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Drug Misuse Declared: Findings from the 2006/07 British Crime Survey

England and Wales

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Acknowledgements

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Summary

Overall summary

This statistical bulletin considers the extent of illicit drug use among 16 to 59 year olds in England and Wales in 2006/07 and trends in drug use since 1998 (the beginning of the Government's Drug Strategy) based on data from the British Crime Survey (BCS). It particularly focuses on young people and also looks at demographic and geographical variations in drug use.

Use in last year

- At 10%, overall use of any drug by 16 to 59 year olds is at its lowest level since the BCS started measurement in 1996. This is mainly due to declines in the use of cannabis (the most prevalent drug amongst 16 to 59 year olds) since 2003/04.

- Class A drug use in the past year among 16 to 59 year olds was higher in 2006/07 than in 1998. This is mainly due to a comparatively large increase in cocaine powder use between 1998 and 2000. However between 2000 and 2006/07 the use of Class A drugs overall remained stable (3.4% in 2006/07).

- Overall use of any drug amongst 16 to 59 year olds has remained stable between 2005/06 and 2006/07, although there has been a decrease in the use of magic mushrooms and an increase in the use of glues.

- Among young people aged 16 to 24 use of any drug decreased from 31.8% to 24.1% between 1998 and 2006/07 and Class A drug use remained stable. In 2006/07 8.1% of 16 to 24 year olds reported use of any Class A drug in the past year. Frequent use of any drug in the past year by 16 to 24 year olds has decreased from 11.6 per cent in 2002/03, when questions on frequency of use were first asked, to 8.3 per cent in 2006/07.

Summary of trends in drug use in the last year amongst <u>16 to 59 year olds</u>, 1998 to 2006/07 BCS

Increase	Decrease	Stable
Any Class A drug (overall), **any cocaine (overall)**, cocaine powder	**Any drug (overall), any hallucinogens (overall)**, amphetamines, cannabis, LSD, anabolic steroids, tranquilisers	**Any opiates (overall)**, amyl nitrite, crack cocaine, ecstasy, glues, heroin, magic mushrooms, methadone

Summary of trends in drug use in the last year amongst <u>16 to 24 year olds</u>, 1998 to 2006/07 BCS

Increase	Decrease	Stable
Any cocaine (overall), cocaine powder	**Any Drug (overall), any hallucinogens (overall), any opiates (overall)**, amphetamines, cannabis, LSD, magic mushrooms, tranquilisers	**Any Class A drug (overall)**, amyl nitrite, crack cocaine, ecstasy, glues, heroin, methadone, anabolic steroids

General population: extent of drug use and trends since 1998

- The 2006/07 BCS estimates that 35.5% of 16 to 59 year olds have used one or more illicit drugs in their lifetime, 10.0% used one or more illicit drugs in the last year and 5.9% in the last month.

- The survey also estimates that 13.8% of those aged 16 to 59 have used a Class A drug at least once in their lifetime, 3.4% used at least one Class A drug in the last year and 1.7% last month.

- Cannabis is the drug most likely to be used. The 2006/07 BCS indicates that 8.2% of 16 to 59 year olds reported using cannabis in the last year. Cocaine is the next most commonly used drug with 2.6% reporting use of any form of it (either cocaine powder or crack cocaine) in the last year.

- Use of ecstasy in the last year is estimated at 1.8%, amyl nitrite at 1.4% and amphetamine use at 1.3%. The use of hallucinogens (LSD and magic mushrooms) in the last year was reported by 0.7% of 16 to 59 year olds.

- This is the first year that questions on ketamine have been asked in the BCS. Use of ketamine in the past year was reported by 0.3% of 16 to 59 year olds.

- It is estimated that just over 11 and a quarter million people aged 16 to 59 in England and Wales have used illicit drugs in their lifetime, while just under three and a quarter million are estimated to have used illicit drugs in the last year and almost two million in the last month.

- It is also estimated that just under four and a half million people aged 16 to 59 have used Class A drugs in their lifetime with just over one million having used them in the past year and just over 500 thousand in the last month.

- When looking at specific types of drugs, it is estimated that just over 800,000 people used cocaine powder and just over 550,000 people used ecstasy in the last year.

- The proportion of 16 to 59 year olds who used any illicit drug in the last year was lower in 2006/07 than in 1998, mainly due to successive declines in cannabis use since 2003/04.

- There was no statistically significant difference between 2005/06 and 2006/07 in the overall level of any illicit drug use in the last year.

- Class A drug use in the past year among 16 to 59 year olds was higher in 2006/07 than in 1998. This is mainly due to a comparatively large increase in cocaine powder use between 1998 and 2000. However between 2000 and 2006/07 the use of Class A drugs overall remained stable. The use of hallucinogens decreased overall between 1998 and 2006/07.

- The figures for 2006/07, compared to 2005/06, show a stable pattern for all Class A drugs, with the exception of magic mushrooms which show a decrease in the past year.

Young people: extent of drug use and trends since 1998

- The 2006/07 BCS estimates that 44.7% of young people (i.e. those aged 16 to 24) have used one or more illicit drugs in their lifetime, 24.1% have used one or more illicit drugs in the last year and 14.3% in the last month.

- The 2006/07 BCS also estimates that 16.3% of those aged 16 to 24 have used a Class A drug at least once in their lifetime, 8.1% have used at least one Class A drug in the previous year and 4.3% in the past month.

- Cannabis remains the drug most likely to be used by 16 to 24 year olds. The 2006/07 BCS estimates that 20.9% of 16 to 24 year olds used cannabis in the last year. Cocaine is the next most commonly used drug with 6.1% reporting use of any form of it in the previous year, while ecstasy use is estimated at 4.8%.

- Amyl nitrite use is estimated at 4.3%, use of amphetamines at 3.5% and use of hallucinogens at 2.1%. Other drugs are more rarely used.

- This is the first year that questions on ketamine have been asked in the BCS. Use of ketamine in the past year was reported by 0.8% of 16 to 24 year olds.

- It is estimated that there are over two and three quarter million people aged 16 to 24 in England and Wales who have used illicit drugs at some point in their lives. Over one and a half million people are estimated to have used drugs in the previous year and just under one million in the past month.

- It is also estimated that over one million people aged 16 to 24 have used a Class A drug in their lifetime. Over 500 thousand young people are estimated to have used a Class A drug in the past year and around 250 thousand in the past month.

- When looking at specific types of Class A drug use in the past year, it is estimated that almost 375 thousand young people used cocaine powder and almost 275 thousand used ecstasy.

- The use of any illicit drug in the past year by young people decreased between 1998 and 2006/07. This is mainly due to the gradual decrease in cannabis use over this period.

- Class A drug use among young people has remained stable since 1998.

- The use of cocaine powder by young people was higher in 2006/07 than in 1998. The biggest increase in the use of cocaine powder occurred between 1998 and 2000, and since 2000 cocaine powder use has been stable. Since 1998 the use of hallucinogens has decreased.

- The figures for 2006/07 showed a decrease in the use of magic mushrooms amongst 16 to 24 year olds compared to 2005/06.

- Frequent use of any drug in the past year amongst young people has decreased since 2002/03, when questions on frequent drug use were first introduced.

Demographic and geographical variations

- Younger age groups generally reported higher levels of drug use. In 2006/07, the 16 to 19 and the 20 to 24 year old age groups reported the highest levels of last year and last month use of any illicit drug. When considering Class A drugs, those aged 20 to 24 years had the highest rate of last year and last month use.

- The use of any drug in the previous year decreased between 1998 and 2006/07 amongst the 16 to 19, the 20 to 24 and the 25 to 29 age groups. The reported use of any drug in the past year remained stable for older age groups. From 1998 to 2006/07 the use of Class A drugs in the previous year increased amongst the 30 to 34 and the 35 to 44 age groups. The reported use of Class A drugs in the past year fluctuated between 1998 and 2006/07, but remained stable overall, for all other age groups.

- Men reported higher levels of use on all three measures (ever, past year and past month) of any illicit drugs and Class A drugs compared to women in 2006/07. This pattern of greater reported use amongst men could be seen for both the 16 to 59 and the 16 to 24 age groups.

- Use of any illicit drug in the past year amongst both men and women aged 16 to 59 decreased from 1998 to 2006/07. Use of Class A drugs in the last year amongst men aged 16 to 59 increased from 1998 to 2006/07 while for women it remained stable.

- When comparing the individual Government Office Regions and Wales with each other, there were some differences in the overall levels of any drug use and the levels of Class A drug use. According to the 2006/07 BCS, the South West (11.1%) and the North West (11.0%) had the highest levels of any drug use while the West Midlands (9.2%) and the Eastern region (9.1%) had the lowest levels. The levels of Class A drug use were highest in the North East (4.1%) and the North West (4.0%) and lowest in Wales (2.5%).

1   Introduction

The British Crime Survey (BCS) is a large nationally representative survey of adults living in private households in England and Wales. In addition to asking respondents about their experiences of crime, the BCS also asks about a number of other crime-related topics. Since 1996 the BCS has included a comparable self completion module of questions on illicit drug use.

This statistical bulletin examines the prevalence and trends of illicit drug use among 16 to 59 year olds since 1998, which marked the beginning of the Government's Drug Strategy[1]. It also looks at any emerging trends since the last financial year 2005/06. The report has a particular focus on young people aged 16 to 24. The bulletin also looks at the extent of drug use among men and women and across Government Office Regions and Wales. This bulletin updates the previous report on self-reported drug use, 'Drug Misuse Declared: Findings from the 2005/06 British Crime Survey'.

A high level summary of the latest figures (from the 2006/07 BCS) have already been released in the annual statistical bulletin *Crime in England and Wales* which was published in July 2007[2].

1.1   The Drug Strategy

The Government's Drug Strategy has the over-arching aim to 'reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs'. There are four key strands to the Drug Strategy: preventing young people from becoming drug users, treatment of problem drug users, reducing the supply of drugs and reducing drug-related crime.

Under the young people's target the Government has set the objective to:

> *'Reduce the use of Class A drugs and the frequent use of any illicit drug by all young people under the age of 25, especially by the most vulnerable young people'* (p. 20)[3]

The main measurement tool for Class A drug use among all young people in the 16 to 24 age group is the BCS for which there is comparable data on drug use since 1996. However, much of the trend data is presented from 1998, which marked the beginning of the Drug Strategy target. Additionally, questions were introduced in 2002/03 to monitor changes in the frequent use of illicit drugs for all young people in the 16 to 24 year old age group.

In the 11 to 15 age group Class A use by vulnerable groups (defined as those who have truanted or have been excluded from school) and frequent drug use among all young people is being measured by the survey of drug use, smoking and drinking among young people in England[4].

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[1] Home Office (1998)
[2] See section 2.4 in Nicholas et al. (eds) (2007)
[3] Home Office (2004)
[4] Fuller (ed) (2007)

1.2   Classification of drugs

The Misuse of Drugs Act classifies illegal drugs into three categories (Class A, B and C) according to the harm that they cause, with Class A drugs considered to be the most harmful. Table 1.1 displays the drugs that respondents were asked about in the BCS and their classification under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

Table 1.1 Drugs asked about in the BCS and their classification under the Misuse of Drugs Act

Classification	*Drug*
Class A	Cocaine powder
	Crack cocaine
	Ecstasy
	LSD
	Magic mushrooms
	Heroin
	Methadone
Class A/B	Amphetamines
Class B/C	Tranquilisers
Class C	Anabolic steroids
	Cannabis (since January 2004)
	Ketamine
Not Classified	Amyl nitrite
	Glues[5]

Amphetamines can be classified as either Class A (when prepared for injection) or Class B (in powdered form). For the purposes of calculating Class A drug use in this report, all amphetamine use has not been included. Similarly, tranquillisers can either be classified as Class B (such as barbiturates) or Class C (such as benzodiazepines). Consequently, Class B and Class C drugs cannot be aggregated reliably because the survey does not identify which specific tranquilliser respondents used. The category 'not classified' indicates that possession of these substances is not illegal but it is an offence to supply these substances if it is likely that the product is intended for abuse.

Cannabis was reclassified from a Class B to a Class C drug on 29th January 2004. Following the Drugs Act 2005 raw magic mushrooms were classified as a Class A drug on 18th July 2005. Prior to this change in the law, only prepared (such as dried or stewed) magic mushrooms were classified as Class A drugs. The trend in Class A drug use has not been affected as magic mushrooms were categorised as Class A drugs before this change in the law.

This is the first year that questions on ketamine have been asked in the BCS. In the annual survey of smoking, drinking and drug use[6] ketamine is classified with LSD/acid and magic mushrooms under the category of 'Any Psychedelics'. However, in this report ketamine has been analysed according to its classification (i.e. Class C).

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[5] Glues include glues, solvents, gas or aerosols
[6] Fuller (Ed) (2007)

1.3   Coverage

Following a methodological review in 2000 the BCS became a continuous survey. In 2001/02 the reporting period moved from a calendar to a financial year. The figures in this report are based on interviews conducted between April 2006 and March 2007. The reference period for last year drug use, when respondents are asked about their drug use in the 12 months prior to the interview, will range from April 2005 for the earliest interviews to March 2007 for the latest interviews.

The drugs self-report component of the BCS

BCS respondents aged 16 to 59 years old are eligible for the drugs module of the survey. Respondents complete the drugs module by themselves on a laptop computer. The laptop is handed to them by the interviewer at the close of the face-to-face part of the interview which mainly covers questions on experiences of crime victimisation, and perceptions about crime, the criminal justice system and anti-social behaviour. When respondents have finished the self-report component, their answers are hidden and they are able to pass the laptop back to the interviewer. The use of self-completion on laptops allows respondents to feel more at ease when answering questions on illicit behaviour due to increased confidence in the privacy and confidentiality of the survey.

Response

The 2006/07 BCS had a nationally representative sample of 47,203 adults living in private households in England and Wales. The response rate was 75%. Of the total achieved sample, 31,130 respondents were eligible to complete the self-completion drugs module. Subtracting the 1,976 respondents who refused to take part and a further 10 respondents for methodological reasons (because they admitted having used, at some point in their lifetime, a fictional drug and their answers are therefore considered unreliable), gave a final sample size of 29,144 from the main survey sample. The 2006/07 BCS also included an additional booster sample of 16 to 24 year olds (2,089 respondents). The response rate for the youth boost in cooperating households was 75%. The total number of 16 to 24 year olds from both the core and booster sample was 5,786.

The BCS as a survey of drug use

As a household survey, the BCS provides an effective measure of the more commonly used drugs for which the majority of users are contained within the household population. However, the BCS does not cover some small groups, potentially important given that they may have relatively high rates of drug use: notably the homeless, and those living in certain institutions such as prisons or student halls of residence. Nor, in practice, will any household survey necessarily reach those problematic drug users whose lives are so busy or chaotic that they are hardly ever at home or are unable to take part in an interview[7]. As a result, the BCS is likely to underestimate the overall use of drugs such as opiates and crack cocaine, where the majority of users are concentrated within small sub-sections of the population not covered by the survey. Lastly, those aged under 16 were not eligible for interview, while those aged 60 or over were not asked to complete the drugs component (the decision to exclude the latter was an economy measure, reflecting their very low prevalence rates for the use of prohibited drugs). However, this level of under coverage is likely to have a marginal impact on estimates.

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[7] The Home Office has published work to provide local estimates of problematic drug users using statistical techniques involving indirect estimation from a number of different data sources (Hay et al., 2006).

In tracking changes in the level of drug use through the BCS arguably what matters most is that, irrespective of any strengths or weaknesses relating to coverage of the survey, it is a consistent instrument deployed in the same fashion for each round of the survey.

2 General Population: extent of drug use and trends since 1998

This chapter examines the extent of drug use in 2006/07 and trends in drug use since 1998 among adults aged 16 to 59 living in private households in England and Wales. Firstly, it provides estimates of the prevalence of use of an illicit drug at least once in a lifetime, use in the last year (use of an illicit drug at least once in the year prior to interview) and use in the last month (use of an illicit drug at least once in the month prior to interview). Secondly, it looks at the estimated number of drug users for each type of drug by those who had ever used it, users in the previous year and users in the past month. Thirdly, it explores the key messages arising from the trends in drug use since 1998 by looking at patterns of use in the previous year.

2.1 Extent of drug use among 16 to 59 year olds

Extent of any illicit drug use

The 2006/07 BCS estimates that 35.5% of 16 to 59 year olds have used one or more illicit drugs ever in their lifetime, 10.0% used one or more illicit drugs in the last year and 5.9% in the last month (see Figure 2.1 and Tables A2.1, A2.3 and A2.5).

Figure 2.1. Percentage of 16 to 59 year olds reporting use of any drug or Class A drugs ever, in the last year and last month, 2006/07 BCS
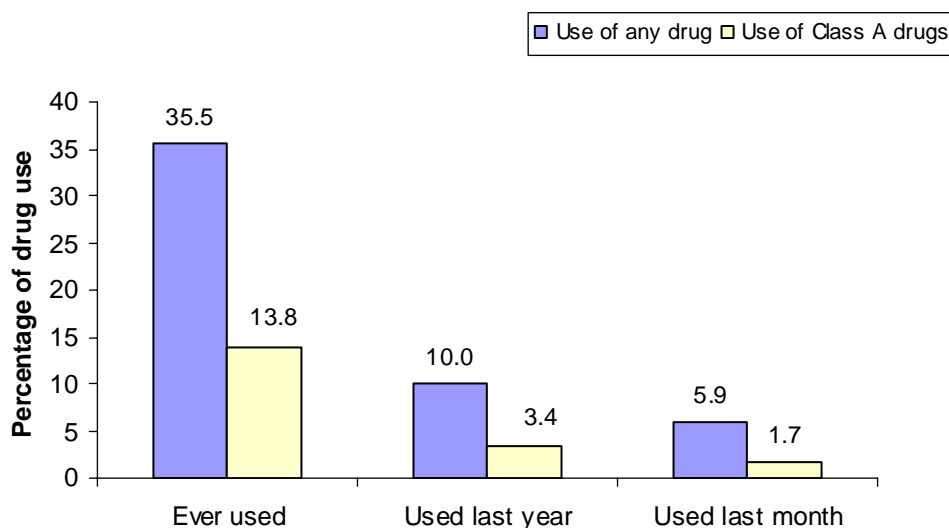
Extent of Class A drug use

The survey also estimates that 13.8% of those aged 16 to 59 have used a Class A drug at least once in their lifetime, 3.4% used at least one Class A drug last year and 1.7% last month (see Figure 2.1 and Tables A2.1, A2.3 and A2.5).

Extent of use by drug type

- Cannabis is the drug most likely to be used, which is consistent with previous years. The 2006/07 BCS estimates that 8.2% of 16 to 59 year olds used cannabis in the last year (see Figure 2.2 and Table A2.1).

- Cocaine is the next most commonly used drug with 2.6% reporting use of any form of it (either cocaine powder or crack cocaine) in the last year.

- Use of ecstasy in the last year is estimated at 1.8%, amyl nitrite use at 1.4% and amphetamine use at 1.3%. The use of hallucinogens (LSD and magic mushrooms) in the last year was reported by 0.7% of 16 to 59 year olds.

- Other drug use is less prevalent with only 0.4% reporting use of tranquillisers in the last year, 0.3% reporting use of ketamine[1], 0.2% reporting use of glues[2] and 0.1% reporting use of anabolic steroids.

- Other more serious drugs are also very rarely used: opiate (heroin and methadone) use was reported by 0.2% of 16 to 59 year olds (see Table A2.1)[3].

Figure 2.2. Percentage of 16 to 59 year olds reporting use of the most prevalent drugs in the last year, 2006/07 BCS
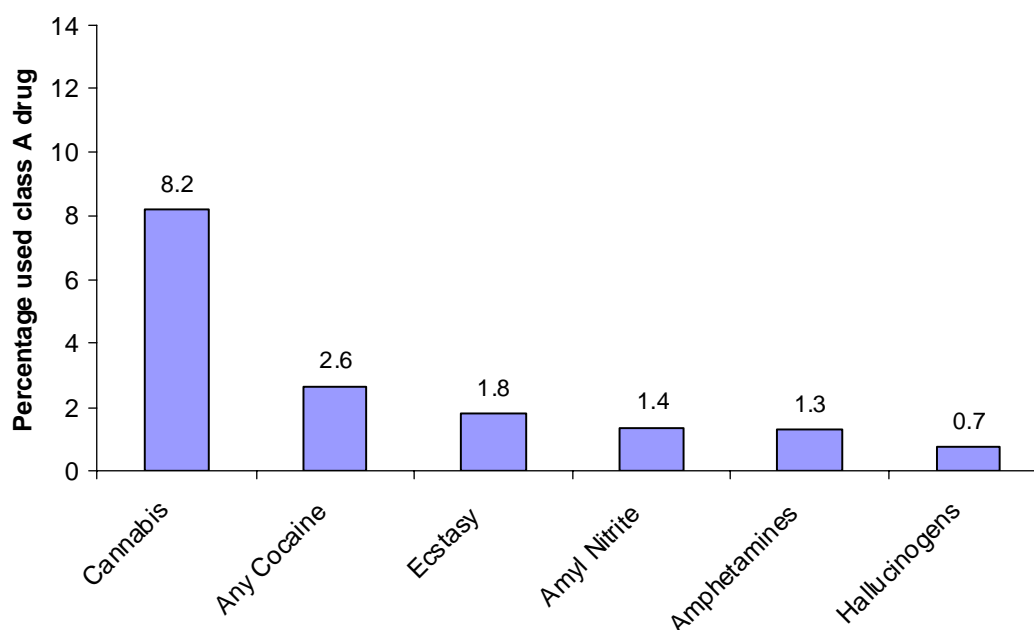
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[1] This is the first year that questions on ketamine have been asked in the British Crime Survey's self-completion module on drugs.
[2] Glues include glues, solvents, gas or aerosols
[3] See *The BCS as a survey of drug use* section in the Introduction for further details on the limitations of the BCS as a survey of drug use, particularly for drugs with low prevalence in the general population such as crack cocaine and opiates.

2.2 Estimated number of drug users

It is estimated that over 11 and a quarter million people aged 16 to 59 in England and Wales have ever used illicit drugs. There are just under three and a quarter million people estimated to have used illicit drugs in the last year and nearly two million in the last month.

It is also estimated that just under four and a half million people aged 16 to 59 have ever used Class A drugs, just over one million having used them in the last year and just over 500 thousand in the last month.

Just over nine and a half million people aged 16 to 59 are estimated to have ever used cannabis. More than two and a half million are estimated to have used cannabis in the last year, while just over one and a half million have used cannabis in the last month.

Cocaine powder and ecstasy are the most commonly used Class A drugs in the last year while the lowest estimates are for crack cocaine and opiates. It is estimated that just over 800,000 people took cocaine powder and just over 550,000 people took ecstasy in the last year out of over one million people who are estimated to have taken Class A drugs in the last year (see Table 2.1 and Tables A2.2, A2.4 and A2.6).

Table 2.1 Estimated numbers of 16 to 59 year olds who have ever taken drugs in their lifetime, in the last year and in the last month, 2006/07 BCS

Numbers (thousands)			2006/07 BCS
	Used ever	**Used last year**	**Used last month**
Drug			
Class A			
Any Cocaine	2,444	835	405
Cocaine powder	2,398	828	396
Crack cocaine	303	58	33
Ecstasy	2,315	567	255
Hallucinogens	2,886	234	65
LSD	1,706	77	28
Magic Mushrooms	2,268	201	48
Opiates	256	53	42
Heroin	227	41	31
Methadone	114	37	25
Class A/B			
Amphetamines	3,790	421	159
Class B/C			
Tranquillisers	936	136	67
Class C			
Anabolic steroids	197	32	14
Cannabis	9,595	2,616	1,526
Not Classified			
Amyl Nitrite	2,883	440	173
Glues	764	61	29
Total			
Class A	**4,389**	**1,074**	**538**
Any Drug	**11,298**	**3,186**	**1,891**

Notes:

1. Estimates are derived by multiplying the prevalence rate by the estimated population aged 16 to 59 in England and Wales.
2. The figures are calculated using population estimates provided by the Government Actuary's Department.

2.3 Trends in drug use among 16 to 59 year olds

This section looks at reported use of illicit drugs in the past year (see Table A2.1) to review the key trends since 1998 and to compare 2006/07 figures with estimates from the 2005/06 BCS[4]. The Government's Drugs Strategy, which has the over-arching aim of 'reducing the harm that drugs cause to society, including communities, individuals and their families' began in 1998. A summary of the trends in drug use in the last year since 1998 is shown in Table 2.2 below.

Table 2.2 Summary of trends in drug use in the last year amongst 16 to 59 year olds, 1998 to 2006/07 BCS

Increase	Decrease	Stable
Any Class A drug (overall), **any cocaine (overall)**, cocaine powder	**Any drug (overall), any hallucinogens (overall)**, amphetamines, cannabis, LSD, anabolic steroids, tranquilisers	**Any opiates (overall)**, amyl nitrite, crack cocaine, ecstasy, glues, heroin, magic mushrooms, methadone

Trends in any illicit drug use in last year

- Overall use of any illicit drug by 16 to 59 year olds has decreased since 1998 from 12.1% to 10.0% in 2006/07, mainly due to successive declines in the use of cannabis (the most prevalent drug amongst 16 to 59 year olds) since 2003/04.

- The apparent decline in the overall level of any illicit drug use in the last year from 10.5% to 10.0%, between 2005/06 and 2006/07, was not statistically significant.

Trends in Class A drug use in last year

- Use of Class A drugs amongst the 16 to 59 age group has increased since 1998 from 2.7% to 3.4% in 2006/07. Since 2000 overall Class A drug use has been stable (see Figure 2.3 and Table A2.1).

- The increase in Class A drug use since 1998 is mainly due to an increase in last year cocaine powder use from 1.2% in 1998 to 2.6% in 2006/07.

- The use of LSD decreased between 1998 and 2006/07 from 0.8% to 0.2%, contributing to a decline in the overall use of hallucinogens from 1.3% to 0.7% over the same period.

- The use of ecstasy, crack cocaine and opiates has remained stable.

- The use of most Class A drugs has remained stable between 2005/06 and 2006/07, except for a decrease in the use of magic mushrooms in the past year from 1.0% to 0.6%[5].

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4 See Interpreting year on year changes section in Appendix D for further details on how to interpret the data.
5 The Drugs Act 2005 led to raw magic mushrooms being classified as a Class A drug on 18th July 2005. Prior to this change in the law, only prepared (such as dried or stewed) magic mushrooms were classified as Class A drugs.

Trends in drug use in last year: other drugs

- There have been some decreases between 1998 and 2006/07 among 16 to 59 year olds in the use of other drugs, most notably a decrease in use of cannabis (from 10.3% to 8.2%) and a decrease in use of amphetamines (from 3.0% to 1.3%).

- There were also decreases in the use of tranquilisers (from 0.7% to 0.4%) and the use of steroids (from 0.3% to 0.1%).

- The use of glues in the previous year increased from 0.1% to 0.2% between 2005/06 and 2006/07 (see Table A2.1).

Figure 2.3. Percentage of 16 to 59 year olds reporting use of the most prevalent drug types in the last year, 1996 to 2006/07 BCS
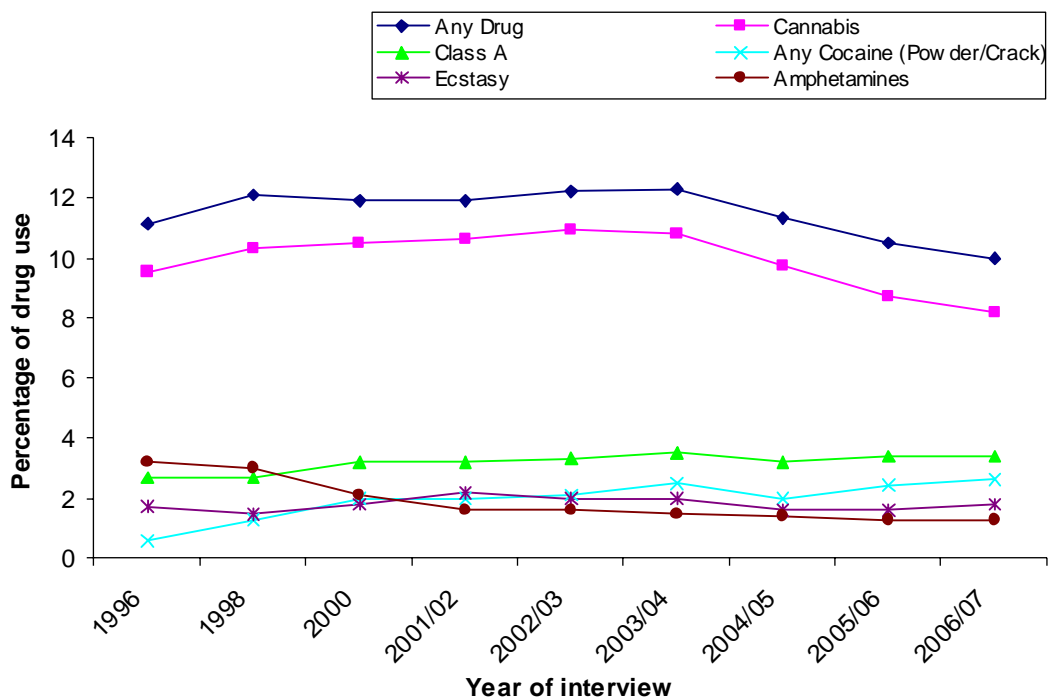
3 Young people: extent of drug use and trends since 1998

This chapter examines the extent of drug use in 2006/07 and trends in drug use since 1998 among young people (i.e. those aged 16 to 24) living in private households in England and Wales. Firstly, it provides estimates of the prevalence of use of an illicit drug at least once in a lifetime, use in the last year (use of an illicit drug at least once in the year prior to interview) and use in the last month (use of an illicit drug at least once in the month prior to interview). Secondly, it looks at the estimated number of drug users for each type of drug by those who had ever used it, users in the previous year and users in the past month. Thirdly, it explores the key messages arising from the trends in drug use since 1998 by looking at patterns of use in the previous year. Finally, the chapter looks at frequent drug use.

3.1 Extent of drug use among 16 to 24 year olds

Extent of any illicit drug use

The 2006/07 BCS estimates that 44.7% of young people have ever used one or more illicit drugs, 24.1% have used one or more illicit drugs in the last year and 14.3% in the last month (see Figure 3.1 and Tables A3.1, A3.3 and A3.5).

Figure 3.1. Percentage of 16 to 24 year olds reporting use of any drug or Class A drugs ever, in the last year and last month, 2006/07 BCS
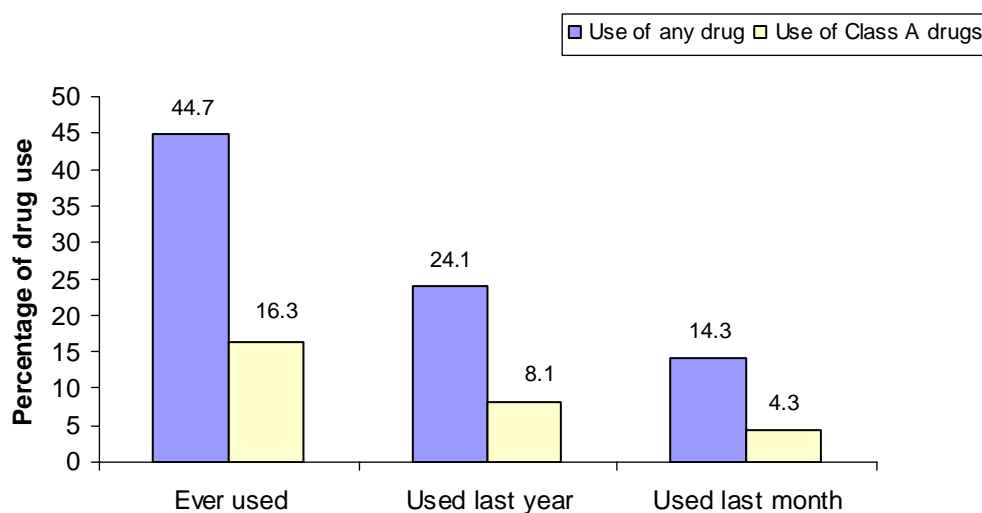
Extent of Class A drug use

The 2006/07 BCS also estimates 16.3% of those aged 16 to 24 have used a Class A drug at least once in their lifetime, 8.1% have used at least one Class A drug in the previous year and 4.3% in the past month (see Figure 3.1 and Tables A3.1, A3.3 and A3.5).

Extent of last year use by drug type

- Cannabis remains the drug most likely to be used by young people. The 2006/07 BCS estimates that 20.9% of 16 to 24 year olds used cannabis in the last year (see Figure 3.2 and Table A3.1).

- Cocaine is the next most commonly used drug with 6.1% reporting use of any form of it in the past year, while ecstasy use is estimated at 4.8%.

- Amyl nitrite use is estimated at 4.3%, use of amphetamines at 3.5% and overall use of hallucinogens (LSD and magic mushrooms) at 2.1%.

- Other drugs are very rarely used, with the use of ketamine[1] in the past year reported by 0.8% of 16 to 24 year olds, and both tranquilisers and glues[2] having a prevalence of 0.6%. Anabolic steroids and opiates are the least likely drugs to be used at 0.2% (see Table A3.1)[3].

Figure 3.2. Percentage of 16 to 24 year olds reporting use of the most prevalent drugs in the previous year, 2006/07 BCS
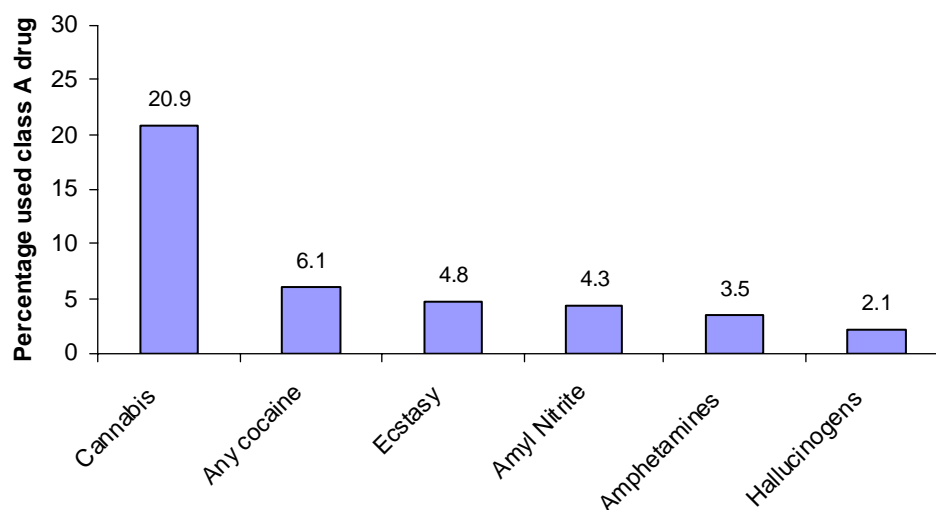
3.2 Estimated number of drug users

It is estimated that there are over two and three quarter million young people in England and Wales who have used illicit drugs at some point in their lives. Over one and a half million young people are estimated to have used drugs in the previous year and just under one million in the past month (see Table 3.1 and Tables A3.2, A3.4 and A3.6).

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[1] This is the first year that questions on ketamine have been asked in the British Crime Survey.

[2] Glues include glues, solvents, gas or aerosols.

[3] See *The BCS as a survey of drug use* section in the Introduction for further details on the limitations of the BCS as a survey of drug use, particularly for drugs with low prevalence in the general population such as crack cocaine and opiates.

It is also estimated that over one million people aged 16 to 24 have ever used a Class A drug. Over 500 thousand young people are estimated to have used a Class A drug in the previous year and just over 250 thousand in the past month.

Just over two and a half million people aged 16 to 24 are estimated to have ever used cannabis. Over 1.3 million young people are estimated to have used cannabis in the last year and over 800 thousand have used it in the last month.

When examining specific types of Class A drugs, ecstasy and cocaine powder have the greatest number of users, followed by hallucinogens. The lowest estimates for Class A drug use are for crack and opiates. It is estimated that nearly 375 thousand young people used cocaine powder and nearly 275 thousand used ecstasy out of just over 530 thousand young people who are estimated to have used Class A drugs in the past year.

Table 3.1 Estimated numbers of 16 to 24 year olds who have taken drugs ever, in the last year and in the last month, 2006/07 BCS

Numbers (thousands)			2006/07 BCS
	Used ever	**Used last year**	**Used last month**
Drug			
Class A			
Any Cocaine	681	375	192
Cocaine powder	671	373	190
Crack cocaine	83	25	13
Ecstasy	659	272	124
Hallucinogens	595	212	54
LSD	233	57	15
Magic Mushrooms	523	190	46
Opiates	48	11	6
Heroin	34	11	4
Methadone	25	5	5
Class A/B			
Amphetamines	714	207	102
Class B/C			
Tranquillisers	163	45	23
Class C			
Anabolic steroids	43	18	9
Cannabis	2,536	1,357	821
Not Classified			
Amyl Nitrite	766	245	103
Glues	225	29	13
Total			
Class A	**1,071**	**533**	**255**
Any Drug	**2,851**	**1,597**	**954**

Notes:

1. Estimates are derived by multiplying the prevalence rate by the estimated population aged 16 to 24 in England and Wales.
2. The figures are calculated using population estimates provided by the Government Actuary's Department.

3.3   Trends in last year drug use among 16 to 24 year olds

This section looks at reported use of illicit drugs in the previous year (see Table A3.1) to review the key trends since 1998[4]. The Government's Drug Strategy which has the over-arching aim of 'reducing the harm that drugs cause to society, including communities, individuals and their families' began in 1998. To achieve this, the Government has set the objective to 'reduce the use of Class A drugs and the frequent use of any illicit drug among all young people under the age of 25 especially by the most vulnerable young people'. The main measurement tool for monitoring trends in Class A drug use amongst all young people is the BCS. This section also compares figures for 2006/07 with extent of drug use in 2005/06 in order to outline any emerging trends. A summary of the trends in drug use in the last year since 1998 is shown in Table 3.2 below.

Table 3.2 Summary of trends in drug use in the last year since 1998 amongst 16 to 24 year olds, 2006/07 BCS

Increase	Decrease	Stable
Any cocaine (overall), cocaine powder	**Any drug (overall), any hallucinogens (overall), any opiates (overall)**, amphetamines, cannabis, LSD, magic mushrooms, tranquilisers	**Any Class A drug (overall)**, amyl nitrite, crack cocaine, ecstasy, glues, heroin, methadone, steroids

Trends in any illicit drug use in the last year

- The use of any illicit drug by young people between 1998 and 2006/07 decreased steadily from 31.8% to 24.1%, although the apparent decrease between 2005/06 and 2006/07 was not statistically significant (see Figure 3.3 and Table A3.1).

- This overall decrease was mainly due to the gradual decline in cannabis use over the same period from 28.2% to 20.9%. The apparent decrease in cannabis use between 2005/06 and 2006/07 was not statistically significant.

Trends in Class A drug use in the last year

- There was no statistically significant difference between the levels of Class A drug use in 1998 and 2006/07 levels (see Figure 3.3 and Table A3.1).

- Cocaine powder use increased between 1998 and 2006/07 from 3.1% to 6.0%, mainly due to a significant increase between 1998 and 2000. Since 2000 the use of cocaine powder among young people has been stable.

- Overall the use of hallucinogens was lower in 2006/07 (2.1%) than it was in 1998 (5.3%). The use of hallucinogens decreased between 1998 and 2001/02, as use of both LSD and magic mushrooms declined. However, between 2001/02 and 2005/06, the use of

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[4] See *Interpreting year on year changes* section in Appendix D for further details on how to interpret the data.

hallucinogens increased mainly due to a steady rise in the use of magic mushrooms. However, when comparing 2005/06 to 2006/07, there has been a significant decrease in the use of magic mushrooms (from 3.0% to 1.8%), leading to a further decline in the overall use of hallucinogens.

- Ecstasy use has fluctuated between 1998 and 2006/07, but the apparent difference in the levels between the two years was not significantly different.

- The prevalence rate for the overall use of opiates decreased between 1998 and 2006/07 from 0.8% to 0.2%, mainly due to a decrease in the use of methadone from 0.6% in 1998 to 0.1% in 2006/07[5].

- Use of heroin and crack cocaine in the past year has remained stable since 1998.

Figure 3.3. Percentage of 16 to 24 year olds reporting use of the most prevalent drug types in the last year, 1996 to 2006/07 BCS
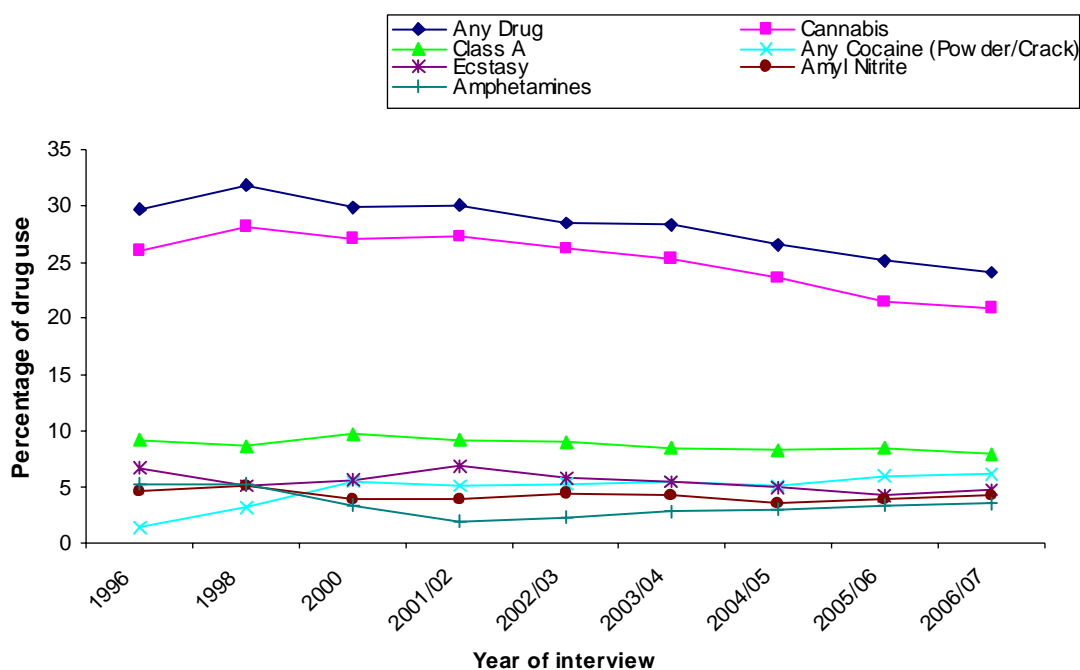
3.4 Frequent use

Ever, last year and last month estimates of drug use refer to the percentage of young people who have used a drug at least once in the relevant time period. These figures do not provide information on how often the drug has been taken during this period. Questions on frequency of use in the last year were first asked of 16 to 24 year olds in the 2002/03 BCS. The questions on frequency of use are used to monitor progress on the young people's target of the Government's Drug Strategy. For the purposes of target monitoring, frequent use is

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[5] Estimates for rarely used drugs such as opiates and crack cocaine are more subject to year on year fluctuations and therefore should be treated with caution.

defined as using any illicit drug (either of the same or different type) more than once a month during the previous year.

Figure 3.4 Percentage of 16 to 24 year olds classified as frequent drug users
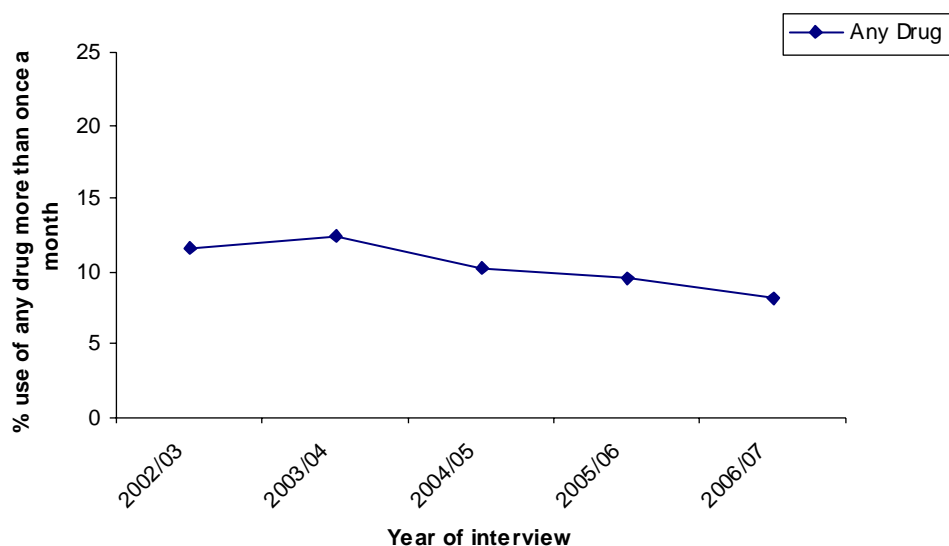
- Frequent use of any drug in the last year among all 16 to 24 year olds, not just users, has decreased from 11.6% in 2002/03 to 8.3% in 2006/07 (see Table A3.7 and Figure 3.4).

- Cannabis is the drug most likely to be used frequently by young drug users, with 37.0% of cannabis users using the drug more than once a month during the previous year (see Table A3.8).

- Cocaine powder was used frequently by around a quarter (25.7%) of users, amyl nitrate by 12.5% of users, ecstasy by 15.5% of users and amphetamines by 12.0% of users in the previous year.

4 Demographic and geographical variations

This chapter looks at reported drug use by age and gender for ever use (use of an illicit drug at least once in a lifetime), use in the last year (use of an illicit drug at least once in the year prior to interview) and use in the last month (use of an illicit drug at least once in the month prior to interview). The chapter also presents trends in drug use since 1998 by age and gender. Finally, this chapter looks at geographical variations in drug use for 16 to 59 year olds in England and Wales in 2006/07.

4.1 Age group

Extent of any illicit drug use

The younger (16 to 19 and 20 to 24) age groups reported higher levels of more recent (last year and last month) drug use than the older age groups, while the high level of ever use amongst the 25 to 29 and 30 to 34 age groups reflects the longer period of time available to them in which to use drugs. In particular:

- The 20 to 24 and 25 to 29 age groups reported the highest levels of ever use of any drug in 2006/07 (50.7% and 50.8% respectively), while the 30 to 34 age group reported greater ever use of any drug compared to the 16 to 19 age group (46.2% compared to 37.5%).

- The 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 age groups reported the highest levels of last year (23.3% and 24.8%) and last month use (14.0% and 14.5%) of any drug (see Figure 4.1 and Tables A4.1, A4.2 and A4.3).

Figure 4.1 Percentage of 16 to 59 year olds reporting use of any drug ever, in the last year and last month by age group, 2006/07 BCS
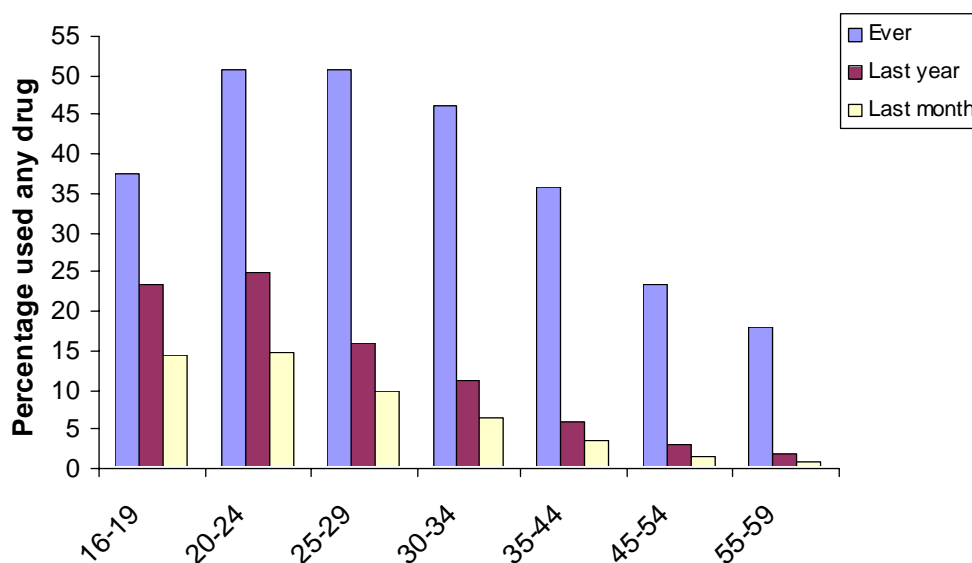
Extent of Class A drug use

When considering Class A drug use in 2006/07 a slightly different pattern can be seen, with ever use peaking in the 20 to 24, 25 to 29 and 30 to 34 age groups while more recent (last year and last month) use is highest in the 20 to 24 age group. The different age distribution of Class A drug use compared with any illicit drug use can be attributed to the higher age of first use of Class A drugs. In particular:

- The 20 to 24, the 25 to 29 and the 30 to 34 age groups reported the highest levels of ever use of Class A drugs in 2006/07 (22.3%, 23.6% and 22.1% respectively). There were no statistically significant differences between these three age groups.

- The 35 to 44 age group reported higher ever use of Class A drugs than the 16 to 19 age group (13.9% compared to 9.3%).

- The 20 to 24 age group reported the highest levels of last year and last month use of Class A drugs in 2006/07 (10.4% and 5.5% respectively).

- There were no significant differences between the 16 to 19 and 25 to 29 year age groups in last year (5.4% and 6.8%) and last month use (2.9% and 3.4%) of Class A drugs (see Figure 4.2 and Tables A4.1, A4.2 and A4.3).

Figure 4.2 Percentage of 16 to 59 year olds reporting use of Class A drugs ever, in the last year and last month by age group, 2006/07 BCS
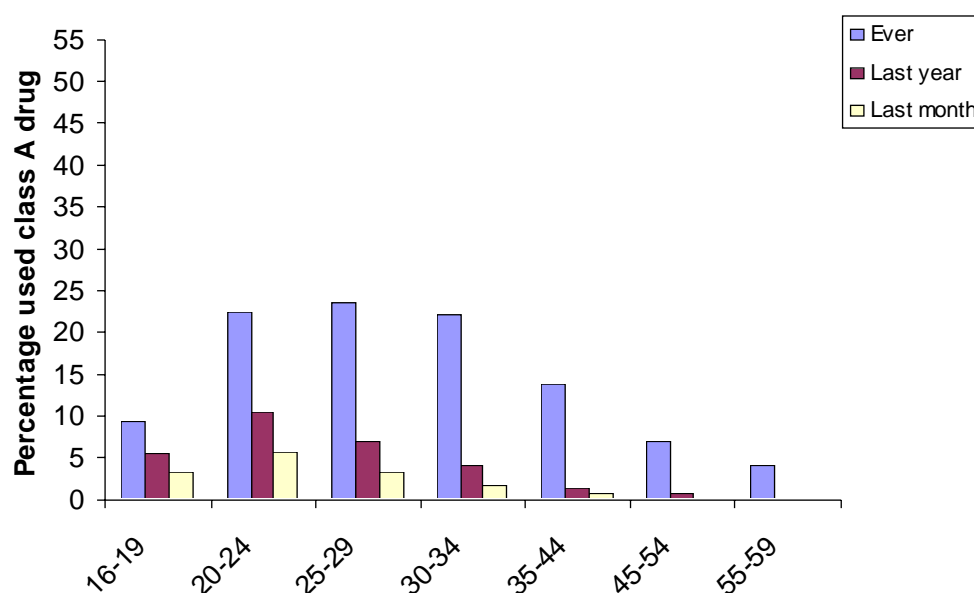
Trends in drug use by age group

The reported use of any drug in the previous year decreased between 1998 and 2006/07 amongst the 16 to 19 age group (from 32.9% to 23.3%), the 20 to 24 age group (from 30.9% to 24.8%) and the 25 to 29 age group (from 20.6% to 16.0). The reported use of any drug in the past year remained stable for all other age groups (see Figure 4.3 and Table A4.4).

The reported use of Class A drugs in the previous year increased between 1998 and 2006/07 amongst both the 30 to 34 age group (from 1.5% to 4.0%) and the 35 to 44 age group (from 0.7 to 1.5%). The reported use of Class A drugs in the past year has fluctuated between 1998 and 2006/07 for all other age groups, but any apparent differences between the two years were not statistically significant (see Figure 4.4 and Table A4.5).

Figure 4.3 Percentage of 16 to 59 year olds reporting use of any drug in the past year by age group, 1998 to 2006/07 BCS
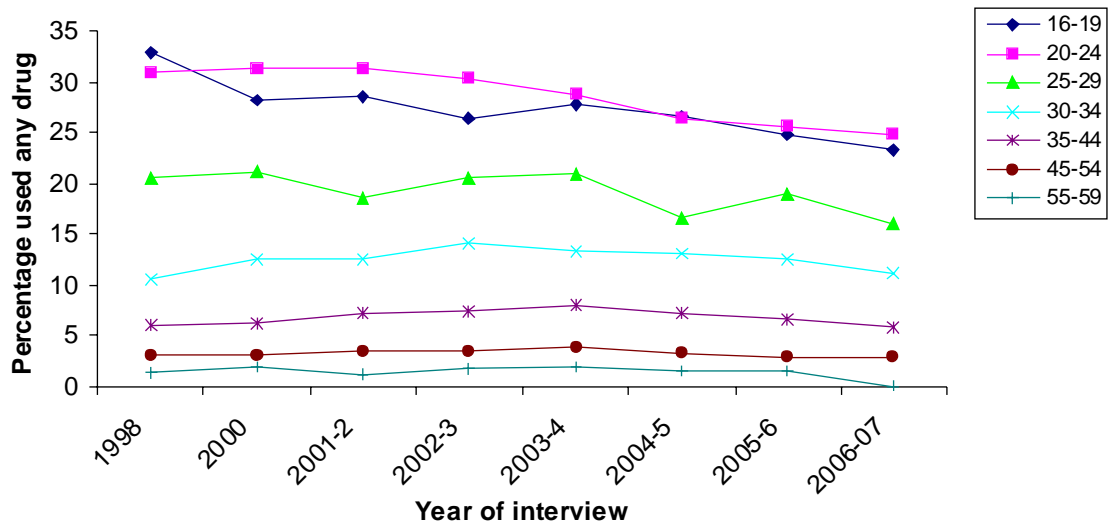
Figure 4.4 Percentage of 16 to 59 year olds reporting use of Class A drugs in the past year by age group, 1998 to 2006/07 BCS
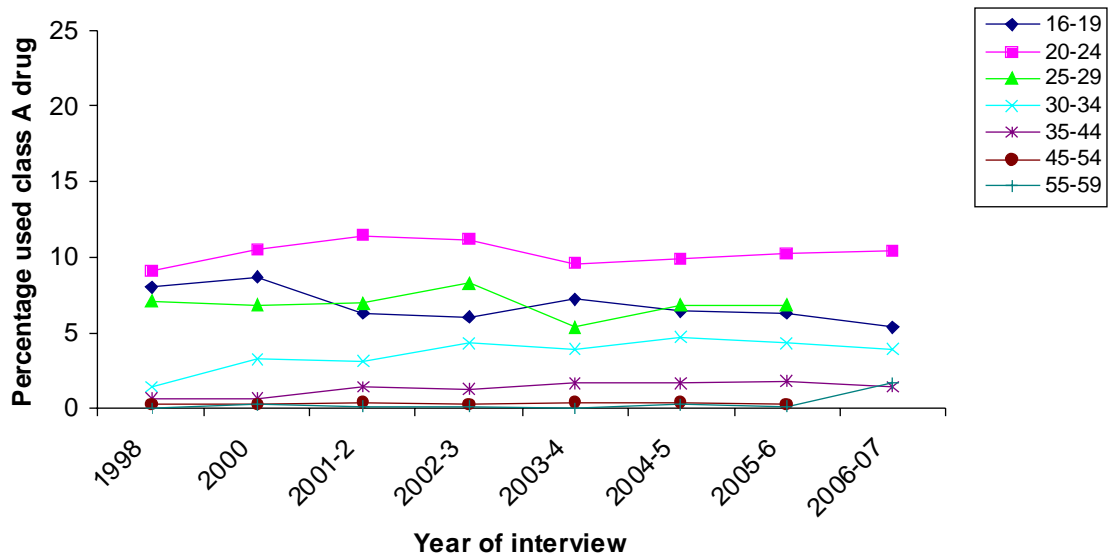
4.2   Gender

Extent of any illicit drug use

Men continued to report higher levels of ever, past year and past month use of any illicit drugs compared to women in 2006/07. This pattern of greater reported use of any illicit drug amongst men could be seen for both the 16 to 59 and the 16 to 24 age groups (see Figure 4.5 and Tables A4.6, A4.7 and A4.8).

Figure 4.5 Percentage of 16 to 59 year olds and 16 to 24 year olds reporting use of any drug ever, last year and last month by gender, 2006/07 BCS
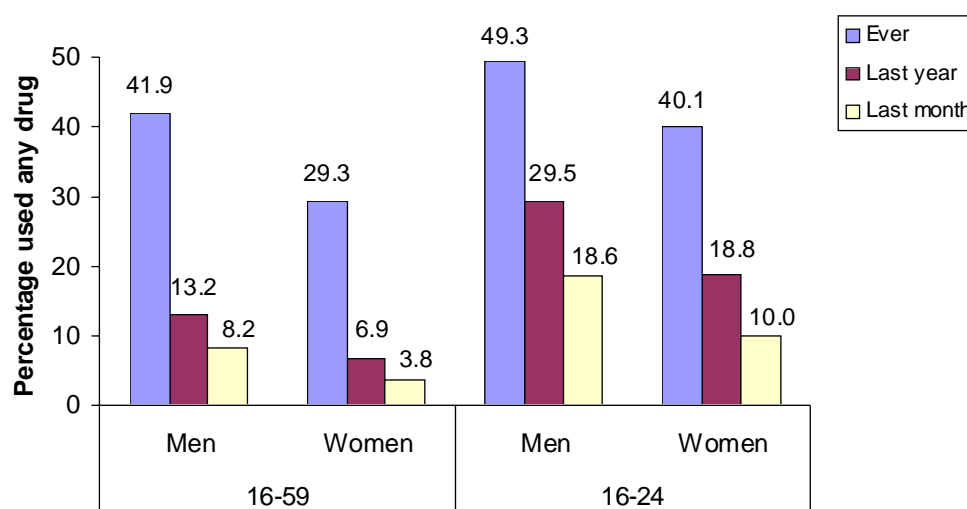
Extent of Class A drug use

As with any drug use among 16 to 59 year olds, men reported higher levels of ever, past year and past month use of Class A drugs compared to women in 2006/07. The same pattern of higher reported Class A drug use amongst men could also be seen among 16 to 24 year olds (see Figure 4.6 and Tables A4.6, A4.7 and A4.8).

Figure 4.6 Percentage of 16 to 59 year olds and 16 to 24 year olds reporting use of Class A drugs ever, last year and last month by gender, 2006/07 BCS
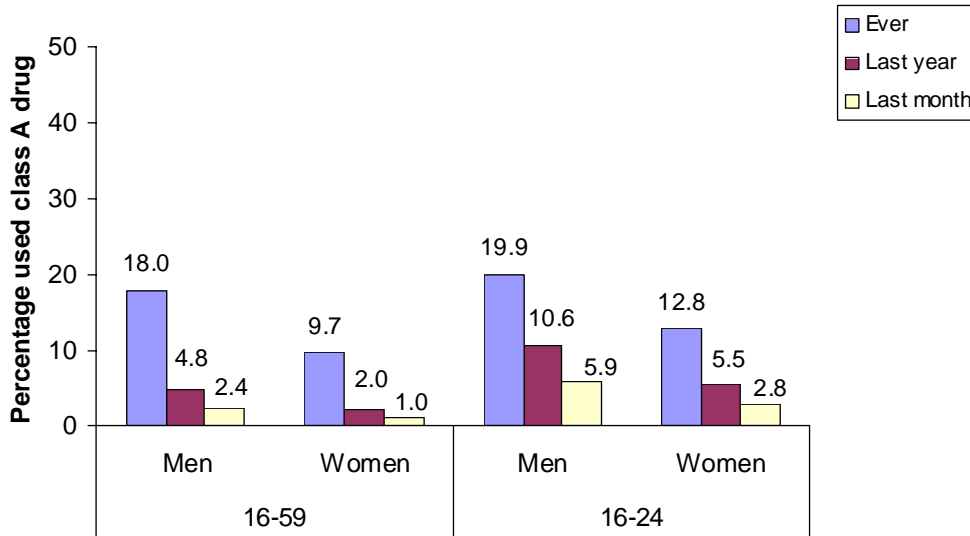
Trends in drug use in the last year by gender

Use of any illicit drug in the past year amongst men aged 16 to 59 decreased from 15.6% in 1998 to 13.2% in 2006/07, while use of any illicit drug amongst women aged 16 to 59 decreased from 8.5% to 6.9% over the same period (see Figure 4.7 and Table A4.9).

Reported use of Class A drugs in the previous year increased between 1998 and 2006/07 amongst men aged 16 to 59 (from 3.6% to 4.8%) due to a rise between 1998 and 2000, while for women it remained stable.

Figure 4.7 Percentage of 16 to 59 year olds reporting use of any drug and Class A drugs in the past year by gender, 1998 to 2006/07 BCS
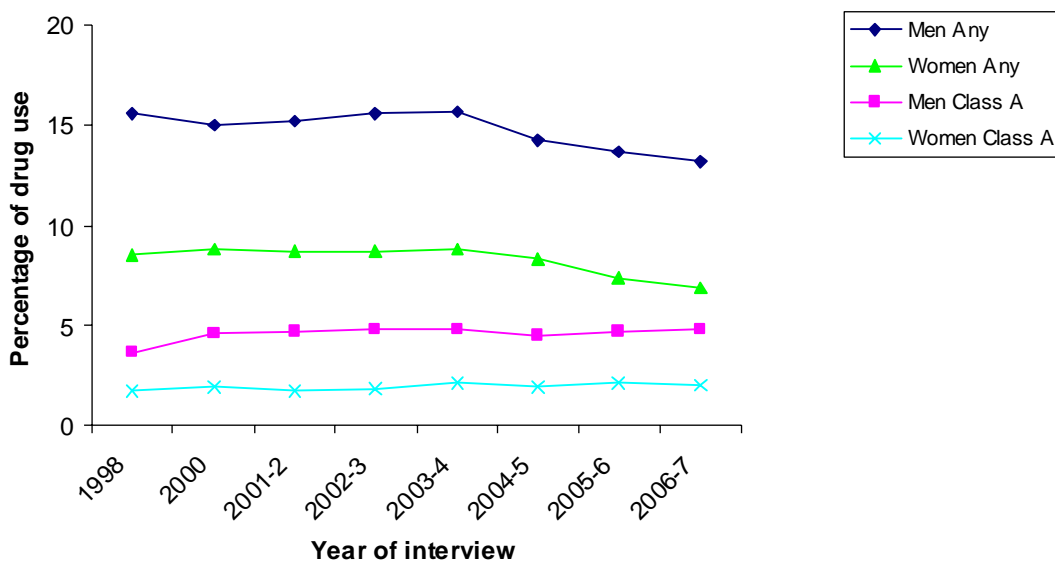
Use of any illicit drug in the past year amongst men aged 16 to 24 decreased from 38.1% in 1998 to 29.5% in 2006/07, while use of any illicit drug amongst women aged 16 to 24 decreased from 25.2% to 18.8% over the same period.

Reported use of Class A drugs in the past year amongst both men and women aged 16 to 24 remained stable between 1998 and 2006/07 (see Figure 4.8 and Table A4.10).

Figure 4.8 Percentage of 16 to 24 year olds reporting use of any drug and Class A drugs in the past year by gender, 1998 to 2006/07 BCS
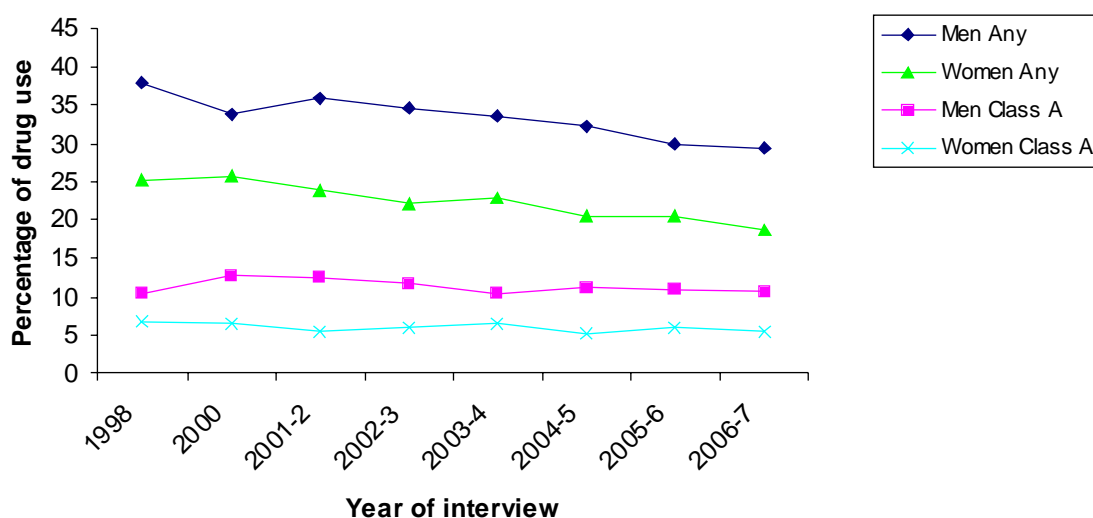
4.3 Geographical variations

The BCS enables levels of drug use to be compared for the different Government Office Regions and Wales. The 2006/07 BCS shows that 10.0% of the population aged 16 to 59 reported having used any drug in the past year and 3.4% reported having used a Class A drug in the past year. None of the apparent differences between the Government Office Regions or Wales and the average for England and Wales were statistically significant (see Figure 4.9, Figure 4.10 and Table A4.11).

Figure 4.9 Percentage of 16 to 59 year olds reporting use of any drug in the last year by Government Office Region and Wales, 2006/07 BCS
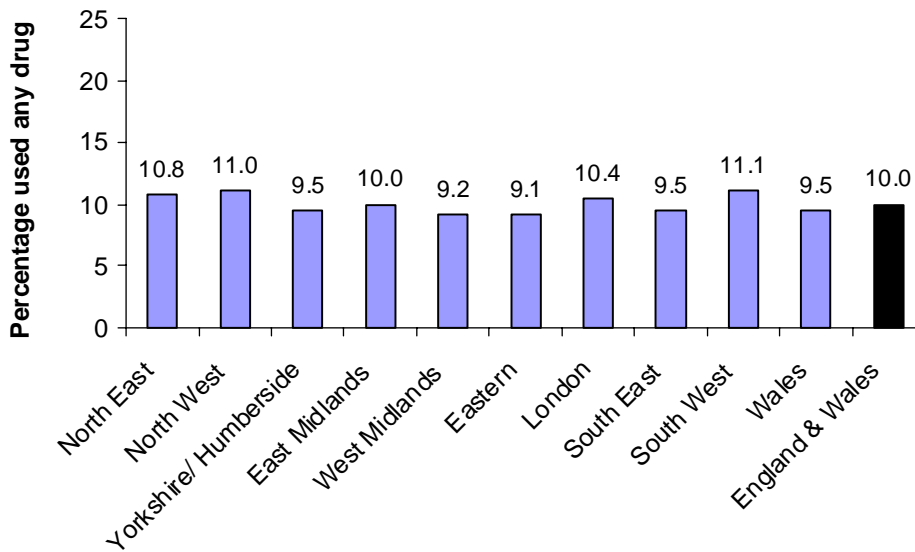
However, there were some differences in the levels of any drug use and Class A drug use between the different Government Office Regions and Wales. The South West (11.1%) and the North West (11.0%) had the highest levels of any drug use while the West Midlands (9.2%) and the Eastern region (9.1%) had the lowest levels. The levels of Class A drug use were highest in the North East (4.1%) and the North West (4.0%) and lowest in Wales (2.5%) (see Figure 4.9, Figure 4.10 and Table A4.11).

Figure 4.10 Percentage of 16 to 59 year olds reporting use of Class A drugs in the last year by Government Office Region and Wales, 2006/07 BCS

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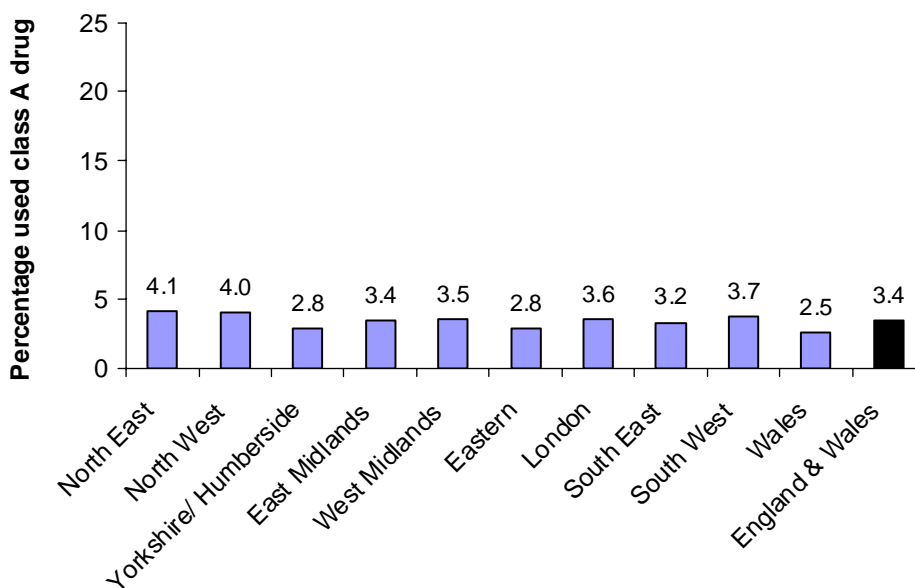
The different regions in England and Wales will have varying age and sex compositions that could influence the levels of drug use in these areas. In order to explore these factors multivariate analysis (logistic regression) was carried out using the 2005/06 BCS[1]. This analysis found that age and gender were more strongly associated with drug use than Government Office Region (or Wales). However, taking age and gender into account, statistically significant differences in drug use between the regions persisted.

Figures for drug use amongst 16 to 24 year olds in each Government Office Region are also available (see Table A4.12). However, these figures should be treated with caution as the small number of respondents in each region will make these estimates of drug use more subject to fluctuation.

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1 Roe and Man (2006)

Appendix A: Tables on general population extent and trends

Table A2.1　　　　**Proportion of 16-59 year olds reporting use of drugs in the last year**

Percentages											**2006/07 BCS**
Drug	1996	1998	2000	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	Statistically significant change 1998 to 2006/07	Statistically significant change 2005/06 to 2006/07
Class A											
Any Cocaine	0.6	1.3	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.5	2.0	2.4	2.6	↑	
Cocaine powder	0.6	1.2	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.4	2.0	2.4	2.6	↑	
Crack cocaine	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.2		
Ecstasy	1.7	1.5	1.8	2.2	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.8		
Hallucinogens	1.3	1.3	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.9	1.1	1.1	0.7	↓	↓
LSD	1.0	0.8	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	↓	
Magic mushrooms	0.7	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.1	1.0	0.6		↓
Opiates	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2		
Heroin	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1		
Methadone	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1		
Class A/B											
Amphetamines	3.2	3.0	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	↓	
Class B/C											
Tranquillisers	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	↓	
Class C											
Anabolic steroids	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	↓	
Cannabis	9.5	10.3	10.5	10.6	10.9	10.8	9.7	8.7	8.2	↓	
Ketamine	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.3		
Not Classified											
Amyl Nitrite	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.4		
Glues	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2		↑
Total											
Class A	**2.7**	**2.7**	**3.2**	**3.2**	**3.3**	**3.5**	**3.2**	**3.4**	**3.4**	↑	
Any Drug	**11.1**	**12.1**	**11.9**	**11.9**	**12.2**	**12.3**	**11.3**	**10.5**	**10.0**	↓	
Unweighted base	*10,741*	*9,884*	*12,771*	*19,973*	*23,357*	*24,197*	*28,206*	*29,631*	*28,975*		

Notes:

1. '↑' Statistically significant increase at the 5% level. ' ↓' Statistically significant decrease at the 5% level.

2. From 2001, the reporting year for BCS data switched from calendar to financial years.

3. Amphetamines can be classified as either Class A (prepared for injection) or Class B (powdered). For the purposes of calculating Class A drug use, the BCS assumes all reported amphetamine use to be of the Class B variety. Similarly, tranquillisers can either be classified as Class B (e.g. barbiturates) or Class C (e.g. benzodiazepines). Consequently, Class B and Class C drugs cannot be aggregated reliably because the survey does not identify which specific tranquilliser respondents used.

4. The category 'not classified' indicates that it is an offence to supply these substances if it is likely that the product is intended for abuse.

Table A2.2　　　　　**Estimates of numbers of those who have used drugs in the last year, 16-59 year olds**

Numbers (thousands)			2006/07 BCS
Drug	Best Estimate	Lower Estimate	Higher Estimate
Class A			
Any Cocaine	**835**	767	908
Cocaine powder	**828**	761	901
Crack cocaine	**58**	42	80
Ecstasy	**567**	512	629
Hallucinogens	**234**	199	274
LSD	**77**	58	101
Magic mushrooms	**201**	169	239
Opiates	**53**	38	75
Heroin	**41**	28	60
Methadone	**37**	25	55
Class A/B			
Amphetamines	**421**	373	474
Class B/C			
Tranquillisers	**136**	110	168
Class C			
Anabolic steroids	**32**	21	50
Cannabis	**2,616**	2,498	2,740
Not Classified			
Amyl Nitrite	**440**	391	494
Glues	**61**	44	83
Total			
Class A	**1,074**	997	1,156
Any Drug	**3,186**	3,056	3,320

Notes:

1.　The values are derived by adding or subtracting the confidence interval around the 2006/07 sample best estimates. Lower and higher estimates are based on 95% confidence intervals (calculated using a logit transformation where proportions were less than 0.2 or greater than 0.8).

2.　The figures are calculated using population estimates provided by the Government Actuary's Department.

Table A2.3　　　　　**Proportion of 16-59 year olds reporting use of drugs ever in their lifetime**

Percentages											**2006/07 BCS**
Drug	1996	1998	2000	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	Statistically significant change 1998 to 2006/07	Statistically significant change 2005/06 to 2006/07
Class A											
Any Cocaine	3.1	3.8	5.6	5.2	6.2	6.8	6.1	7.3	7.7	↑	
Cocaine powder	3.0	3.7	5.5	5.1	6.1	6.7	6.0	7.2	7.5	↑	
Crack cocaine	0.7	0.7	1.1	0.7	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.9	1.0		
Ecstasy	3.8	4.2	5.3	5.9	6.6	6.9	6.7	7.2	7.3	↑	
Hallucinogens	7.8	8.4	9.3	8.2	9.2	9.4	8.5	9.3	9.1		
LSD	5.4	5.6	6.2	5.4	5.9	6.1	5.1	5.5	5.4		
Magic mushrooms	5.3	6.0	7.0	6.1	6.8	7.1	6.5	7.3	7.1	↑	
Opiates	0.7	0.9	1.1	0.7	0.9	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.8		
Heroin	0.6	0.6	1.0	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.6	0.7		
Methadone	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4		
Class A/B											
Amphetamines	9.3	10.8	12.3	11.6	12.3	12.2	11.2	11.5	11.9	↑	
Class B/C											
Tranquillisers	3.1	3.4	3.7	3.0	3.1	3.1	2.6	2.7	2.9		
Class C											
Anabolic steroids	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	↓	
Cannabis	23.5	26.8	29.5	28.9	30.6	30.8	29.7	29.8	30.1	↑	
Ketamine	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1.3		
Not Classified											
Amyl Nitrite	6.5	7.9	7.8	7.9	8.4	8.6	8.1	8.4	9.1	↑	↑
Glues	2.3	2.5	2.7	2.3	2.4	2.1	2.2	2.4	2.4		
Total											
Class A	**9.6**	**10.7**	**12.4**	**11.8**	**13.2**	**13.4**	**12.6**	**13.9**	**13.8**	↑	
Any Drug	**30.5**	**33.6**	**35.7**	**34.0**	**35.7**	**35.6**	**34.5**	**34.9**	**35.5**	↑	
Unweighted base	*10,813*	*9,884*	*12,852*	*20,051*	*23,331*	*24,296*	*28,330*	*29,748*	*28,975*		

Notes:

1. '↑' Statistically significant increase at the 5% level. '↓' Statistically significant decrease at the 5% level.

2. From 2001, the reporting year for BCS data switched from calendar to financial years.

3. Amphetamines can be classified as either Class A (prepared for injection) or Class B (powdered). For the purposes of calculating Class A drug use, the BCS assumes all reported amphetamine use to be of the Class B variety. Similarly, tranquillisers can either be classified as Class B (e.g. barbiturates) or Class C (e.g. benzodiazepines). Consequently, Class B and Class C drugs cannot be aggregated reliably because the survey does not identify which specific tranquilliser respondents used.

4. The category 'not classified' indicates that it is an offence to supply these substances if it is likely that the product is intended for abuse.

Table A2.4   **Estimates of numbers of those who have ever used a drug in their lifetime, 16-59 year olds**

Numbers (thousands)			**2006/07 BCS**
Drug	Best Estimate	Lower Estimate	Higher Estimate
Class A			
Any Cocaine	**2,444**	2,330	2,564
Cocaine powder	**2,398**	2,285	2,517
Crack cocaine	**303**	263	349
Ecstasy	**2,315**	2,204	2,432
Hallucinogens	**2,886**	2,762	3,015
LSD	**1,706**	1,610	1,808
Magic mushrooms	**2,268**	2,157	2,383
Opiates	**256**	220	298
Heroin	**227**	193	267
Methadone	**114**	91	144
Class A/B			
Amphetamines	**3,790**	3,649	3,934
Class B/C			
Tranquillisers	**936**	865	1,013
Class C			
Anabolic steroids	**197**	165	234
Cannabis	**9,595**	9,394	9,798
Not Classified			
Amyl Nitrite	**2,883**	2,759	3,011
Glues	**764**	699	834
Total			
Class A	**4,389**	4,240	4,543
Any Drug	**11,298**	11,088	11,509

Notes:

1. The values are derived by adding or subtracting the confidence interval around the 2006/07 sample best estimates. Lower and higher estimates are based on 95% confidence intervals (calculated using a logit transformation where proportions were less than 0.2 or greater than 0.8).

2. The figures are calculated using population estimates provided by the Government Actuary's Department.

Table A2.5   **Proportion of 16-59 year olds reporting use of drugs in the last month**

Percentages											**2006/07 BCS**
Drug	1996	1998	2000	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	Statistically significant change 1998 to 2006/07	Statistically significant change 2005/06 to 2006/07
Class A											
Any Cocaine	0.3	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.2	1.3	↑	
Cocaine powder	0.2	0.4	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.2	1.2	↑	
Crack cocaine	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	↑	
Ecstasy	0.7	0.5	0.9	1.1	0.9	0.9	0.7	0.7	0.8	↑	
Hallucinogens	0.4	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.2	↑	
LSD	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	↑	
Magic mushrooms	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.1	↑	
Opiates	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1		
Heroin	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1		
Methadone	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1		
Class A/B											
Amphetamines	1.6	1.4	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.5	↓	
Class B/C											
Tranquillisers	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2		
Class C											
Anabolic steroids	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	↓	
Cannabis	5.5	6.1	6.4	6.6	6.7	6.5	5.6	5.2	4.8	↓	
Ketamine	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1		
Not Classified											
Amyl Nitrite	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.5		
Glues	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1		↑
Total											
Class A	**1.2**	**1.1**	**1.5**	**1.7**	**1.5**	**1.8**	**1.5**	**1.6**	**1.7**	↑	
Any Drug	**6.7**	**7.1**	**7.2**	**7.4**	**7.4**	**7.5**	**6.7**	**6.3**	**5.9**	↓	
Unweighted base	*10,723*	*9,787*	*12,746*	*19,951*	*23,458*	*24,162*	*28,186*	*29,604*	*28,784*		

Notes:

1. '↑' Statistically significant increase at the 5% level. '↓' Statistically significant decrease at the 5% level.

2. From 2001, the reporting year for BCS data switched from calendar to financial years.

3. Amphetamines can be classified as either Class A (prepared for injection) or Class B (powdered). For the purposes of calculating Class A drug use, the BCS assumes all reported amphetamine use to be of the Class B variety. Similarly, tranquillisers can either be classified as Class B (e.g. barbiturates) or Class C (e.g. benzodiazepines). Consequently, Class B and Class C drugs cannot be aggregated reliably because the survey does not identify which specific tranquilliser respondents used.

4. The category 'not classified' indicates that it is an offence to supply these substances if it is likely that the product is intended for abuse.

Table A2.6   **Estimates of numbers of those who have used drugs in the last month, 16--59 year olds**

Numbers (thousands)   **2006/07 BCS**

Drug	Best Estimate	Lower Estimate	Higher Estimate
Class A			
Any cocaine	**405**	359	458
Cocaine	**396**	350	447
Crack	**33**	22	51
Ecstasy	**255**	219	297
Hallucinogens	**65**	48	89
LSD	**28**	17	44
Magic mushrooms	**48**	33	68
Opiates	**42**	29	61
Heroin	**31**	20	48
Methadone	**25**	16	41
Class A/B			
Amphetamines	**159**	131	193
Class B/C			
Tranquillisers	**67**	50	91
Class C			
Anabolic steroids	**14**	8	28
Cannabis	**1,526**	1,435	1,623
Not Classified			
Amyl Nitrite	**173**	144	209
Glues	**29**	18	45
Total			
Class A	**538**	484	598
Any Drug	**1,891**	1,789	1,998

Notes:

1. The values are derived by adding or subtracting the confidence interval around the 2006/07 sample best estimates. Lower and higher estimates are based on 95% confidence intervals (calculated using a logit transformation where proportions were less than 0.2 or greater than 0.8).

2. The figures are calculated using population estimates provided by the Government Actuary's Department.

Appendix B: Tables on young people extent and trends

Table A3.1   **Proportion of 16 to 24 year olds reporting use of drugs in the last year**

Percentages   **2006/07 BCS**

Drug	1996	1998	2000	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	Statistically significant change 1998 to 2006/07	Statistically significant change 2005/06 to 2006/07
Class A											
Any Cocaine	1.4	3.2	5.4	5.1	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.9	6.1	↑	
Cocaine powder	1.3	3.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.9	6.0	↑	
Crack cocaine	0.2	0.3	0.9	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.4		
Ecstasy	6.6	5.1	5.6	6.8	5.8	5.5	4.9	4.3	4.8		
Hallucinogens	5.3	5.3	3.4	2.0	2.2	2.9	3.0	3.4	2.1	↓	↓
LSD	4.5	3.2	2.5	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.5	0.9	0.8	↓	
Magic mushrooms	2.3	3.9	2.4	1.5	1.9	2.7	3.0	3.0	1.8	↓	↓
Opiates	0.4	0.8	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.2	↓	
Heroin	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2		
Methadone	0.1	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.1	0.1		
Class A/B											
Amphetamines	11.8	9.9	6.2	5.0	3.8	4.0	3.2	3.3	3.5	↓	
Class B/C											
Tranquillisers	0.9	1.5	1.5	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6	↓	
Class C											
Anabolic steroids	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2		
Cannabis	26.0	28.2	27.0	27.3	26.2	25.3	23.6	21.4	20.9	↓	
Ketamine	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.8	-	-
Not Classified											
Amyl Nitrite	4.6	5.1	3.9	3.8	4.4	4.3	3.6	3.9	4.3		
Glues	0.9	1.3	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.6		
Total											
Class A	**9.2**	**8.6**	**9.7**	**9.1**	**8.9**	**8.5**	**8.3**	**8.4**	**8.1**		
Any Drug	**29.7**	**31.8**	**29.9**	**30.0**	**28.5**	**28.3**	**26.5**	**25.2**	**24.1**	↓	
Unweighted base	*1,420*	*1,246*	*1,468*	*3,995*	*4,227*	*5,351*	*6,196*	*5,892*	*5,706*		

Notes:

1. '↑'   Statistically significant increase at the 5% level. ' ↓' Statistically significant decrease at the 5% level.

2. From 2001, the reporting year for BCS data switched from calendar to financial years.

3. Amphetamines can be classified as either Class A (prepared for injection) or Class B (powdered). For the purposes of calculating Class A drug use, the BCS assumes all reported amphetamine use to be of the Class B variety. Similarly, tranquillisers can either be classified as Class B (e.g. barbiturates) or Class C (e.g. benzodiazepines). Consequently, Class B and Class C drugs cannot be aggregated reliably because the survey does not identify which specific tranquilliser respondents used.

4. The category 'not classified' indicates that it is an offence to supply these substances if it is likely that the product is intended for abuse.

Table A3.2 **Estimates of numbers who have used drugs in the last year, 16 to 24 year olds**

Numbers (thousands)			2006/07 BCS
Drug	Best Estimate	Lower Estimate	Higher Estimate
Class A			
Any Cocaine	**375**	332	423
Cocaine powder	**373**	330	421
Crack cocaine	**25**	15	40
Ecstasy	**272**	236	341
Hallucinogens	**212**	180	250
LSD	**57**	42	79
Magic mushrooms	**190**	160	226
Opiates	**11**	5	23
Heroin	**11**	5	22
Methadone	**5**	1	14
Class A/B			
Amphetamines	**207**	176	245
Class B/C			
Tranquillisers	**45**	32	65
Class C			
Anabolic steroids	**18**	10	32
Cannabis	**1,357**	1,279	1,438
Not Classified			
Amyl Nitrite	**245**	210	285
Glues	**29**	18	45
Total			
Class A	**533**	482	589
Any Drug	**1,597**	1,514	1,682

Notes:

1. The values are derived by adding or subtracting the confidence interval around the 2006/07 sample best estimates. Lower and higher estimates are based on 95% confidence intervals (calculated using a logit transformation where proportions were less than 0.2 or greater than 0.8).

2. The figures are calculated using population estimates provided by the Government Actuary's Department.

Table A3.3   **Proportion of 16-24 year olds reporting use of drugs ever in their lifetime**

Percentages											**2006/07 BCS**
Drug	1996	1998	2000	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	Statistically significant change 1998 to 2006/07	Statistically significant change 2005/06 to 2006/07
Class A											
Any Cocaine	4.7	7.1	10.7	8.7	9.6	10.0	9.3	10.8	11.2	↑	
Cocaine powder	4.3	6.8	10.4	8.6	9.3	9.7	9.1	10.6	10.9	↑	
Crack cocaine	1.7	1.5	2.3	1.2	1.4	1.6	1.1	1.3	1.4		
Ecstasy	11.7	10.8	11.7	12.1	12.5	11.3	10.8	10.4	10.3		
Hallucinogens	16.1	16.1	14.6	9.8	9.8	8.8	8.1	9.4	7.8	↓	↓
LSD	13.1	12.3	11.4	7.0	6.1	4.8	3.5	3.7	3.2	↓	
Magic mushrooms	9.8	11.2	10.2	6.5	7.1	7.0	7.0	8.3	7.0	↓	↓
Opiates	1.2	1.7	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.3	0.7	0.8	0.7	↓	
Heroin	0.9	0.9	1.6	0.8	0.8	1.1	0.6	0.5	0.7		
Methadone	0.4	1.2	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.3	↓	
Class A/B											
Amphetamines	18.8	21.5	21.2	16.2	15.3	13.1	11.6	11.3	11.2	↓	
Class B/C											
Tranquillisers	3.9	3.4	4.5	3.3	2.7	2.9	2.2	2.6	2.3		
Class C											
Anabolic steroids	1.5	1.2	0.9	0.7	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6		
Cannabis	39.6	45.4	46.2	44.5	43.6	42.2	41.1	40.1	39.5	↓	
Ketamine	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Not Classified											
Amyl Nitrite	15.7	17.5	15.3	14.8	13.5	13.5	12.2	12.1	13.4	↓	
Glues	5.9	6.2	6.9	5.5	4.5	3.2	3.6	3.6	3.7	↓	
Total											
Class A	**19.4**	**20.5**	**21.0**	**17.9**	**18.0**	**16.6**	**16.1**	**16.9**	**16.3**	↓	
Any Drug	**48.6**	**53.7**	**52.0**	**49.1**	**48.2**	**47.5**	**46.0**	**45.1**	**44.7**	↓	
Unweighted base	*1,445*	*1,271*	*1,483*	*4,023*	*4,253*	*5,387*	*6,240*	*5,929*	*5,749*		

Notes:

1. '↑' Statistically significant increase at the 5% level. '↓' Statistically significant decrease at the 5% level.

2. From 2001, the reporting year for BCS data switched from calendar to financial years.

3. Amphetamines can be classified as either Class A (prepared for injection) or Class B (powdered). For the purposes of calculating Class A drug use, the BCS assumes all reported amphetamine use to be of the Class B variety. Similarly, tranquillisers can either be classified as Class B (e.g. barbiturates) or Class C (e.g. benzodiazepines). Consequently, Class B and Class C drugs cannot be aggregated reliably because the survey does not identify which specific tranquilliser respondents used.

4. The category 'not classified' indicates that it is an offence to supply these substances if it is likely that the product is intended for abuse.

Table A3.4   **Estimates of numbers of those who have ever used a drug in their lifetime, 16-24 year olds**

Numbers (thousands)			2006/07 BCS
Drug	Best Estimate	Lower Estimate	Higher Estimate
Class A			
Any Cocaine	**681**	624	744
Cocaine powder	**671**	614	733
Crack cocaine	**83**	63	108
Ecstasy	**659**	602	720
Hallucinogens	**595**	541	654
LSD	**233**	199	272
Magic mushrooms	**523**	472	578
Opiates	**48**	34	68
Heroin	**34**	22	51
Methadone	**25**	16	41
Class A/B			
Amphetamines	**714**	655	778
Class B/C			
Tranquillisers	**163**	135	196
Class C			
Anabolic steroids	**43**	30	62
Cannabis	**2,536**	2,442	2,632
Not Classified			
Amyl Nitrite	**766**	705	831
Glues	**225**	192	264
Total			
Class A	**1,071**	1,001	1,146
Any Drug	**2,851**	2,755	2,947

Notes:

1. The values are derived by adding or subtracting the confidence interval around the 2006/07 sample best estimates. Lower and higher estimates are based on 95% confidence intervals (calculated using a logit transformation where proportions were less than 0.2 or greater than 0.8).

2. The figures are calculated using population estimates provided by the Government Actuary's Department.

Table A3.5   **Proportion of 16 to 24 year olds reporting use of drugs in the last month**

Percentages   **2006/07 BCS**

Drug	1996	1998	2000	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	Statistically significant change 1998 to 2006/07	Statistically significant change 2005/06 to 2006/07
Class A											
Any Cocaine	0.6	1.0	1.9	2.2	2.3	2.8	2.2	3.0	3.2	↑	
Cocaine powder	0.5	0.9	1.8	2.2	2.1	2.7	2.1	3.0	3.1	↑	
Crack cocaine	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3	↑	
Ecstasy	2.9	2.2	3.2	3.5	2.7	2.6	1.9	2.0	2.5		
Hallucinogens	1.4	0.5	1.0	0.7	0.7	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.6		
LSD	1.1	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3		
Magic mushrooms	0.4	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.9	0.7	0.4		
Opiates	0.1	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2		
Heroin	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2		
Methadone	0.1	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	0.1		
Class A/B											
Amphetamines	5.7	5.3	2.9	1.9	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.6	1.2	↓	
Class B/C											
Tranquillisers	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3		
Class C											
Anabolic steroids	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1		
Cannabis	16.1	18.0	17.4	17.6	16.6	15.8	14.1	13.0	12.0	↓	
Ketamine	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		
Not Classified											
Amyl Nitrite	1.6	2.4	1.8	1.4	1.7	1.6	1.2	1.6	1.7		
Glues	0.2	0.6	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.3		
Total											
Class A	**4.2**	**3.6**	**5.0**	**4.9**	**4.2**	**4.5**	**3.8**	**4.0**	**4.3**		
Any Drug	**19.2**	**20.8**	**19.0**	**19.3**	**18.1**	**17.5**	**16.4**	**15.1**	**14.3**	↓	
Unweighted base	*1,412*	*1,233*	*1,455*	*3,984*	*4,209*	*5,327*	*6,182*	*5,876*	*5,687*		

Notes:

1. '↑' Statistically significant increase at the 5% level. '↓' Statistically significant decrease at the 5% level.

2. From 2001, the reporting year for BCS data switched from calendar to financial years.

3. Amphetamines can be classified as either Class A (prepared for injection) or Class B (powdered). For the purposes of calculating Class A drug use, the BCS assumes all reported amphetamine use to be of the Class B variety. Similarly, tranquillisers can either be classified as Class B (e.g. barbiturates) or Class C (e.g. benzodiazepines). Consequently, Class B and Class C drugs cannot be aggregated reliably because the survey does not identify which specific tranquilliser respondents used.

4. The category 'not classified' indicates that it is an offence to supply these substances if it is likely that the product is intended for abuse.

Table A3.6   **Estimates of numbers of those who have used drugs in the last month, 16-24 year olds**

Numbers (thousands)			2006/07 BCS
Drug	Best Estimate	Lower Estimate	Higher Estimate
Class A			
Any Cocaine	**192**	161	228
Cocaine powder	**190**	160	226
Crack cocaine	**13**	7	26
Ecstasy	**124**	100	154
Hallucinogens	**54**	39	75
LSD	**15**	8	28
Magic mushrooms	**46**	32	65
Opiates	**6**	2	17
Heroin	**4**	1	14
Methadone	**5**	1	14
Class A/B			
Amphetamines	**102**	80	129
Class B/C			
Tranquillisers	**23**	14	38
Class C			
Anabolic steroids	**9**	4	21
Cannabis	**821**	758	889
Not Classified			
Amyl Nitrite	**103**	81	130
Glues	**13**	6	25
Total			
Class A	**255**	219	296
Any Drug	**954**	887	1,026

Notes:

1. The values are derived by adding or subtracting the confidence interval around the 2006/07 sample best estimates. Lower and higher estimates are based on 95% confidence intervals (calculated using a logit transformation where proportions were less than 0.2 or greater than 0.8).

2. The figures are calculated using population estimates provided by the Government Actuary's Department.

Table A3.7   Frequent use in the last year among 16 to 24 year olds (all respondents)

% more than once a month   **BCS**

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	Statistically significant change 2002/03 to 2006/07	Statistically significant change 2005/06 to 2006/07
Any Drug	11.6	12.4	10.3	9.5	8.3	↓	
Unweighted base	*3,311*	*5,234*	*6,070*	*5,768*	*5,577*		

Notes:

1. '↓' Statistically significant decrease at the 5% level.

Table A3.8 **Frequent use in the last year among 16 to 24 year old drug users (overall and by specific drug type)**

Percentages		2006/07 BCS
Drug	More than once a month	*Unweighted base*
Class A		
Any Cocaine	25.7	*307*
Cocaine powder	25.6	*302*
Crack cocaine	..	*18*
Ecstasy	15.5	*227*
Hallucinogens	4.9	*84*
LSD	..	*32*
Magic mushrooms	1.5	*70*
Opiates	..	*11*
Heroin	..	*10*
Methadone	..	*7*
Class A/B		
Amphetamines	12.0	*161*
Class B/C		
Tranquillisers	..	*29*
Class C		
Anabolic steroids	..	*9*
Cannabis	37.0	*1069*
Not Classified		
Amyl Nitrite	12.5	*216*
Glues	..	*18*
Total		
Class A	22.7	*404*
Any Drug	37.0	*1204*

Notes:

1. Frequent users of Class A and of Any Drug includes people who could have taken the same or different types of drugs frequently, i.e. more than once a month.

2. See 'Reporting conventions' section in Appendix D for further details on the symbols used in the tables.

Appendix C: Tables on demographic and geographical variations

Table A4.1   **Proportion of 16 to 59 year olds reporting use of drugs in the last year by age group**

Percentages								2006/07 BCS
Drug	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	All ages 16-59
Class A								
Any Cocaine	3.4	8.4	5.9	3.4	1.2	0.4	0.0	2.6
Cocaine powder	3.3	8.3	5.8	3.4	1.2	0.4	0.0	2.6
Crack cocaine	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.2	0.1	0.0	-	0.2
Ecstasy	3.3	6.1	3.5	1.9	0.5	0.3	0.0	1.8
Hallucinogens	1.8	2.4	1.3	0.8	0.2	0.1	-	0.7
LSD	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.0	-	0.2
Magic mushroom	1.5	1.9	1.1	0.6	0.2	0.1	-	0.6
Opiates	.	.	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.0	-	0.2
Heroin	.	.	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.0	-	0.1
Methadone	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.1
Class A/B								
Amphetamines	2.5	4.4	2.3	1.4	0.6	0.2	0.1	1.3
Class B/C								
Tranquillisers	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.5	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.4
Class C								
Anabolic steroids	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.1
Cannabis	20.3	21.5	13.1	8.5	4.5	2.2	1.1	8.2
Not Classified								
Amyl Nitrite	4.5	4.1	2.1	1.3	0.4	0.2	0.1	1.4
Glues	0.8	0.5	.	.	.	.	.	0.2
Total								
Class A	**5.4**	**10.4**	**6.8**	**4.0**	**1.5**	**0.6**	**0.0**	**3.4**
Any Drug	**23.3**	**24.8**	**16.0**	**11.1**	**5.9**	**3.0**	**1.7**	**10.0**
Unweighted base	*2,755*	*2,953*	*2,794*	*3,378*	*8,329*	*6,991*	*3,689*	*28,828*

Notes:

1. 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 year old analysis includes the youth boost sample

2. See 'Reporting conventions' section in Appendix D for further details on the symbols used in the tables.

Table A4.2   **Proportion of 16 to 59 year olds reporting use of drugs ever in their lifetime by age group**

Percentages								2006/07 BCS
Drug	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	All ages 16-59
Class A								
Any Cocaine	5.7	15.9	15.3	12.6	6.4	3.1	1.0	7.7
Cocaine powder	5.5	15.6	15.2	12.5	6.3	3.0	1.0	7.5
Crack cocaine	0.9	1.7	2.1	1.2	0.9	0.4	0.1	1.0
Ecstasy	5.5	14.5	16.0	14.2	6.1	1.4	0.5	7.3
Hallucinogens	4.4	10.6	15.2	15.4	10.4	5.3	3.4	9.1
LSD	1.3	4.8	9.4	11.9	5.6	3.1	2.7	5.4
Magic mushroom	4.0	9.5	11.6	11.3	8.5	4.0	1.9	7.1
Opiates	0.4	1.0	1.5	1.3	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.8
Heroin	0.4	0.8	1.3	1.1	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.7
Methadone	0.2	0.4	0.8	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4
Class A/B								
Amphetamines	6.5	15.1	20.9	21.2	12.5	6.2	4.7	11.9
Class B/C								
Tranquillisers	1.3	3.1	4.2	3.7	2.6	2.8	3.1	2.9
Class C								
Anabolic steroids	0.2	1.0	0.6	1.1	0.8	0.3	0.3	0.6
Cannabis	31.7	46.0	46.5	41.0	29.5	18.5	12.8	30.1
Not Classified								
Amyl Nitrite	9.7	16.6	16.5	15.7	8.6	2.9	1.1	9.1
Glues	3.0	4.2	4.2	3.9	2.7	0.5	0.1	2.4
Total								
Class A	**9.3**	**22.3**	**23.6**	**22.1**	**13.9**	**6.9**	**4.1**	**13.8**
Any Drug	**37.5**	**50.7**	**50.8**	**46.2**	**35.8**	**23.4**	**18.1**	**35.5**
Unweighted base	*2,776*	*2,973*	*2,821*	*3,403*	*8,369*	*7,012*	*3,700*	*28,985*

Notes:

1. 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 year old analysis includes the youth boost sample

2. See 'Reporting conventions' section in Appendix D for further details on the symbols used in the tables.

Table A4.3   **Proportion of 16 to 59 year olds reporting use of drugs in the last month by age group**

Percentages								2006/07 BCS
Drug	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-44	45-54	55-59	All ages 16-59
Class A								
Any Cocaine	1.7	4.4	2.9	1.3	0.5	0.2	-	1.3
Cocaine powder	1.7	4.3	2.8	1.3	0.5	0.2	-	1.2
Crack cocaine	.	.	.	.	.	.	-	0.1
Ecstasy	1.8	3.0	1.4	0.8	0.2	0.1	-	0.8
Hallucinogens	0.7	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	-	0.2
LSD	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.1
Magic mushroom	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	-	0.1
Opiates	.	.	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.0	-	0.1
Heroin	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.1
Methadone	.	.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	-	0.1
Class A/B								
Amphetamines	1.0	1.3	0.8	0.5	0.3	0.1	-	0.5
Class B/C								
Tranquillisers	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
Class C								
Anabolic steroids	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.0
Cannabis	11.8	12.1	8.1	4.8	2.7	1.2	0.6	4.8
Not Classified								
Amyl Nitrite	1.9	1.5	0.8	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.5
Glues	0.4	0.3	.	.	.	.	.	0.1
Total								
Class A	**2.9**	**5.5**	**3.4**	**1.7**	**0.7**	**0.2**	**-**	**1.7**
Any Drug	**14.0**	**14.5**	**9.9**	**6.4**	**3.5**	**1.6**	**0.8**	**5.9**
Unweighted base	*2,744*	*2,945*	*2,790*	*3,374*	*8,320*	*6,991*	*3,687*	*28,793*

Notes:

1. 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 year old analysis includes the youth boost sample

2. See 'Reporting conventions' section in Appendix D for further details on the symbols used in the tables.

Table A4.4 **Proportion of 16 to 59 year olds reporting use of any drug in the last year by age group**

Percentages									2006/07 BCS
Age group	1998	2000	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	Statistically significant change 1998 to 2006/07
16-19	32.9	28.2	28.5	26.4	27.7	26.6	24.8	23.3	↓
20-24	30.9	31.3	31.3	30.3	28.7	26.4	25.6	24.8	↓
25-29	20.6	21.1	18.6	20.5	21.0	16.7	18.9	16.0	↓
30-34	10.6	12.5	12.5	14.0	13.3	13.1	12.6	11.1	
35-44	6.1	6.3	7.3	7.4	8.0	7.3	6.6	5.9	
45-54	3.1	3.2	3.5	3.6	4.0	3.4	2.9	3.0	
55-59	1.3	1.9	1.2	1.8	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.7	
All ages 16-59	**12.1**	**11.9**	**11.9**	**12.2**	**12.3**	**11.3**	**10.5**	**10.0**	
Unweighted base									
16-19	*477*	*645*	*1,944*	*2,000*	*2,617*	*3,092*	*2,788*	*2,755*	
20-24	*769*	*823*	*2,051*	*2,227*	*2,734*	*3,104*	*2,856*	*2,953*	
25-29	*1,210*	*1,442*	*2,065*	*2,215*	*2,216*	*2,624*	*2,540*	*2,794*	
30-34	*1,543*	*1,858*	*2,818*	*3,237*	*3,191*	*3,620*	*3,444*	*3,378*	
35-44	*2,640*	*3,479*	*5,582*	*6,684*	*6,840*	*8,129*	*8,046*	*8,329*	
45-54	*2,251*	*3,085*	*4,706*	*5,346*	*5,708*	*6,595*	*6,517*	*6,991*	
55-59	*919*	*1,439*	*2,323*	*2,935*	*3,198*	*3,731*	*3,733*	*3,689*	
All ages 16-59	*9,809*	*12,771*	*19,973*	*23,357*	*24,197*	*28,206*	*27,740*	*28,828*	

Notes:

1. '↑' Statistically significant increase at the 5% level. '↓' Statistically significant decrease at the 5% level.

2. 16 to 24 year old analysis includes the youth boost sample, the 16 to 59 year old analysis is based on the core sample.

Table A4.5   **Proportion of 16 to 59 year olds reporting use of Class A drugs in the last year by age group**

Percentages									2006/07 BCS
Age group	1998	2000	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	Statistically significant change 1998 to 2006/07
16-19	8.0	8.7	6.3	6.0	7.3	6.4	6.3	5.4	
20-24	9.1	10.5	11.4	11.2	9.6	9.9	10.3	10.4	
25-29	5.3	7.1	6.8	7.0	8.3	5.4	6.9	6.8	
30-34	1.5	3.3	3.2	4.3	3.9	4.7	4.3	4.0	↑
35-44	0.7	0.6	1.5	1.3	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.5	↑
45-54	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.6	
55-59	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	
All ages 16-59	**2.7**	**3.2**	**3.2**	**3.3**	**3.5**	**3.2**	**3.4**	**3.4**	
Unweighted base									
16-19	*490*	*652*	*1,964*	*2,017*	*2,643*	*3,121*	*2,922*	*2,777*	
20-24	*781*	*830*	*2,063*	*2,230*	*2,748*	*3,119*	*3,008*	*2,963*	
25-29	*1,226*	*1,459*	*2,081*	*2,233*	*2,236*	*2,650*	*2,722*	*2,809*	
30-34	*1,562*	*1,877*	*2,831*	*3,262*	*3,218*	*3,643*	*3,705*	*3,412*	
35-44	*2,661*	*3,509*	*5,605*	*6,709*	*6,860*	*8,171*	*8,658*	*8,368*	
45-54	*2,257*	*3,099*	*4,719*	*5,362*	*5,719*	*6,612*	*7,000*	*7,016*	
55-59	*924*	*1,445*	*2,328*	*2,941*	*3,204*	*3,739*	*3,968*	*3,703*	
All ages 16-59	*9,901*	*12,871*	*20,067*	*23,457*	*24,306*	*28,351*	*29,740*	*28,968*	

Notes:

1. '↑' Statistically significant increase at the 5% level. '↓' Statistically significant decrease at the 5% level.

2. 16 to 24 year old analysis includes the youth boost sample, the 16 to 59 year old analysis is based on the core sample.

Table A4.6   **Proportion of 16 to 24 and 16 to 59 year olds reporting use of drugs in the last**

Percentages				2006/07 BCS
Age	16 to 24		16 to 59	
Gender	Male	Female	Male	Female
Class A				
Any Cocaine	7.6	4.6	3.7	1.6
Cocaine powder	7.5	4.6	3.6	1.6
Crack cocaine	0.6	0.1	0.3	0.1
Ecstasy	6.5	3.1	2.6	1.0
Hallucinogens	3.3	1.0	1.2	0.3
LSD	1.4	0.2	0.4	0.1
Magic mushroom	2.6	0.9	1.0	0.3
Opiates	.	.	0.3	0.1
Heroin	.	.	0.2	0.1
Methadone	.	.	0.2	0.1
Class A/B				
Amphetamines	4.8	2.2	1.8	0.8
Class B/C				
Tranquillisers	1.0	0.2	0.5	0.3
Class C				
Anabolic steroids	.	.	0.2	0.0
Cannabis	26.2	15.7	11.1	5.5
Not Classified				
Amyl Nitrite	5.2	3.3	2.0	0.8
Glues	0.9	0.4	0.3	0.1
Total				
Class A	**10.6**	**5.5**	**4.8**	**2.0**
Any Drug	**29.5**	**18.8**	**13.2**	**6.9**
Unweighted base	*2,704*	*3,005*	*13,253*	*15,599*

Notes:

1. 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 year old analysis includes the youth boost sample

2. See 'Reporting conventions' section in Appendix D for further details on the symbols used in the tables.

Table A4.7   **Proportion of 16 to 24 and 16 to 59 year olds reporting use of drugs ever in their lifetime by gender**

Percentages				2006/07 BCS
Age	16 to 24		16 to 59	
Gender	Male	Female	Male	Female
Class A				
Any Cocaine	13.2	9.2	10.1	5.3
Cocaine powder	13.0	8.8	10.0	5.1
Crack cocaine	1.6	1.1	1.3	0.7
Ecstasy	13.1	7.6	9.8	4.8
Hallucinogens	11.2	4.4	13.0	5.3
LSD	4.6	1.8	7.8	3.0
Magic mushroom	10.2	3.8	10.4	4.0
Opiates	0.9	0.5	1.1	0.5
Heroin	0.8	0.5	1.0	0.4
Methadone	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.2
Class A/B				
Amphetamines	12.9	9.4	14.8	9.1
Class B/C				
Tranquillisers	3.0	1.5	3.4	2.5
Class C				
Anabolic steroids	1.1	0.2	1.1	0.2
Cannabis	44.1	34.8	36.3	24.2
Not Classified				
Amyl Nitrite	15.5	11.4	12.3	5.9
Glues	4.4	2.9	3.2	1.6
Total				
Class A	**19.9**	**12.8**	**18.0**	**9.7**
Any Drug	**49.3**	**40.1**	**41.9**	**29.3**
Unweighted base	*2,725*	*3,030*	*13,334*	*15,675*

Notes:

1. 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 year old analysis includes the youth boost sample

2. See 'Reporting conventions' section in Appendix D for further details on the symbols used in the tables.

Table A4.8 **Proportion of 16 to 24 and 16 to 59 year olds reporting use of drugs in the last month by gender**

Percentages				2006/07 BCS
Age	16 to 24		16 to 59	
Gender	Male	Female	Male	Female
Class A				
Any Cocaine	4.2	2.2	1.8	0.7
Cocaine powder	4.1	2.2	1.8	0.7
Crack cocaine	.	.	0.2	0.0
Ecstasy	3.6	1.4	1.2	0.4
Hallucinogens	1.0	0.2	0.4	0.1
LSD	.	.	0.2	0.0
Magic mushroom	0.7	0.1	0.3	0.0
Opiates	.	.	0.2	0.0
Heroin	.	.	0.2	0.0
Methadone	.	.	0.1	0.0
Class A/B				
Amphetamines	1.6	0.7	0.7	0.3
Class B/C				
Tranquillisers	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Class C				
Anabolic steroids	.	.	.	.
Cannabis	16.1	7.8	6.8	2.9
Not Classified				
Amyl Nitrite	2.3	1.1	0.9	0.2
Glues	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.0
Total				
Class A	**5.9**	**2.8**	**2.4**	**1.0**
Any Drug	**18.6**	**10.0**	**8.2**	**3.8**
Unweighted base	*2,693*	*2,997*	*13,235*	*15,582*

Notes:

1. 16 to 19 and 20 to 24 year old analysis includes the youth boost sample

2. See 'Reporting conventions' section in Appendix D for further details on the symbols used in the tables.

Table A4.9 **Proportion of 16 to 59 year olds reporting use of any drug and Class A drugs in the last year by gender**

Percentages									**2006/07 BCS**
	1998	2000	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	Statistically significant change 1998 to 2006/07
Any Drug									
Male	15.6	15.0	15.2	15.6	15.7	14.3	13.7	13.2	↓
Female	8.5	8.8	8.7	8.7	8.8	8.3	7.4	6.9	↓
Class A									
Male	3.6	4.6	4.7	4.8	4.8	4.5	4.7	4.8	↑
Female	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.8	2.1	1.9	2.1	2.0	
Unweighted base									
Any Drug									
Male	*4,333*	*5,940*	*9,105*	*10,603*	*11,055*	*12,711*	*12,612*	*13,253*	
Female	*5,476*	*6,831*	*10,868*	*12,754*	*13,142*	*15,495*	*15,128*	*15,599*	
Class A									
Male	*4,371*	*5,978*	*9,152*	*10,645*	*11,103*	*12,781*	*13,499*	*13,324*	
Female	*5,530*	*6,893*	*10,915*	*12,812*	*13,203*	*15,570*	*16,241*	*15668*	

Notes:

1. '↑' Statistically significant increase at the 5% level. '↓' Statistically significant decrease at the 5% level.

Table A4.10   Proportion of 16 to 24 year olds reporting use of any drug and Class A drugs in the last year by gender

Percentages									**2006/07 BCS**
	1998	2000	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	Statistically significant change 1998 to 2006/07
Any Drug									
Male	38.1	33.9	35.9	34.7	33.5	32.3	29.9	29.5	↓
Female	25.2	25.7	24	22.1	22.9	20.6	20.6	18.8	↓
Class A									
Male	10.4	12.7	12.6	11.8	10.5	11.3	10.8	10.6	
Female	6.7	6.6	5.5	5.9	6.5	5.3	6.1	5.5	
Unweighted base									
Any Drug									
Male	*511*	*673*	*1,888*	*1,981*	*2,576*	*2,918*	*2,642*	*2,704*	
Female	*735*	*795*	*2,107*	*2,246*	*2,775*	*3,278*	*3,002*	*3,005*	
Class A									
Male	*522*	*677*	*1,903*	*1,991*	*2,601*	*2,939*	*2,767*	*2,718*	
Female	*749*	*805*	*2,124*	*2,256*	*2,790*	*3,301*	*3,163*	*3,023*	

Notes:

1. '↑' Statistically significant increase at the 5% level. '↓' Statistically significant decrease at the 5% level.

Table A4.11 **Proportion of 16 to 59 year olds reporting use of drugs in the last year by GOR and Wales**

Percentages **2006/07 BCS**

Drug	North East	North West	Yorkshire and the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West	Wales	England and Wales
Class A											
Any Cocaine	3.8	3.1	2.0	2.5	2.8	2.2	2.9	2.6	2.6	1.6	2.6
Cocaine powder	3.8	3.1	2.0	2.5	2.7	2.2	2.9	2.6	2.6	1.4	2.6
Crack cocaine	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.2
Ecstasy	1.9	2.4	1.5	1.6	2.1	1.3	2.4	1.3	1.8	1.5	1.8
Hallucinogens	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.9	0.9	0.4	0.8	1.4	0.3	0.7
LSD	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.2
Magic mushroom	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.9	0.7	0.3	0.8	1.4	0.3	0.6
Opiates	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.2
Heroin	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.1
Methadone	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.1
Class A/B											
Amphetamines	2.2	1.5	1.0	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.1	0.8	1.6	2.4	1.3
Class B/C											
Tranquillisers	0.9	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.9	0.4
Class C											
Anabolic steroids	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.1
Cannabis	9.1	9.3	8.2	7.6	7.6	7.7	8.4	7.5	9.6	7.2	8.2
Not Classified											
Amyl Nitrite	2.8	1.6	1.6	2.0	1.9	1.0	1.1	0.8	1.1	1.1	1.4
Glues	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.2
Total											
Class A	**4.1**	**4.0**	**2.8**	**3.4**	**3.5**	**2.8**	**3.6**	**3.2**	**3.7**	**2.5**	**3.4**
Any Drug	**10.8**	**11.0**	**9.5**	**10.0**	**9.2**	**9.1**	**10.4**	**9.5**	**11.1**	**9.5**	**10.0**
Unweighted base	*1,965*	*3,332*	*2,722*	*3,139*	*2,815*	*3,922*	*2,279*	*3,284*	*3,098*	*2,296*	*28,852*

Notes:

1. See 'Reporting conventions' section in Appendix D for further details on the symbols used in the tables.

Table A4.12 **Proportion of 16 to 24 year olds reporting use of drugs in the last year by GOR and Wales**

Percentages   **2006/07 BCS**

Drug	North East	North West	Yorkshire and the Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East of England	London	South East	South West	Wales	England and Wales
Class A											
Any Cocaine	9.3	8.6	4.1	7.7	6.4	5.3	3.4	6.0	6.9	5.4	6.1
Cocaine powder	9.3	8.6	4.1	7.6	6.2	5.3	3.2	5.8	6.9	5.0	6.0
Crack cocaine	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.4
Ecstasy	6.1	7.5	3.8	4.5	5.3	3.7	2.9	4.2	5.8	5.2	4.8
Hallucinogens	2.5	2.3	1.4	1.6	1.8	2.8	0.1	3.4	4.0	1.5	2.1
LSD	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.8
Magic mushroom	2.3	1.6	1.3	1.0	1.5	2.2	0.1	2.7	4.0	1.2	1.8
Opiates	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.2
Heroin	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.2
Methadone	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.1
Class A/B											
Amphetamines	5.4	4.5	2.1	4.4	3.4	3.2	0.9	2.8	5.8	6.2	3.5
Class B/C											
Tranquillisers	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.6
Class C											
Anabolic steroids	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.2
Cannabis	23.5	25.7	20.4	18.9	18.5	19.4	17.3	21.9	24.5	19.4	20.9
Not Classified											
Amyl Nitrite	8.8	6.1	4.8	6.5	5.9	3.2	1.7	2.1	3.2	4.4	4.3
Glues	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0.6
Total											
Class A	**10.6**	**10.9**	**6.0**	**10.1**	**8.1**	**6.9**	**4.3**	**7.9**	**10.3**	**8.4**	**8.1**
Any Drug	**28.1**	**29.7**	**23.2**	**25.0**	**21.4**	**20.9**	**18.6**	**25.2**	**26.9**	**24.7**	**24.1**
Unweighted base	*414*	*686*	*553*	*665*	*578*	*730*	*469*	*594*	*567*	*453*	*5,709*

Notes:

1. See 'Reporting conventions' section in Appendix D for further details on the symbols used in the tables.

Appendix D: Technical Notes

Weighting

In addition to the standard weighting techniques applied to the BCS (see Technical Report[1]), calibration weighting has also been adopted. Calibration weighting is designed to adjust for known differentials in response rates across age, gender and regional sub-groups. This weighting has been applied to the BCS from 1996 onwards. Estimates for all years in this paper have incorporated calibration weighting.

Interpreting year on year changes

The BCS measures respondents' drug use ever, in the last year and in the last month. 'Use of a drug ever' indicates the percentage of people who have taken one drug or more in their lifetime, however, it says little about the patterns of current drug use. Some respondents will have taken these drugs 10 or 20 years ago, others last month. 'Use in the last month' is a good indicator of very recent drug use but it is more subject to variation due to the small number of last month users. For these reasons, 'use of drugs in the last year' is deemed to be the best indicator available to measure trends of recent drug use.

Year on year prevalence changes need to be interpreted with care. A number of key issues need to be considered:

i   Prevalence figures for rare activities such as taking heroin are subject to big percentage change swings from year to year.

i   Year on year changes should be considered alongside longer term trend data, which will give a better idea of what is happening overall.

i   While comparisons have been made with a 1998 baseline for calculating overall trends, attention should be paid to the intervening period in order to fully appreciate the patterns of drug use over time.

i   The range of values between which the population parameter is estimated to lie (also referred to as margin of error) is known as the confidence interval. Surveys produce statistics that are estimates of the real figure for the population under study. These estimates are always surrounded by a margin of error of plus or minus a given range. At the 95 per cent confidence level, over many repeats of a survey under the same conditions, one would expect that these confidence intervals would contain the true population value in 95 times out of 100. When assessing the results of a single survey it is assumed that there is a one in 20 chance that the true population value will fall outside the 95 per cent confidence interval calculated for the survey estimate. Confidence intervals can also be constructed for changes in estimates between years of the BCS and for differences between population subgroups. If a difference is outside a range set by a 95 per cent confidence interval then one judges the difference to be 'statistically significant at the five per cent level'. In this publication a five per cent significance level has been applied, unless otherwise stated.

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[1] Grant et al. (2007)

i   Large sample sizes increase the reliability of estimates for rare acts such as consumption of Class A drugs, however, even then the range of variability will still be quite large for very rare acts, such as heroin use.

Composite drug use variables

There are several drug use variables reported in this publication which amalgamate use of individual drugs. These composite variables and the individual drug use variables that they include are outlined below:

Table A7.1 Composite drug variables

Composite	Individual drug use variables included
Any Cocaine	Cocaine powder, Crack cocaine
Hallucinogens	LSD, Magic mushrooms
Opiates	Heroin, Methadone
Class A	Cocaine powder, Crack cocaine, Ecstasy, Heroin, LSD, Magic mushrooms, Methadone
Any Drug	Amphetamines, Amyl nitrite, Anabolic steroids, Cannabis, Cocaine powder, Crack cocaine, Ecstasy, Glues, Heroin, Ketamine, LSD, Magic mushrooms, Methadone, Tranquilisers, Other pill, Other smoke, Other drug

Issues when interpreting composite drug use variables

Taking Class A drug use as an example, of the people who took Class A drugs in the last year there will be many cases of polydrug use. Some people may have taken all of the Class A drugs, others a combination and some just one. Therefore if there is an increase in the use of cocaine powder, for instance, there may not necessarily be an increase in the use of Class A drugs. The increase in the use of cocaine powder could just be users switching from one drug to another. It is only when there is a significant increase in 'new' Class A drug users that a change in use of Class A drugs overall will occur.

Reporting conventions

- All analysis excludes don't know/refusals unless otherwise specified.

- '-' indicates no response in that particular category (the question was asked but no one chose that category).

- '..' indicates that data are not reported because the unweighted base is less than 50.

- '.' indicates that although the unweighted base under analysis was more than 50 there were insufficient drug users in the sample to enable robust subgroup analysis.

- 'N/A' indicates that data are not available.

- All differences highlighted in the text have been checked and are statistically significant, unless otherwise stated.

- All statistical significance is based on a .05 level unless otherwise specified. This is the level at which there is a one in twenty probability of an observed difference being solely due to chance.

- Estimates of the number of users are based on 95% level confidence intervals. The figures are calculated using population estimates provided by the Government Actuarial Service.

- A design factor of 1.2 has been used throughout for tests of statistical significance and confidence intervals.

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