respondents gave an answer to this question, so the figures presented below are the actual number of respondents and not percentages. Of these respondents, 27 say that the person driving who had taken drugs was 25 or younger and 11 respondents say the person driving was older than 25.

Chart 44 - If yes, was the person driving...?



Base: respondents who have been in a car when the person driving has taken drugs (38)

7. Conclusions

7.1.1. Alcohol

It appears that the trend since the 2005 survey has been for an increasing proportion of respondents to say they never drink alcohol. However, the age profile of respondents should be considered when interpreting these figures. The results from 2013-2017 suggest that the proportion of respondents aged 15-17 who never drink has not changed and that any change is likely to be due to an increase in the proportion of 14 year olds who never drink. This said, the results of the 2011 survey by age indicate that, since 2011, the proportion of respondents who never drink has increased for each age group.

7.1.2. Tobacco

The trend since the 2007 survey has been for an increase in the proportion of respondents who say they have never tried smoking. The overall trend over time is supported by an increased proportion of respondents in each age group who say that they never smoke.

Illegal cigarettes are popular with smokers, as about a quarter of smokers have bought illegal cigarettes in the last 12 months.

7.1.3. Electronic cigarettes

Electronic cigarette use remains low, with less than one in twenty respondents saying they use them often. The proportion of respondents who have never used electronic cigarettes has remained relatively stable between the 2013, 2015 and 2017 surveys.

The results from the 2015 survey and 2017 survey suggest that the type of person trying electronic cigarettes may be changing. In the 2015 survey, most respondents who had tried electronic cigarettes had tried real cigarettes first. However, in the 2017 survey, respondents who had tried electronic cigarettes were most likely to have either never tried a real cigarette or to have tried an electronic cigarette before trying a real cigarette.

Ownerships of electronic cigarettes is likely to be small as over half of respondents use or have used someone else's electronic cigarette.

7.1.4. Energy drinks

Since 2013, the proportion of respondents drinking energy drinks has decreased from nearly two-thirds of respondents to about two-fifths of respondents.

About one in six of these respondents say that they have felt ill from drinking energy drinks.

7.1.5. Illegal substances

Regular cannabis use is low with about one in twenty respondents reporting they use cannabis regularly⁵. Over four-fifths of respondents say that they have never tried cannabis. Legal high use is lower than cannabis use with about nine in ten respondents saying that they have never tried legal highs.

7.1.6. Risk-taking behaviour

Risk-taking behaviour is relatively low. Only about one in every thirty three respondents who have drunk alcohol say that they have regretted having sex with someone after drinking alcohol, about one in seven respondents who drink alcohol say that they have been violent or in a fight whilst drunk, about one in six say that they have been in a car when the person driving has been drinking alcohol, and one in twenty respondents say that they have been in a car when the person driving has taken drugs.

⁵ Respondents who reported using cannabis either sometimes or often.