

Wiltshire Children and Young People's (8 to 18+ years) Health and Wellbeing Survey 2021

Risky Behaviours



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Introduction

The Wiltshire Children and Young People's (8 to 18+ years) Health and Wellbeing Survey aims to develop a better understanding of Wiltshire's children and young people's experiences of life, both inside and outside the school environment. The survey helps schools to identify areas for improvement and address issues raised by their own pupils. It also provides evidence to influence the development of services provided by Wiltshire Council and their partners that improve the health and wellbeing of young people in the county. The survey was commissioned by Wiltshire Council and carried out by Foster and Brown Research Limited.

All schools in Wiltshire were invited to take part in the voluntary survey, which was carried out in 2020 (January to March) and 2021 (May to July). In 2020, 57 schools took part and there were nearly 6,000 responses, but the survey was cut short due to the pandemic. In 2021, two months after the end of the third national lockdown and a gradual lifting of Covid regulations¹, all schools were again invited to participate in the survey and 7,499 pupils were involved from 77 schools – 65 primary and 13 secondary. Of these schools, 4 were independent.

Although no sampling method was used, the large number of children and young people and different schools involved means that we can have some confidence that the responses are representative of Wiltshire's children and young people. To get an idea of representation in the 2021 survey, see the demographic section below for an overview of the survey population characteristics and school representation in terms of type and deprivation. A similar survey was also carried out in 2017 and 2015. This allows us to begin to track how behaviours have changed over time.

The survey was completed online by pupils in year groups 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 12 and took advantage of the additional capabilities that online surveys bring, including accurate sliding response questions and presenting questions to a respondent based on their previous answers. There were three versions of the questionnaire designed separately for primary, secondary and Year 12/Further Education (FE) college pupils, plus adaptations for children and young people with special educational needs. The questions covered a wide range of aspects of young people's lives, including healthy lifestyles, learning experiences, relationships, wellbeing, safety, risky behaviours, aspirations, and support requirements.

Schools have been given access to their own data, which they can compare to an overall Wiltshire proportion for the appropriate school phase, created using the 2021 survey data. This means that they can make informed decisions about how to support the health and wellbeing needs of their pupils and use the data to monitor the impact of interventions.

Focus of this report

This report provides detailed findings surrounding risky behaviours, predominantly drawn from the 2021 survey data. This includes topics of smoking, alcohol consumption, illegal drugs, prescription drug misuse, sexual behaviour and gambling.

Other topic reports based on the survey findings will also be published related to emotional health and wellbeing, healthy lifestyles, school experience and feelings of safety. For a summary of the key findings across all themes, click here:

¹ [Timeline of UK government coronavirus lockdowns and restrictions | The Institute for Government](#)

<https://www.wiltshireintelligence.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/Wiltshire-CYP-HWB-survey-Overview-report-.pdf> to find the Overview report for the 2021 survey.

Presentation of results

This report starts by providing a summary of the results, including how the 2021 survey compares to the results in 2020 and 2017. This is followed by information on the demographics of the respondents, including school participation and a variety of different pupil characteristics. It then details participant responses to questions relating to risky behaviours, broken down into the topic sections mentioned above. There is also a summary of the extent to which pupils partake in multiple risky behaviours and a section on education relating to the risky behaviours. Most questions are presented graphically with a short narrative. Questions about drug use and sexual behaviour were not asked of primary school respondents. Hence, multiple risky behaviour membership is only discussed in relation to secondary and year 12/FE pupils.

All results are broken into school phase; primary, secondary or year 12/FE, and are broken down by gender and vulnerable groups where appropriate. The term 'vulnerable group' refers to those who the evidence indicates to be at greater risk of poor outcomes compared to the general population. Through the survey, participants were invited to identify themselves as one or more of the following (these groups are non-exclusive):

- Having a family member in prison – now or in the past
- Being lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or trans (LGBT)
- Being adopted, fostered or looked after by the local authority (AFL)
- Having a parent/carer in the armed forces
- Being part of a family with a social worker
- Have free school meals or knew they were eligible
- Being a young carer
- Having a special educational need
- Having a disability
- From a minority ethnic group.

Children reporting that they have a Special Educational Need (SEN) and pupils reporting that they have a disability were grouped together (SEND) due to significant crossovers between the two and wide recognition of the term 'SEND'. Details relating to numbers and proportions of individual groups can be found in the demographic section below.

Where possible, comparisons to the 2020 and 2017 Wiltshire survey results have been made, as well as with recent national reports that consider similar themes, providing a useful benchmark. Local comparisons should be used with caution, however, due to the variations in sample size, amendments to question wording and changes to the schools involved, as well as the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Key findings

The key findings relating to risky behaviours from the 2021 survey are outlined below. The survey has shown that a quarter of year 12/FE respondents and 48% of secondary school respondents do not engage in any of the risky behaviours of frequent cigarette smoking, frequent alcohol consumption, the misuse of illegal or prescription drugs, sexual activity, or gambling. The survey has also highlighted some areas for concern regarding these behaviours, which carry a risk to children and young people's health and wellbeing (76% of year 12/FE pupils and 52% of secondary school pupils reported engaging in at least one of the risky behaviours). In many cases, higher proportions of children identifying with the vulnerable groups engaged in these behaviours. To see a visual summary of the key findings from this report, navigate to the Wiltshire Intelligence website: [School Health Survey - Wiltshire Intelligence](#).

Smoking

- **99%** of primary pupils, **88%** of secondary pupils and **73%** of year 12/FE pupils reported that they had **never** smoked cigarettes. **11%** of year 12/FE pupils reported smoking cigarettes weekly or more often. **95%** of pupils who smoke also engaged in other risky behaviours, most common of which was frequent alcohol consumption. Of the vulnerable groups, year 12/FE children **who have/had a parent in prison** were most likely to smoke frequently (**29%**).
- **98%** of primary, **84%** of secondary and **73%** of year 12/FE pupils reported that they have never used e-cigarettes (Vaping). **9%** of year 12/FE pupils use them weekly/daily.
- **28%** of secondary and **39%** of year 12/FE pupils want to stop smoking.

Alcohol

- **76%** of primary, **45%** of secondary and **24%** of year 12/FE pupils never drink alcohol. **22%** of primary pupils had tried it once or twice. **21%** of secondary pupils and **51%** of year 12/FE pupils reported drinking alcohol monthly or more frequently. **7 in 10** pupils who drank frequently (monthly or more frequently) also engaged in other risky behaviours, most common of which was gambling.
- **17%** of secondary and **23%** of year 12/FE pupil reported being drunk weekly/daily. Most children get their alcohol from home with their parents' permission.

Illegal drugs

- **80%** of secondary pupils and **62%** of year 12/FE pupils had not been offered illegal drugs. **20%** of secondary and **38%** of year 12/FE pupils had.
- **7%** of secondary pupils and **19%** of year 12/FE pupils reported having tried illegal drugs, though the majority had not (**93%** secondary, **81%** year 12/FE). Only **2%** of the secondary sample and **3%** of the year 12/FE sample take illegal drugs frequently.
- In secondary and year 12/FE school phases, **children who have/had a family member in prison** were significantly more likely than the overall Wiltshire sample to have tried illegal drugs (**19%** and **49%** respectively).

Prescription drug misuse

- **90%** of secondary and year 12/FE pupils reported **never** having tried prescription drugs for recreational use (“pharming”). **22%** of year 12/FE pupils who **have/had a family member in prison** had tried prescription drugs.

Sexual behaviour






- Overall, **5%** of secondary and **31%** of year 12/FE pupils reported ever having sexual intercourse. **4%** of secondary and **14%** of year 12/FE pupils reported first having sexual intercourse under the age of legal consent. Most pupils who reported ever having sexual intercourse also engaged in other risky behaviours.
- Of pupils who have had sexual intercourse, **71%** of the year 12/FE pupils and **55%** of the secondary school pupils said that they had used contraception/taken precautions the last time they had sex. Over **90%** of both school phases knew where to get hold of a condom.
- **70%** of secondary and **82%** of year 12/FE sexually active pupils knew where to access contraception and health advice but only **49%** of secondary and **53%** of year 12/FE sexually active pupils felt comfortable using sexual health and contraceptive services. Sexually active **males** were more likely than sexually active females to know where to access contraception and feel more comfortable using sexual health services. For sexual health advice, most pupils said they would go to a parent or carer.

Gambling









- **28%** of primary school pupils, **36%** of secondary school pupils and **32%** of year 12/FE pupils had spent their money on gambling activities in the past 12 months. This was most likely to be in-game currency. Higher proportions of **males** reported gambling compared to females (**50%** vs **28%**).
- Almost all of the vulnerable groups were more likely than the Wiltshire average to have spent their money on gambling activities in the last 12 months. These proportions were highest among secondary **AFL** children (**55%**).

Comparison to the 2020 and 2017 surveys

The 2021 survey results show some differences from the previous surveys conducted in 2020 and 2017. For some questions, clear positive or negative changes or fluctuations can be identified, these are indicated using the key below by school phase. Questions that have stayed relatively constant have not been included. Due to changes to samples, sample sizes and question wording over the years, these changes should be interpreted with caution. In addition, the Covid-19 pandemic may have influenced the 2020 and 2021 results and therefore had unusual effects on the proportions. Hence, no significance testing has been carried out on the changes to avoid making inaccurate claims of significant change or trend. Overall, changes suggest some positive improvements in the year 12/FE school phases across many of the questions, while there seem to be negative changes in the secondary school phases.

Key:					
	Positive increase		Positive decrease		Fluctuation
	Negative increase		Negative decrease		

Secondary School

<i>Direction of change</i>	2021	2020	2017	Question
	6%	3%	3%	Do you use e-cigarettes? (Weekly/daily)
	28%	31%	43%	Do you want to stop smoking? (Yes)
	8%	14%	11%	Do you want help to stop smoking (Yes)
	17%	11%	13%	Have you ever been drunk? (Weekly/daily)
	29%	22%	23%	How often do you take illegal drugs? (Weekly/daily)
	38%	33%	30%	The last time you had sexual intercourse, did you or your partner use any form of contraception or take any precautions? (No)
	65%	72%	53%	Do you know where to get hold of a condom? (Not sexually active) (Yes)
	49%	31%	44%	How comfortable would you be using sexual health and contraceptive services? (Comfortable/extremely comfortable) (Sexually active respondents)



64%	71%	N/A	Have you spent any money on gambling activities? (None)
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Year 12/FE

<i>Direction of change</i>	2021	2020	2017	Question
	11%	17%	22%	Do you smoke cigarettes? (Weekly/daily)
	9%	6%	5%	Do you use e-cigarettes? (Weekly/daily)
	62%	69%	76%	How many cigarettes do you smoke a week? (15 or more)
	39%	43%	42%	Do you want to stop smoking? (Yes)
	51%	59%	64%	Do you drink alcohol? (At least monthly)
	23%	25%	30%	Have you ever been drunk? (Weekly/daily)
	38%	50%	45%	Have you ever been offered illegal drugs? (Yes)
	19%	29%	28%	Have you ever tried illegal drugs? (Yes)
	15%	19%	22%	How often do you take illegal drugs? (Weekly/daily)
	12%	16%	15%	Have you ever been offered prescription drugs? (Yes)
	7%	11%	11%	Have you ever tried prescription drugs?(Yes)
	35%	45%	46%	Have you ever had sex? (Sexual intercourse) (Yes)



14%	19%	20%	How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the first time? (Under 16)
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86%	92%	69%	Do you know where to get hold of a condom? (Not sexually active) (yes)
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82%	81%	77%	How confident are you about using a condom? (Confident/extremely confident)
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Response demographics

There are several ways that the results can be grouped using the following response demographics. The database contains 7,499 respondents in 2021, which is around 11% percent of the Wiltshire population of 8- to 18-year-olds. Table 1 provides a breakdown of these respondents by year group. In 2020, there were nearly 6,000 responses and in 2017 nearly 10,000 (4,375 primary, 4,083 secondary and 1,492 year 12/FE).

Table 1: Overall response

Phase	Primary				Secondary			FE	Total
	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Total	Year 8	Year 10	Total	Year 12	
No.	1,330	1,251	1,600	4,181	1,485	773	2,258	1,060	7,499
%	18%	17%	21%		20%	10%		14%	100%

Types of school

The secondary and year 12/FE respondents were taken from 13 of the 77 schools. 31% (4) of these were independent schools. This is a slightly higher proportion to the proportion of independent schools in Wiltshire that have secondary aged pupils (25%).² The primary school respondents were taken from 65 different schools, 6% (4) of which were independent schools. This is a similar proportion to the proportion of independent schools in Wiltshire that have aged primary pupils (6.8%).³ This suggests that the representation from independent schools in the 2021 survey roughly matches the overall representation of independent schools in Wiltshire. The remaining schools were academy or LA schools. No special schools took part in the survey.

Schools and deprivation

To gauge the level of representation in the survey from different schools in relation to deprivation, the proportion of children eligible for free school meals (FSM) has been used as a measure. This is a widely used measure as an indicator of deprivation, found to be a reliable indicator of low socioeconomic status.⁴ The term 'eligible' used here refers to those

² [All schools and colleges in Wiltshire - GOV.UK - Find and compare schools in England \(compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/all-schools-and-colleges-in-wiltshire)

³ [All schools and colleges in Wiltshire - GOV.UK - Find and compare schools in England \(compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/all-schools-and-colleges-in-wiltshire)

⁴ Chris Taylor (2018) The Reliability of Free School Meal Eligibility as a Measure of Socio-Economic Disadvantage: Evidence from the Millennium Cohort Study in Wales, British Journal of Educational Studies, 66:1, 29-51, DOI: [10.1080/00071005.2017.1330464](https://doi.org/10.1080/00071005.2017.1330464)

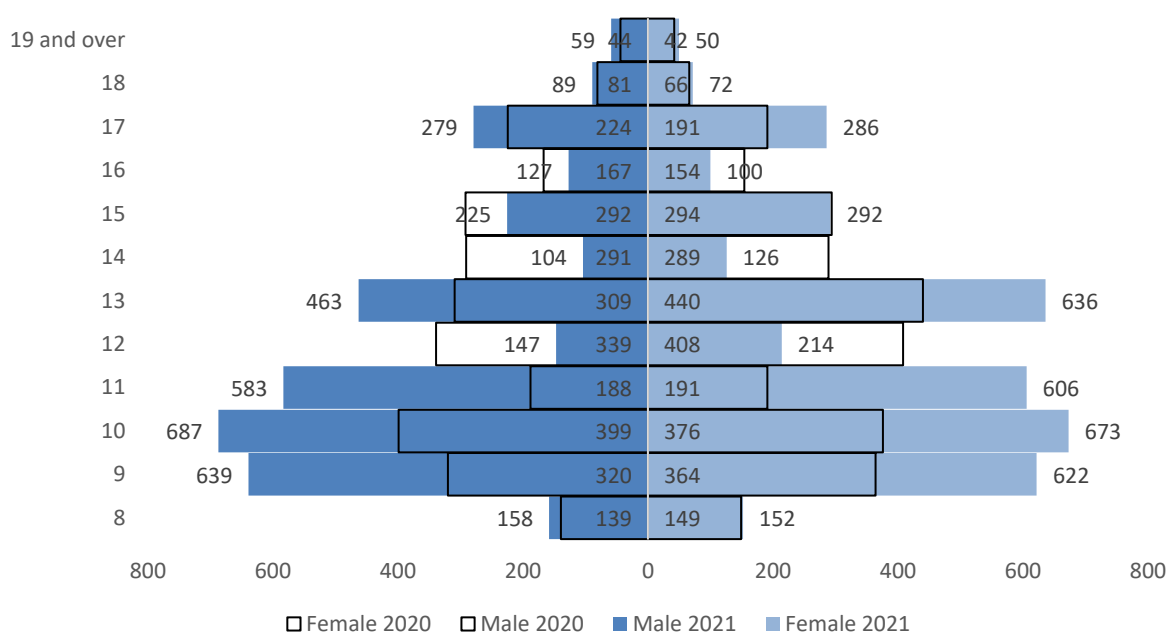
who meet the eligibility criteria AND make a claim.⁵ Data was taken from the summer term 2021 school census to coincide with the dates that the survey was completed. Proportions of pupils eligible for FSM for all Wiltshire non-independent schools were ranked, with 1 being the highest proportion of FSM pupils, indicating higher deprivation. These rankings are displayed in tables in the appendix, only for those schools which took part in the 2021 survey, alongside the proportions. Year 12/FE pupils are not eligible for free school meals so tables only detail primary and secondary schools.

The primary schools involved in the survey cover a wide range of different levels of deprivation, as shown by the variation in the FSM rankings. On the other hand, for secondary schools, the top 9 most deprived schools in terms of proportion of FSM pupils did not take part in the 2021 survey.

Age and gender

Age and gender information was collected from the respondents. Figure 1 below shows this information alongside the population information from the 2020 survey. The numbers sitting closest to the centre point (0) reflect the age and gender split of the 2020 survey responses and the numbers furthest from the centre point show the age and gender split of the 2021 survey response. There were similar or more responses from almost all ages in 2021 than in 2020. However, there were fewer responses from those aged 12, 14 and 16.

Figure 1: Survey response population pyramid (2021 and 2020)*



*Data labels on the inside (closest to the axis) relate to the 2020 bars and on the outside relate to the 2021 bars.

⁵ Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.

Ethnicity

Pupils were given the same options as the Census when asked about their ethnicity.⁶ Overall, 79.6% (5,972) of the pupils described themselves as “White British”, 14.6% (1,096) described themselves as from another ethnic background (see broad breakdown in Table 2) and 5.7% (431) did not want to say or did not respond. The 2020/21 Wiltshire school census found that 84.4% of pupils were white British, slightly higher than the proportion in the survey data.⁷

Table 2. Ethnicity breakdown by broad categories

Ethnicity	Pupils	Proportion of survey respondents
White British	5,972	79.6%
White other (White Irish, White other, White European, Traveller and Gypsy/Roma)	433	5.8%
Asian or Asian British (Pakistani, Indian, Bangladeshi, Chinese, Any other Asian background)	169	2.3%
Black, Black British, British Caribbean or African	155	2.1%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	339	4.5%
Did not respond/did not want to say	431	5.7%

*Percentages do not sum exactly due to independent rounding

Other characteristics

This section of demographic information relates to the groups termed ‘vulnerable groups’ and displays counts and proportions of each group by school phase (percentages may not sum due to independent rounding). It is difficult to determine whether the proportion of each group is representative of the Wiltshire proportion due to lack of available data for all groups. However, where possible, recent Wiltshire school census statistics have been included to provide some comparison to the survey proportions.

53% of the pupils surveyed in 2021 were a member of at least one of the above groups. Multiple group membership was also apparent. 1,493 pupils across the three school phases were a member of more than one of the above groups, which is 22% of the total sample. In primary school phases, 50% of pupils were a member of at least one vulnerable group, 19% were a member of two or more. In secondary school phases, 58% of pupils were a member of at least one vulnerable group, 24% were a member of two or more. In year 12/FE phases, 55% of pupils were a member of at least one vulnerable group, 18% were a member of two or more.

⁶ [List of ethnic groups - GOV.UK \(ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/list-of-ethnic-groups)

⁷ [Schools, pupils and their characteristics, Academic Year 2020/21 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/schools-pupils-and-their-characteristics-academic-year-2020-21)

In 2021 most respondents in all school phases were white British (Table 3). Of the ethnic minority individual groups, no single category was large enough to be representative. The proportion of ethnic minority pupils was largest in secondary school phases.

Table 3: Ethnic minority

	Primary		Secondary		Year 12/FE	
White British	3,277	78%	1,773	79%	922	87%
Ethnic minority	554	13%	421	19%	121	11%
No Response	350	8%	64	3%	17	2%

The percentage of children with military parents/carer(s) decreases by school phase, as seen in Table 4. 11% of primary school children, 11% in secondary school and 6% in year 12/FE had military parents/carer(s). This could be a sign that the parent/carers have exited the armed forces as their child progresses through the school phases. At the time of the survey, the termly school census (summer 2021) reported that 8.66% of primary and 11.42% of secondary pupils in Wiltshire were military children.

Table 4: Children of military parent/carer(s)

	Primary		Secondary		Year 12/FE	
With military parent/carer(s)	460	11%	253	11%	67	6%
No military parent/carer(s)	3,702	89%	1999	89%	992	94%

119 (69 primary, 31 secondary and 19 year 12/FE) children reported being either adopted, fostered, in care, or a looked after child (LAC). Between the school phases, 29-37% of these children are adopted (40 children overall). This group will be referred to as AFL throughout the report and it is important to note that this is a relatively small sample size.

Some respondents reported having a social worker (Table 5). The highest proportion of children with a social worker was in primary school (11%).

Table 5: Social worker involved

	Primary		Secondary		Year 12/FE	
Social worker involved	466	11%	186	8%	62	6%
No social worker	3,659	89%	2,054	92%	994	94%

In 2021, 16% of primary school pupils, 14% of secondary school pupils and 24% of year 12/FE pupils from the survey reported having a special educational need and/or a disability (SEND) (Table 6). At the time of the survey, the Wiltshire school census 2020/21 found that 12.6% of primary children had SEN support and 11.5% of secondary children had SEN support.⁸

Table 6: Special Educational Need and/or Disability

	Primary		Secondary		Year 12/FE	
SEND	661	16%	326	14%	255	24%
Non-SEND	3,520	84%	1,932	86%	805	76%

11% of primary school pupils and 10% of secondary school pupils reported that they have free school lunches or knew they were eligible for free school meals (FSM) in the 2021 survey sample (Table 7). In 2020/21, 14.1% of primary and 10.9% of secondary pupils in Wiltshire were known to be eligible for free school meals according to the school census.⁹ The term 'eligible' used here refers to those who meet the eligibility criteria and make a claim.

Table 7: Free School Meals

	Primary		Secondary	
Has free school meals	465	11%	223	10%
Does not have free school meals	2,326	57%	1,584	71%
Did not know	1,325	32%	437	19%

To help to understand and meet young carers' needs, respondents were asked whether they were young carers. The question was worded as 'do you take on a caring role or support a family member who is disabled, long term sick, experiences mental ill health or misuses drugs or alcohol?'. In the 2021 survey 6% of primary school pupils, 7% of secondary school pupils and 6% of year 12/FE students in the survey reported being a young carer (Table 8).

Table 8: Young carers

	Primary School		Secondary School		Year 12/FE	
Yes	255	6%	163	7%	67	6%
No	3,860	94%	2,049	93%	982	94%

⁸ [Special educational needs in England, Academic Year 2020/21 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/explore-education-statistics)

⁹ [Schools, pupils and their characteristics, Academic Year 2020/21 – Explore education statistics – GOV.UK \(explore-education-statistics.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/explore-education-statistics)

In this survey, the secondary school and year 12/FE respondents were asked about their sexual orientation and gender identification. Two categories were used to create a combined group of pupils who reported being lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or trans (LGBT). There were 400 LGBT respondents in the secondary school sample and 211 in the year 12/FE sample. This represents 20% of the year 12/FE respondents and 18% of the secondary school respondents (Table 9).

Table 9: Children identifying as LGBT

	Secondary School		Year 12/FE	
LGBT	400	18%	211	20%
Not LGBT	1,858	82%	849	80%

Children were asked whether anyone in their family (who lives in their house) had ever been in prison. In all school phases, less than 8% of children reported that someone in their family had ever been in prison (Table 10). This was not asked in 2017.

Table 10: Children who have/had a family member (who lives with them) in prison

	Primary School		Secondary School		Year 12/FE	
Yes	287	7%	159	7%	52	5%
No	3,856	93%	2,084	93%	1,005	95%

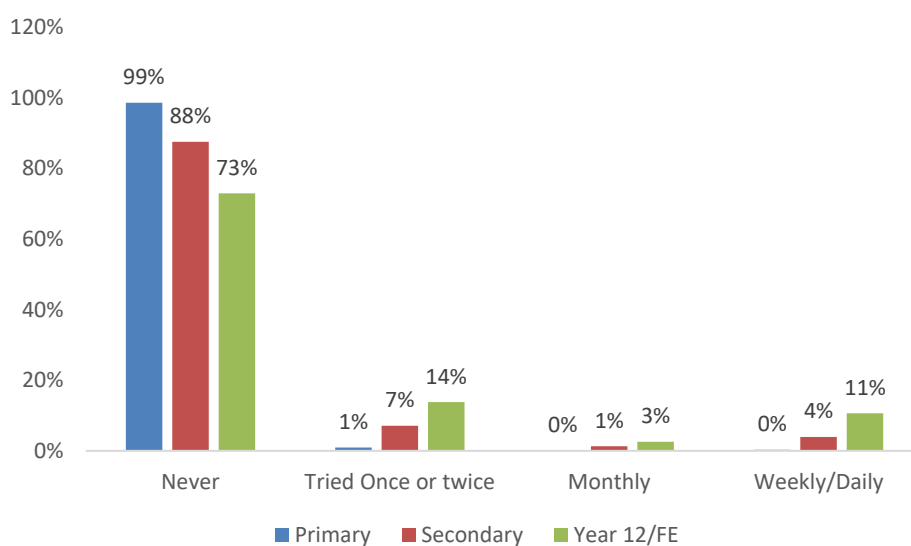
Results

Smoking cigarettes

99% of primary school children, 88% of secondary school children and 73% of year 12/FE pupils reported that they have never smoked. 11% of year 12/FE pupils smoked weekly/daily. Evidence from 2018 suggests that, nationally, 5% of 11-15-year-olds are smokers.¹⁰ This is approximately the same as the Wiltshire proportion for secondary pupils (4%). There were little differences between gender regarding smoking behaviour, though secondary and year 12/FE males were slightly more likely to report never smoking. Proportions of pupils using e-cigarettes frequently were similar to those smoking cigarettes (6% secondary and 9% year 12/FE).

Previous years: These smoking levels are very close to the results obtained in the 2017 and 2020 survey for primary and secondary children. There has been a decrease in smoking on a weekly/daily basis for year 12/FE pupils over the years (22% in 2017, 17% in 2020, 11% in 2021) and an increase in those reporting ‘never’ having smoked (64% in 2020, 63% in 2017).

Figure 3: Question 3.01. Do you smoke cigarettes?

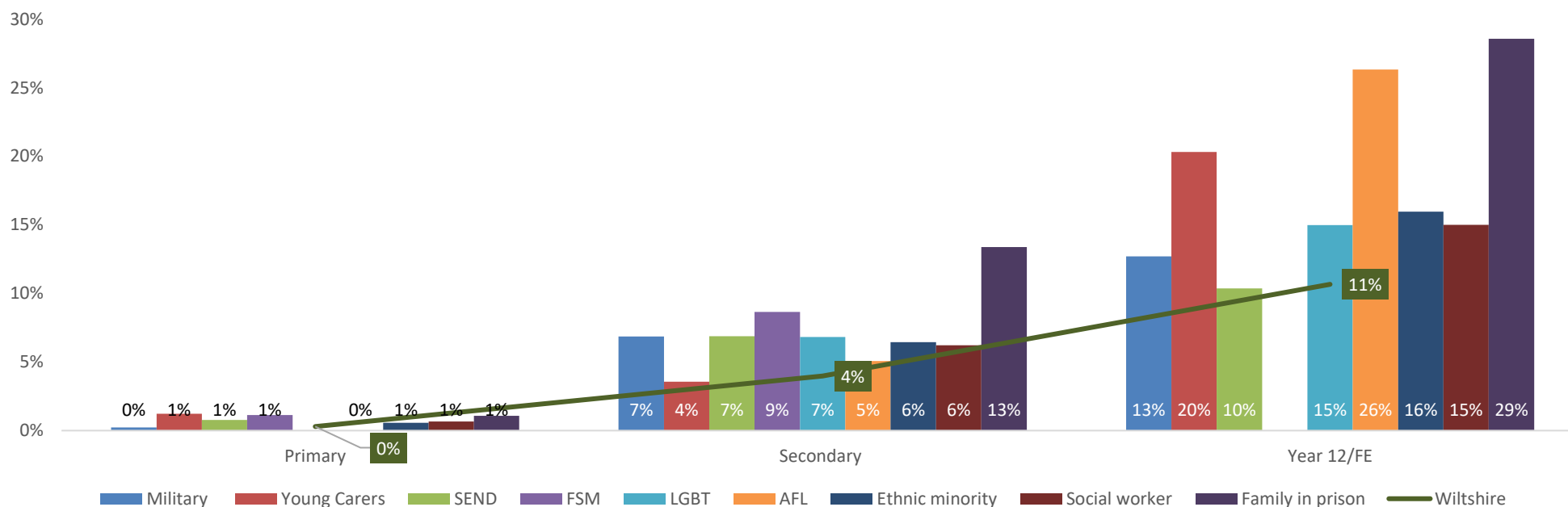


¹⁰ [Part 1: Smoking prevalence and cigarette consumption - NHS Digital](#)

There was some variation in smoking behaviour among different groups of pupils, particularly among the year 12/FE respondents (Figure 3a). All vulnerable groups in year 12/FE school phases, apart from SEND pupils, had significantly higher proportions of those reporting frequent smoking than the overall Wiltshire sample. Proportions were highest among AFL pupils (26%) and children who have/had a family member in prison (29%). Among secondary school children, all vulnerable groups, apart from young carers, were significantly more likely to smoke often compared to the overall Wiltshire sample. Proportions were highest for children who have/had a family member in prison (13% vs 4% Wiltshire). National data are not categorised in the same way, prohibiting direct comparison. However, national evidence does show a strong link between living in a deprived area and smoking (ONS, 2018).

Figure 3a: Question 3.01. Do you smoke cigarettes? Vulnerable groups. *

Response: Weekly/daily

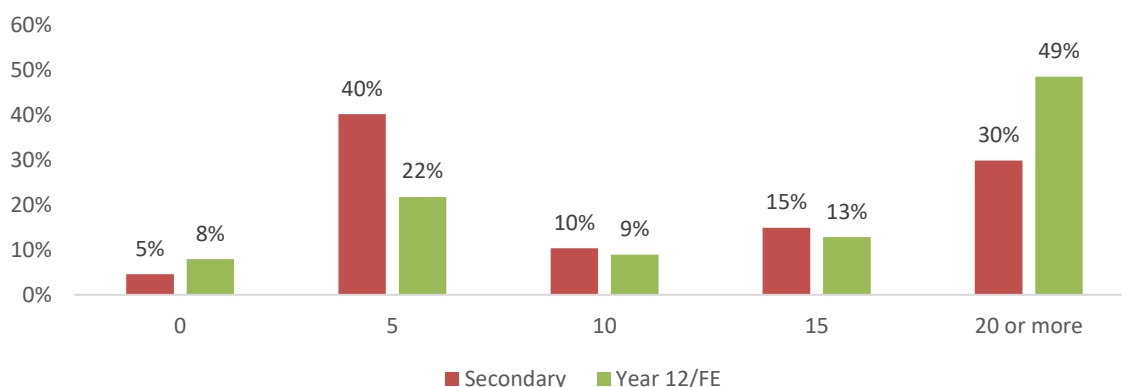


*Primary school children were not asked for their LGBT status and Year 12/FE students were not asked if they were in receipt of free school meals. The AFL group in all school phases represents a small sample size and caution should be used in interpreting its results.

Of those who reported smoking cigarettes quite often (e.g. weekly) or on most days, 62% of the year 12/FE sample and 45% of the secondary school sample reported smoking 15 or more cigarettes a week (Figure 4). In secondary school phases, a larger proportion of males reported smoking 20 or more cigarettes a week compared to females (54% vs 36%).

Previous years: Proportions of secondary school pupils smoking 15 cigarettes or more a week have not changed over the past few years. For year 12/FE pupils, there has been a decrease in pupils smoking 15 cigarettes or more per week (76% in 2017, 69% in 2020, 62% in 2021). In previous years, males were more likely than females to smoke 15 or more cigarettes a week in both school phases.

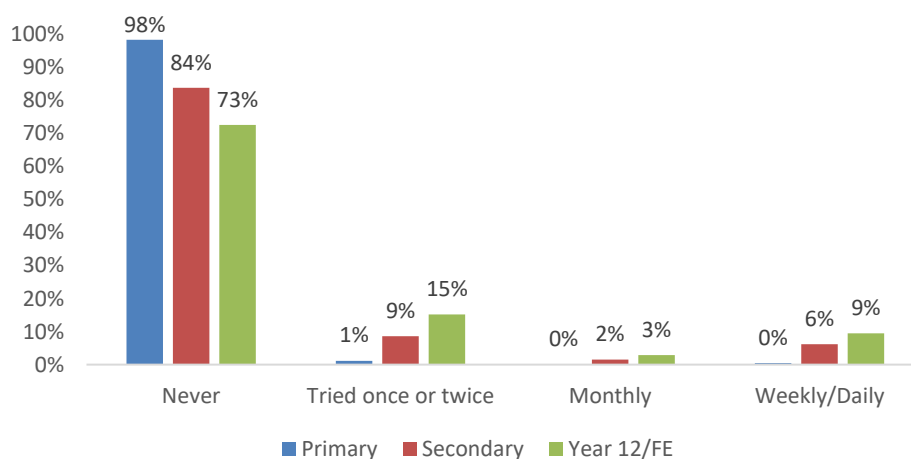
Figure 4: Question 3.14. How many cigarettes do you smoke a week?



As well as smoking cigarettes, pupils were also asked whether they use e-cigarettes (vaping). Almost all primary school pupils reported that they had not (98%). 6% of secondary and 9% of year 12/FE pupils reported that they use e-cigarettes weekly/daily (Figure 5). There were not any gender differences in any school phase. Those who smoke cigarettes frequently (weekly/daily) were more likely to report using e-cigarettes weekly/daily compared to the overall populations (72% secondary and 46% year 12/FE).

Previous years: Proportions of secondary and year 12/FE pupils reporting vaping weekly or daily have increased slightly over the years. Secondary (3% in 2017 and 2020 to 6% in 2021). Year 12/FE (5% in 2017, 6% in 2020 and 9% in 2021).

Figure 5. Question 3.45. Do you use e-cigarettes (vaping)?



Pupils were asked about their use of cigarettes and e-cigarettes. Figure 6 only includes those reported using them in at least one way. Most secondary pupils reported that they use e-cigarettes and have never smoked tobacco-based cigarettes (3% of the total sample). For year 12/FE pupils, the majority reported that they use e-cigarettes and smoke tobacco-based cigarettes (7% of the total sample).

Figure 6. Question 3.46. Please can you tell us what most describes your use of cigarettes and e-cigarettes?

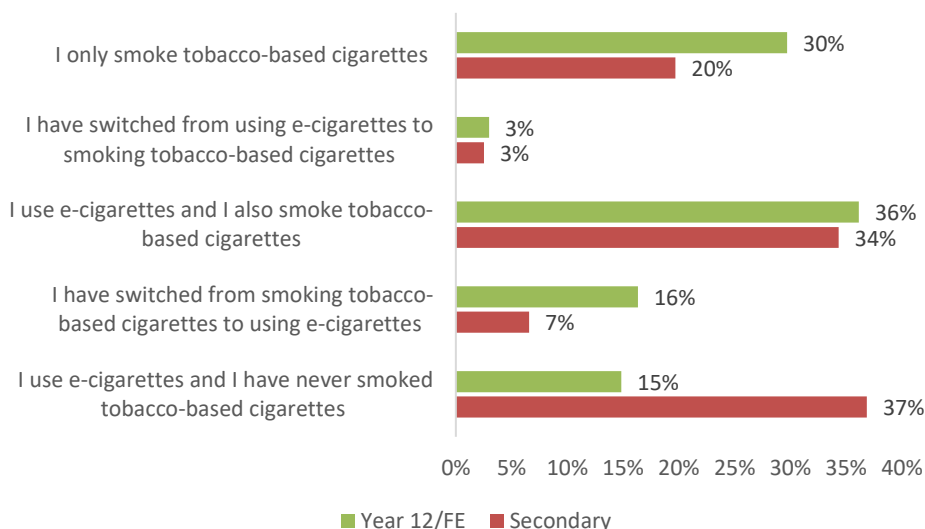


Figure 7 shows that 28% of the secondary school and 39% of the year 12/FE pupils who smoke monthly or more frequently want to stop smoking.

Previous years: There has been a decrease in pupils wanting to stop smoking over the past few years in both school phases: secondary (43% in 2017, 31% in 2020, 28% in 2021), year 12/FE (42% in 2017, 43% in 2020, 39% in 2021)

Figure 7: Question 3.16. Do you want to stop smoking? Response: Yes.

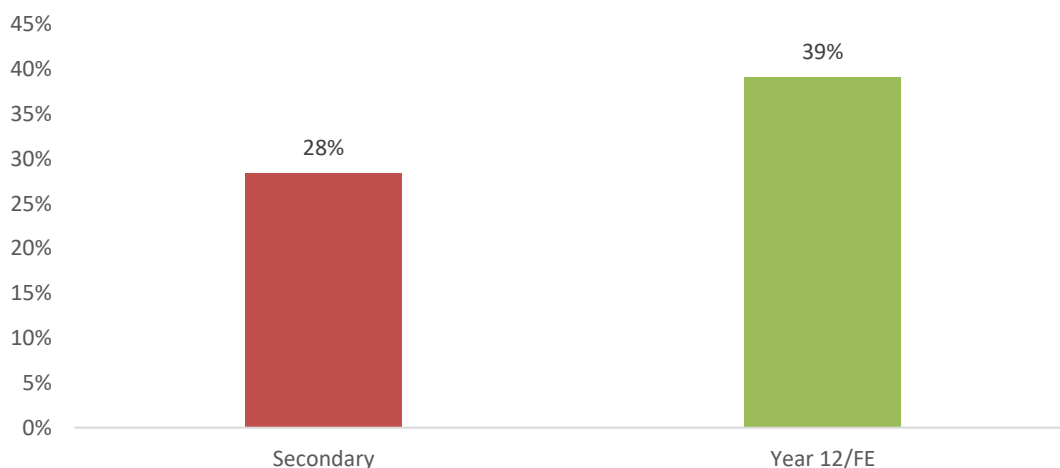
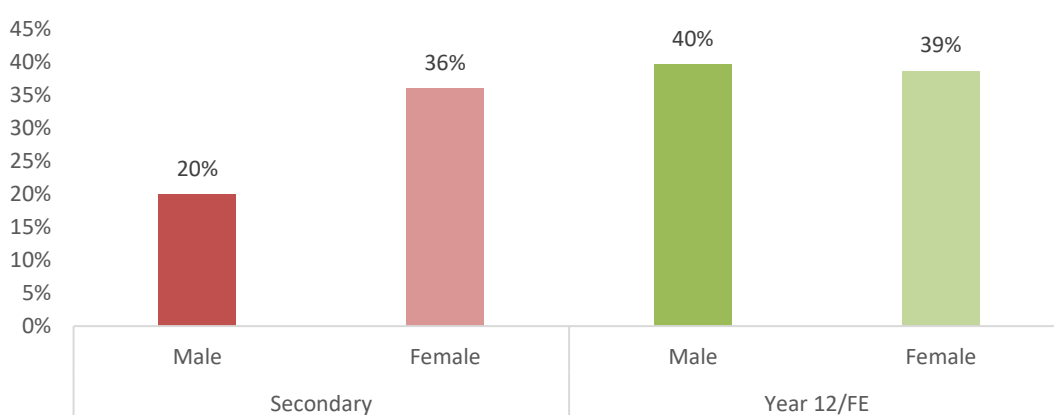


Figure 7a shows that, while a larger proportion of females than male smokers want to stop smoking in the secondary school phase, in year 12/FE phases, there was no difference between males and females.

Previous years: In the 2020 survey, a larger proportion of secondary males (34%) wanted to stop smoking compared to secondary females (28%). There were no gender differences in the year 12/FE school phases. In 2017, gender patterns were similar to 2021 for secondary school pupils as a higher proportion of females (47%) wanted to stop smoking compared to males (39%). For year 12/FE pupils, a higher proportion of males (50%) wanted to stop smoking compared to females (33%).

Figure 7a: Question 3.16. Do you want to stop smoking? Gender.

Response: Yes.

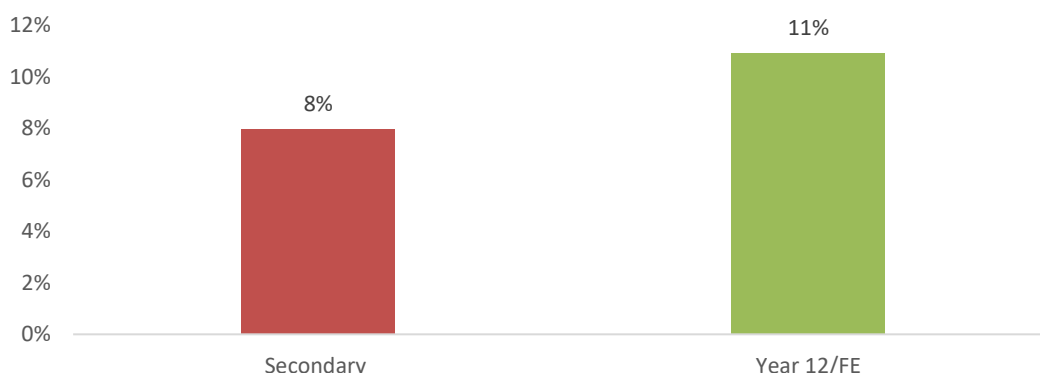


Of those who smoke **monthly** or more frequently, 8% of those in secondary school phases and 11% of those in the year 12/FE phase reported that they wanted help to stop smoking (Figure 8). A higher proportion of females wanted help to stop smoking than males in both school phases (secondary: 6% males vs 10% female, year 12/FE (10% male vs 14% female)).

Previous years: In 2020 survey 14% of both secondary and year 12/FE pupils responded they wanted help to stop smoking. Proportions were also slightly higher in 2017 (11% secondary, 13% year 12/FE).

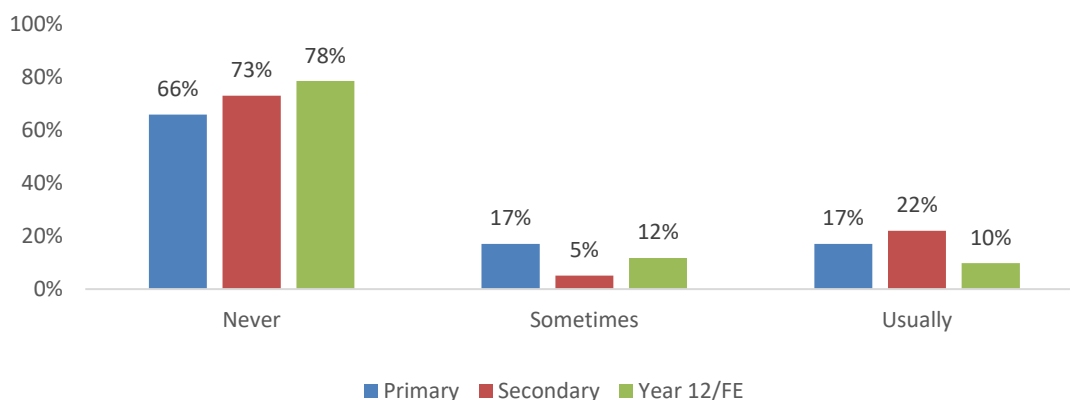
Figure 8: Question 3.03. Do you want help to stop smoking?

Response: Yes



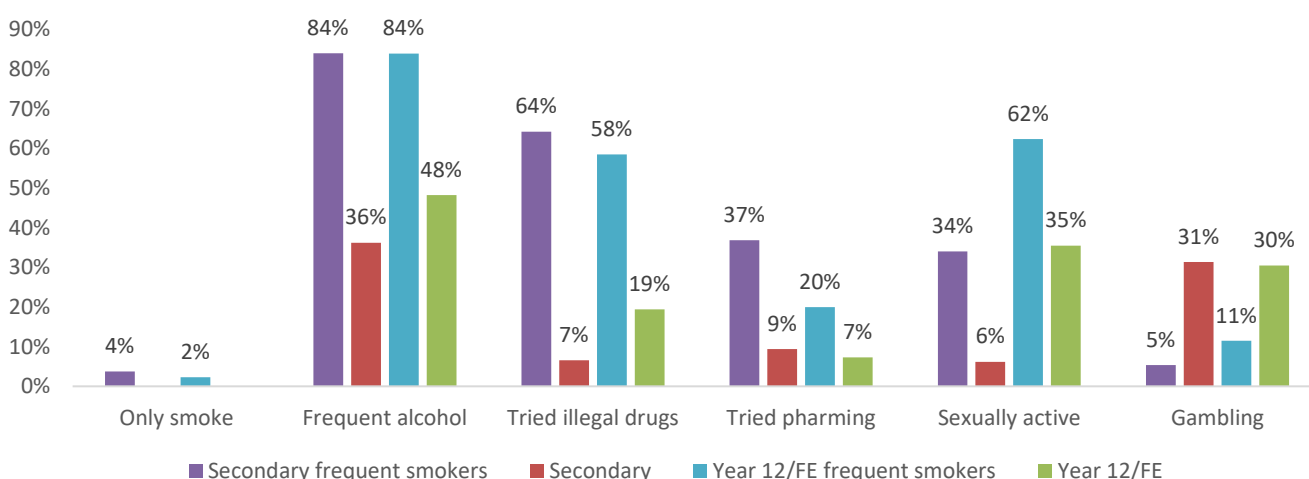
All respondents were asked how frequently they have been bullied in the last year. 15% primary, 11% secondary and 5% year 12/FE were bullied frequently. Figure 9 shows that these proportions are slightly higher for pupils who smoke frequently, particularly for secondary school pupils.

Figure 9: Question 3.14 and Question 6.07. Heavy smokers (15+ cigarettes per week), and how frequently they are being bullied.



Frequent smoking correlates extremely highly with other risky behaviours, the most common of which is alcohol drinking frequency (Figure 8). Only 6% of those who smoke weekly or more often, in the combined secondary and year 12/FE sample, *only* smoke. The chart below shows the secondary and year 12/FE samples and compares them with the overall proportions for these other risky behaviours. The most notable difference between the two was found among secondary pupils for the illegal drugs risky behaviour, where 64% of the frequent smokers had tried illegal drugs, compared to only 7% of the overall secondary school sample.

Figure 10: Question 3.01, Question 3.04, Question 3.09, Question 3.23, Question 11.07 and Question 3.56. Most frequent smokers (weekly or more often) and other risky behaviours.*



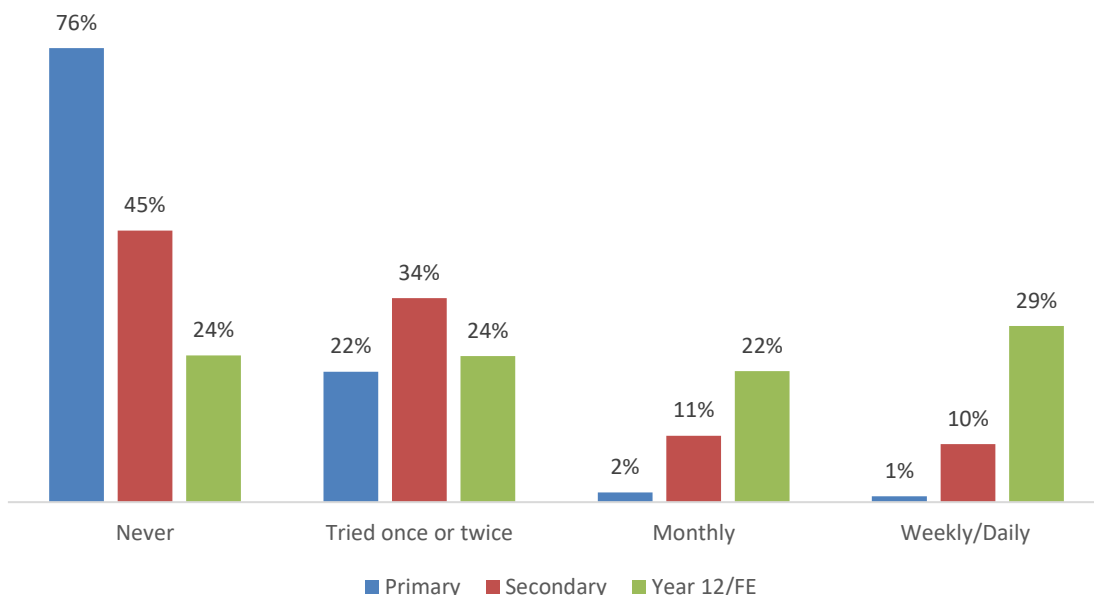
*Frequent alcohol = drinks alcohol monthly or more often. Pharming = the recreational use of prescription drugs. Sexually active = has had sex. Gambling = loot boxes, in-game currency, apps or websites and other.

Alcohol consumption

The proportion of respondents who drink alcohol (monthly, weekly or daily basis) increases with the school setting due to the increasing age of respondents (Figure 2). 79% of primary, 45% of secondary and 24% of year 12/FE pupils reported never drinking alcohol. 51% of the year 12/FE sample and 21% of the secondary sample reportedly drank alcohol monthly or more frequently. No meaningful differences in alcohol consumption were found between genders in all school phases, though primary and secondary females were slightly more likely to report never trying alcohol.

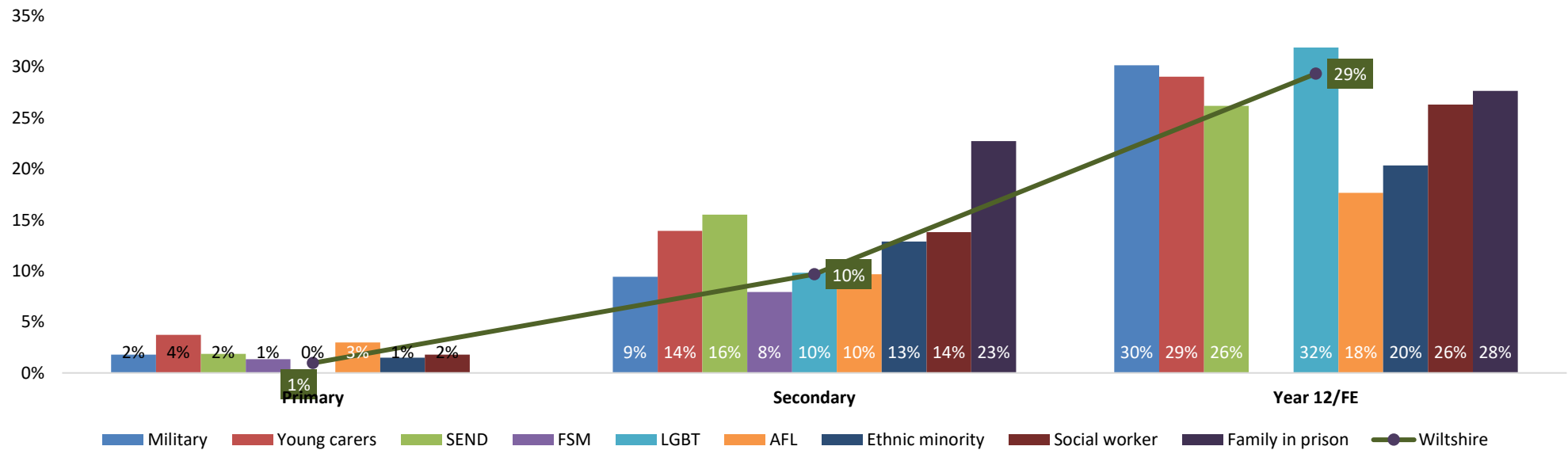
Previous years: Overall, these results do not differ substantially from the results in the 2020 and 2017 surveys. The proportion of year 12/FE children reporting drinking alcohol at least monthly has decreased since 2017 (64%) and 2020 (59%) to 51% in 2021, with more pupils reporting ‘never’ (17% in 2020 and 16% in 2017).

Figure 2: Question 3.04. Do you drink alcohol?



There was some variation in alcohol consumption among children identifying with the vulnerable groups across secondary and year 12/FE phases (Figure 11a). In secondary schools, children who have/had a family member in prison had the highest proportion of those reporting drinking alcohol weekly/daily. In year 12/FE phases, LGBT children were the only group to have a higher proportion of those reporting drinking alcohol weekly/daily than the overall Wiltshire sample, but the difference was small. In the secondary school phase, children with military parents/carers, FSM children, LGBT children and AFL children reported drinking alcohol to the same frequency or less than the overall Wiltshire sample.

Figure 11a: Question 3.04. Do you drink alcohol? Vulnerable groups. *
Response: Quite often / Most days



*Primary school children were not asked for their LGBT status and Year 12/FE students were not asked if they were in receipt of free school meals. The AFL group in both the secondary and Year 12/FE school phases represents a small sample size and caution should be used in interpreting its results.

Negligible numbers of primary school children reported ever having been drunk, and these responses are therefore not included in the following charts. 23% of year 12/FE children reported being drunk weekly/daily and 17% of secondary school children reported the same (Figure 12). Only small numbers of the overall samples answered this question (20% secondary and 54% year 12/FE). Other than a slightly lower proportion of females reporting never/once or twice being drunk monthly compared to males in the secondary school setting, there were no meaningful differences between the genders in either sample.

Previous years: The proportion of secondary school pupils reporting getting drunk weekly/daily has increased since 2017 (See Figure 12a: 13%) and 2020 (11%), but the proportion has also increased for those reporting never/once or twice. In contrast, the proportion of year 12/FE pupils getting drunk weekly/daily has decreased since 2017 (Figure 12a; 30%) and 2020 (25%).

Figure 12: Question 3.06. Have you ever been drunk? 2021.

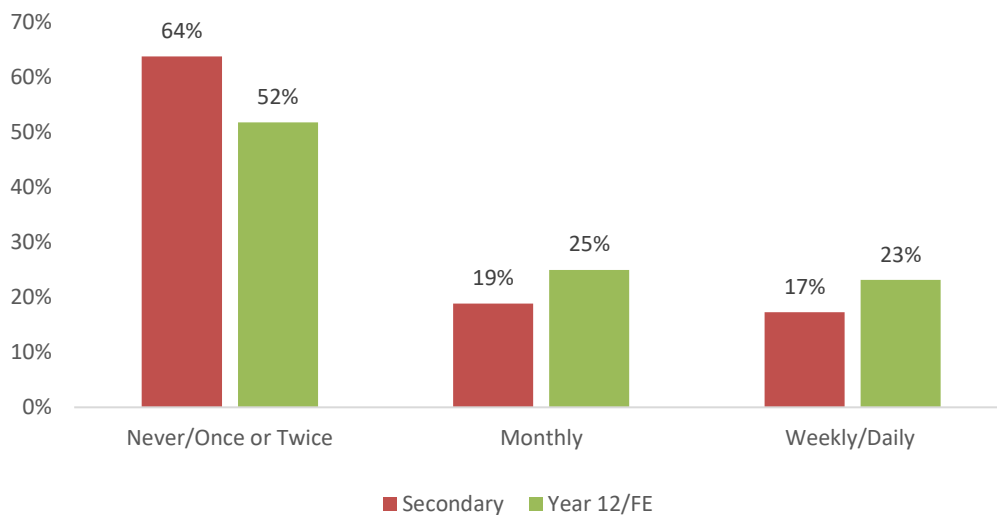
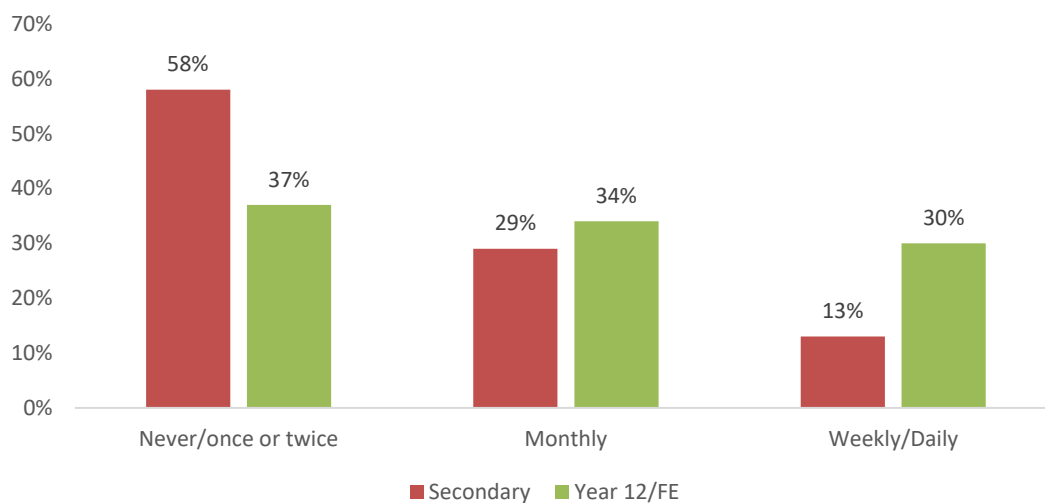


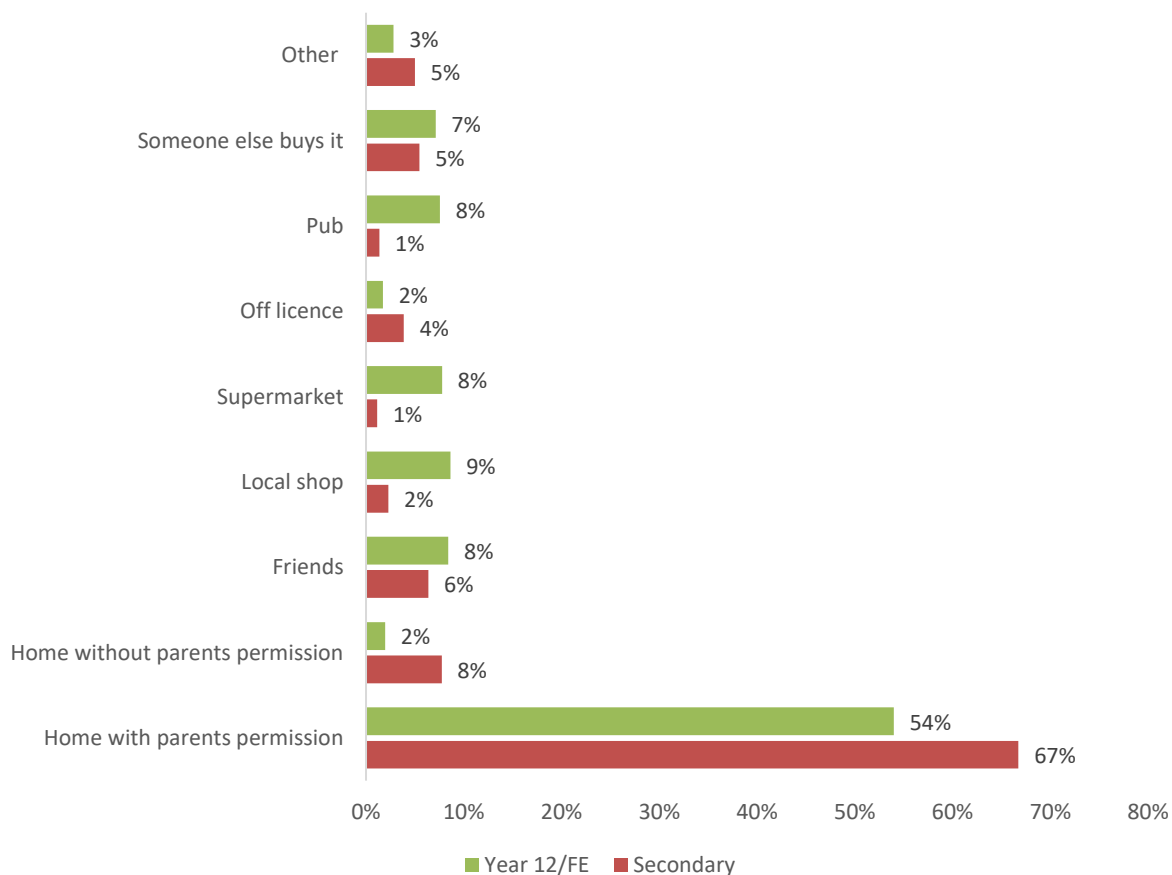
Figure 12a: Question 3.06. Have you ever been drunk? 2017.



Most respondents from both secondary and year 12/FE school phases usually get their alcohol from home with their parents' permission (Figure 13). According to a national survey in 2018, most pupils aged 11-15 obtain their alcohol from parents (71%).¹¹

Previous years: These patterns of acquiring alcohol have not changed since 2017, except for a reduction in year 12/FE pupils getting their alcohol from a pub or supermarket (15% and 12% respectively in 2017).

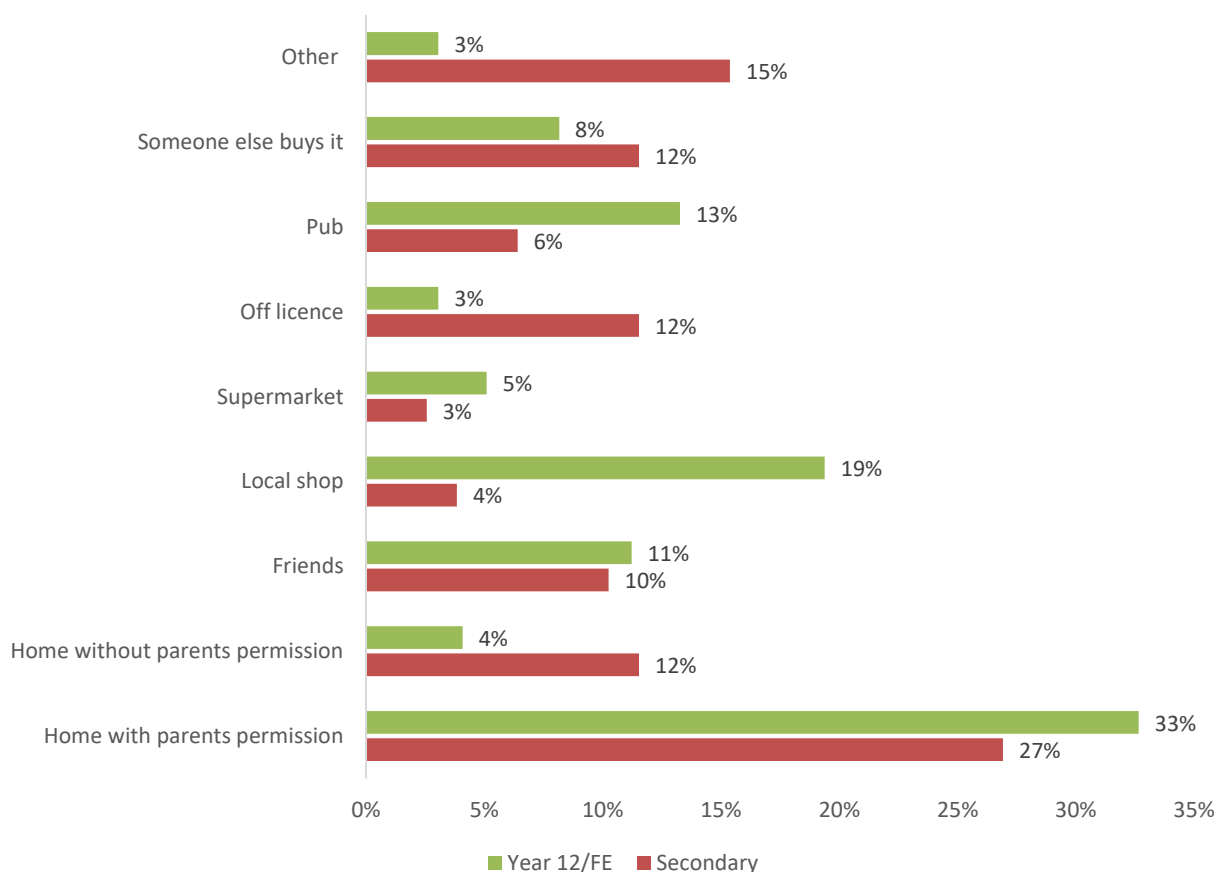
Figure 13: Question 3.15. Where do you normally get alcohol from?



¹¹ [Part 5: Drinking behaviours among children - NHS Digital](#)

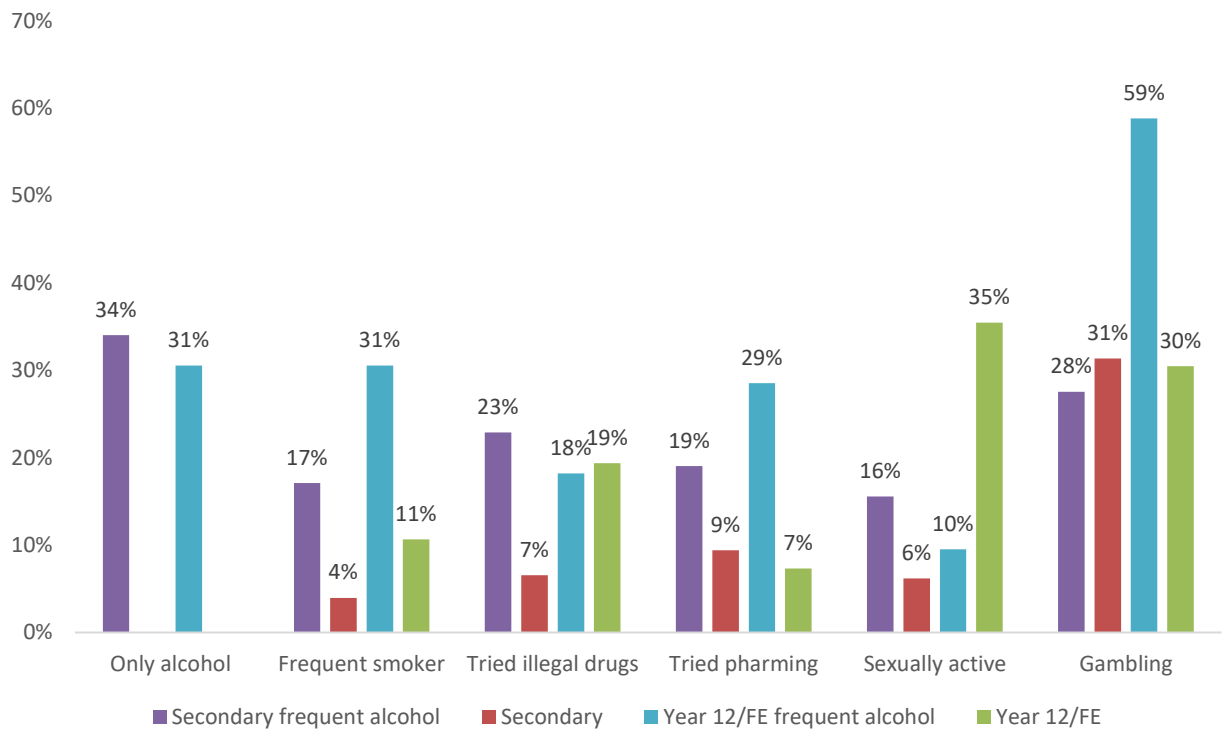
The pattern of acquiring alcohol changes slightly for children who get drunk frequently (e.g. weekly or daily - Figure 12), in both the secondary and year 12/FE sample (Figure 13a). While the majority still acquire their alcohol from home with permission, 19% of year 12/FE children get their alcohol from a local shop. 15% of secondary children get their alcohol from a local shop. 15% of secondary children get their alcohol from other means and a similar proportion get their alcohol from someone else, an off-licence, or from home without parents' permission.

Figure 13a: Question 3.06 and Question 3.15. Where do you normally get alcohol from? Frequently drunk.



66% of those who reported consuming alcohol frequently (monthly or more often) in the secondary sample, and 69% of those in the year 12/FE sample, also reported engaging in other risky behaviours. The chart below (Figure 14) shows the proportions of those who frequently consume alcohol who also engage in other risky behaviours, compared to the overall samples. The most noticeable difference between the two groups can be found in the year 12/FE phase for gambling behaviours, where frequent drinkers were more likely to have gambled than the overall sample (59% vs 30%).

Figure 14: Question 3.04, Question 3.01, Question 3.09, Question 3.23, Question 11.07 and Question 3.56. Frequent alcohol (monthly or more often) and other risky behaviours.*



*Frequent smoker = weekly or more often. Pharming = the recreational use of prescription drugs. Sexually active = has had sex. Gambling = loot boxes, in-game currency, apps or websites and other.

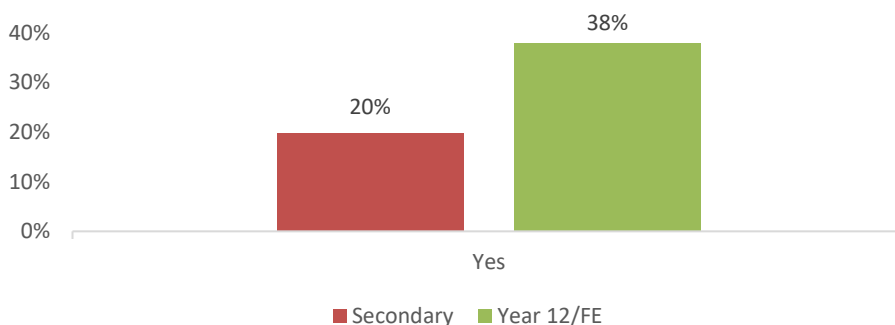
Illegal drugs

1 in 5 secondary school pupils and almost 2 in 5 year 12/FE pupils reported having been offered illegal drugs (Figure 15). In both school phases, a slightly higher percentage of males had been offered illegal drugs compared to females: secondary (males 21%, females 19%), year 12/FE (males 40%, females 36%).

Previous years: The same proportion of secondary school pupils reported being offered drugs in 2020 and 2017, however, proportions of year 12/FE students reporting having been offered illegal drugs has decreased since 2017 (45%) and 2020 (50%).

Figure 15: Question 3.08. Have you ever been offered illegal drugs?

Response: Yes.

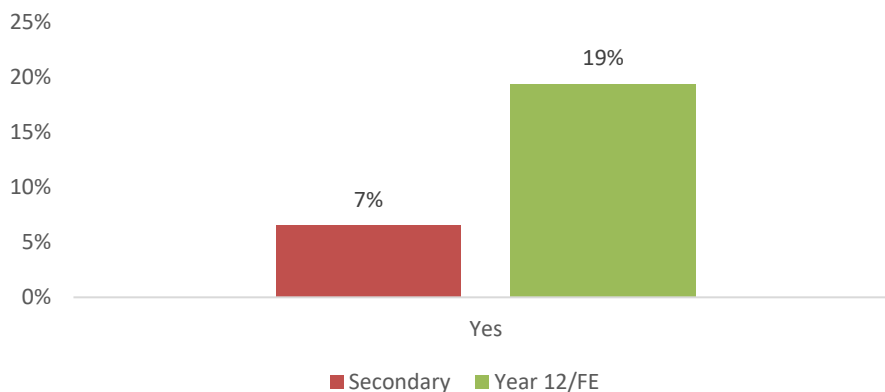


7% of secondary school respondents reported having tried illegal drugs (Figure 16), while, in the year 12/FE sample, 19% of respondents reported having tried illegal drugs. There were not any noticeable differences between genders in either school phase. Nationally, in 2018, 24% of 11 to 15-year-olds had taken illegal drugs.¹² This is much higher than the survey percentage.

Previous years: These figures are approximately the same for secondary school respondents in 2020 and 2017 but show a decrease in the year 12/FE school phase (28% in 2017 and 29% in 2020).

Figure 16: Question 3.09. Have you ever tried illegal drugs?

Response: Yes.

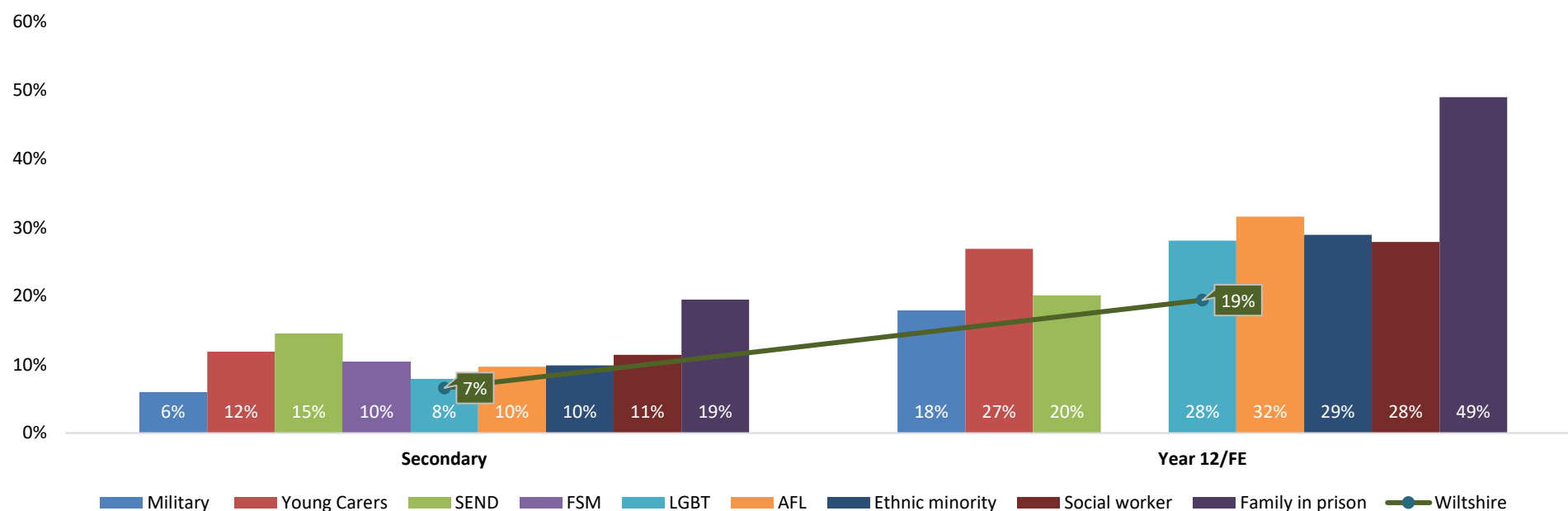


¹² [Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among Young People in England 2018 \[NS\] - NHS Digital](#)

In the secondary school sample, all vulnerable groups apart from children of military parents/carers and LGBT children were more likely to have tried illegal drugs than the overall Wiltshire sample (Figure 16a). In the year 12/FE sample, children of military parents/carers and SEND children were the only vulnerable groups with proportions near or below the Wiltshire proportion. Almost half of year 12/FE children who have/had a family member in prison reported having tried illegal drugs, which is more than any other vulnerable group.

Figure 16a: Question 3.09. Have you ever tried illegal drugs? Vulnerable groups. *

Response: Yes.

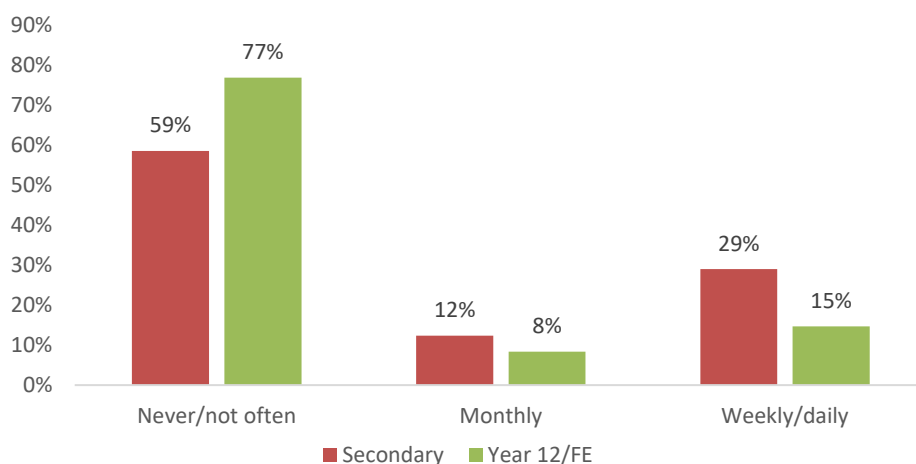


* Year 12/FE students were not asked if they were in receipt of free school meals. The AFL group in all school phases represents a small sample size and caution should be used in interpreting its results.

Of those who answered yes to question 3.09 (have you ever tried illegal drugs?), 29% of secondary school children and 15% of year 12/FE children reported taking illegal drugs frequently, either quite often (e.g., weekly) or on most days (Figure 17). This represents 2% of the overall secondary school sample, and less than 3% of the overall year 12/FE sample.

Previous years: The proportion of year 12/FE pupils taking illegal drugs frequently has decreased since 2017 (22%) and 2020 (19%) to 15% in 2021. On the other hand, frequent drug use has increased among secondary pupils (23% in 2017 and 22% in 2020) to 29% in 2021.

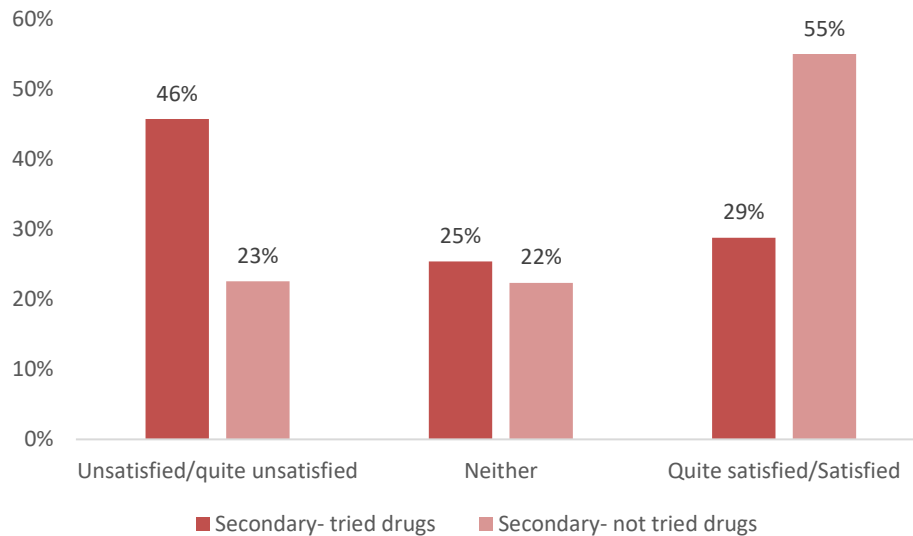
Figure 17: Question 3.12. How often do you take illegal drugs? Those who have tried them.



Most reported illegal drug use was of cannabis, but 22% of secondary school children who had tried illegal drugs reported taking other illegal drugs frequently. This represents less than 2% of the overall secondary school sample.

Respondents' overall satisfaction with their lives was lower among those who reported having taken illegal drugs. As Figure 18 shows, 55% of secondary school students who had not tried illegal drugs reported being quite satisfied or satisfied with their life, compared with only 29% of those who had tried illegal drugs. The difference between the groups has increased compared to 2017. A national survey in 2018, observed similar patterns, finding that those who had taken drugs in the last month had reported lower life satisfaction.¹³ The life satisfaction question was only asked to secondary school pupils.

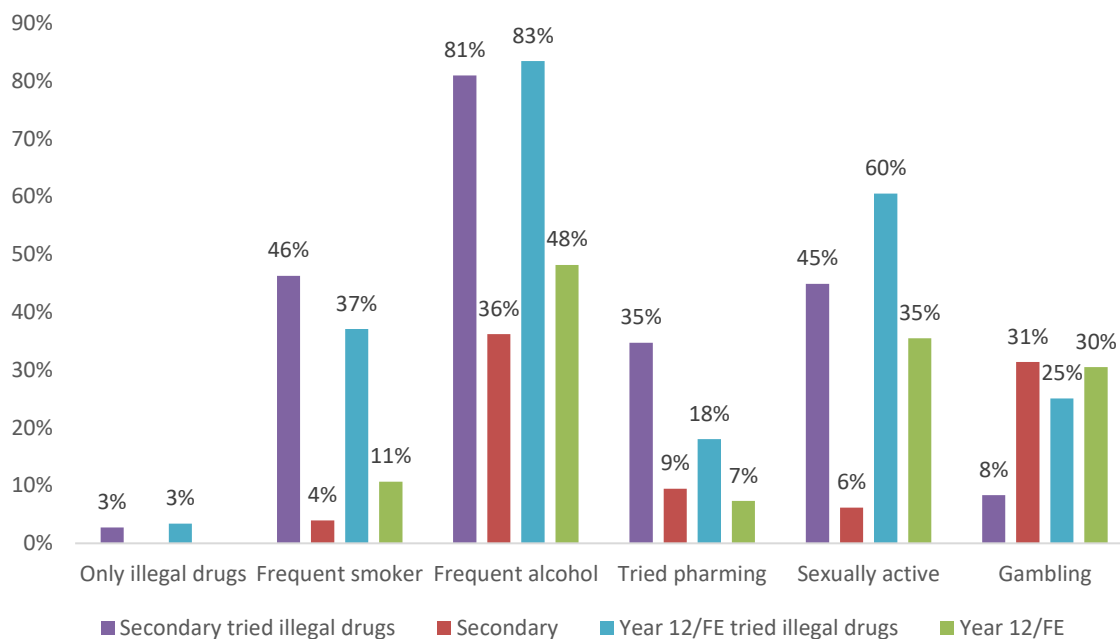
Figure 18: Question 6.13. Overall, are you basically satisfied with your life? Illegal drug use.



¹³ [Part 13: Wellbeing of young people - NHS Digital](#)

97% of those in the secondary school sample who have tried illegal drugs, and 97% of those in the year 12/FE sample, also reported engaging in other risky behaviours. The chart below (Figure 19) shows the proportions of those who have tried illegal drugs who also engage in other risky behaviours, compared to the overall sample. The most noticeable difference between the two groups can be found among secondary pupils for frequent alcohol drinking, where those who had tried illegal drugs were more likely to frequently drink than the overall sample (81% vs 36%).

Figure 19: Question 3.09, Question 3.01, Question 3.04, Question 3.23, Question 11.07 and Question 3.56– Tried illegal drugs and other risky behaviours.*



*Frequent smoker = weekly or more often. Frequent alcohol = monthly or more often. Pharming = the recreational use of prescription drugs. Sexually active = has had sex. Gambling = loot boxes, in-game currency, apps or websites and other.

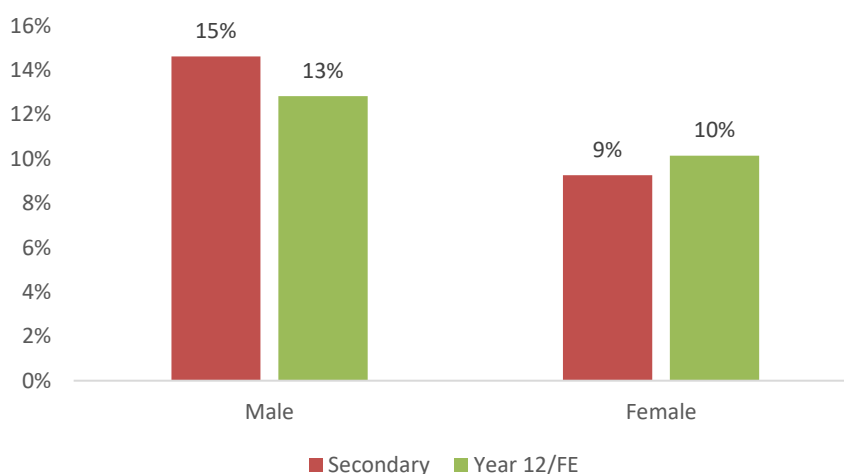
Prescription drug misuse

Primary school pupils were not asked questions about prescription drug use. 12% of respondents from secondary school and 12% of respondents from year 12/FE phases reported that they had been offered prescription drugs for recreational use (pharming), the remainder had not. 'Pharming' is a slang term used to refer to the unauthorised ingestion of prescription drugs to become intoxicated. In both school phases, the proportion of males that have been offered prescription drugs is slightly higher than the proportion of females (Figure 20). This was particularly true for the secondary school respondents, where 1 in 7 males reported having been offered prescription drugs.

Previous years: The proportion of children reporting being offered prescription drugs for recreational use has decreased slightly since 2017 (16% secondary and 16% year 12/FE) and 2020 (14% secondary, 15% year 12/FE) to 12% in 2021 for both groups. In previous years, males were also more likely to have been offered prescription drugs than females.

Figure 20: Question 3.22. Have you ever been offered prescription drugs (medicine you can only get from a doctor) that are NOT your own, for fun or to feel good? This is sometimes called Pharming. Gender.

Response: Yes.



Less than 1 in 10 of both the secondary school and year 12/FE respondents had tried recreational prescription drugs (Figure 21). Males were slightly more likely than females, in both school phases, to have tried prescription drugs for recreational use.

Previous years: There has been a small decrease in the proportion of pupils who have tried prescription drugs in year 12/FE school phases since 2017 and 2020 (11% in both years).

Figure 21: Question 3.23. Have you ever tried prescription drugs (medicine you can only get from your doctor) that are NOT your own, for fun or to feel good? This is sometimes called Pharming.

Response: Yes.

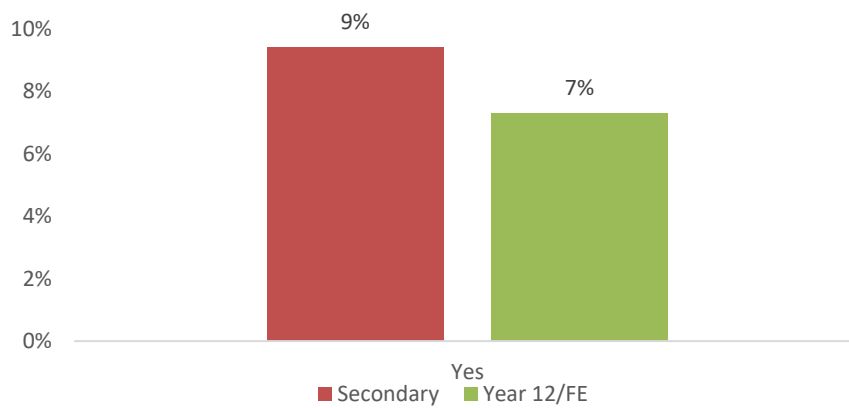
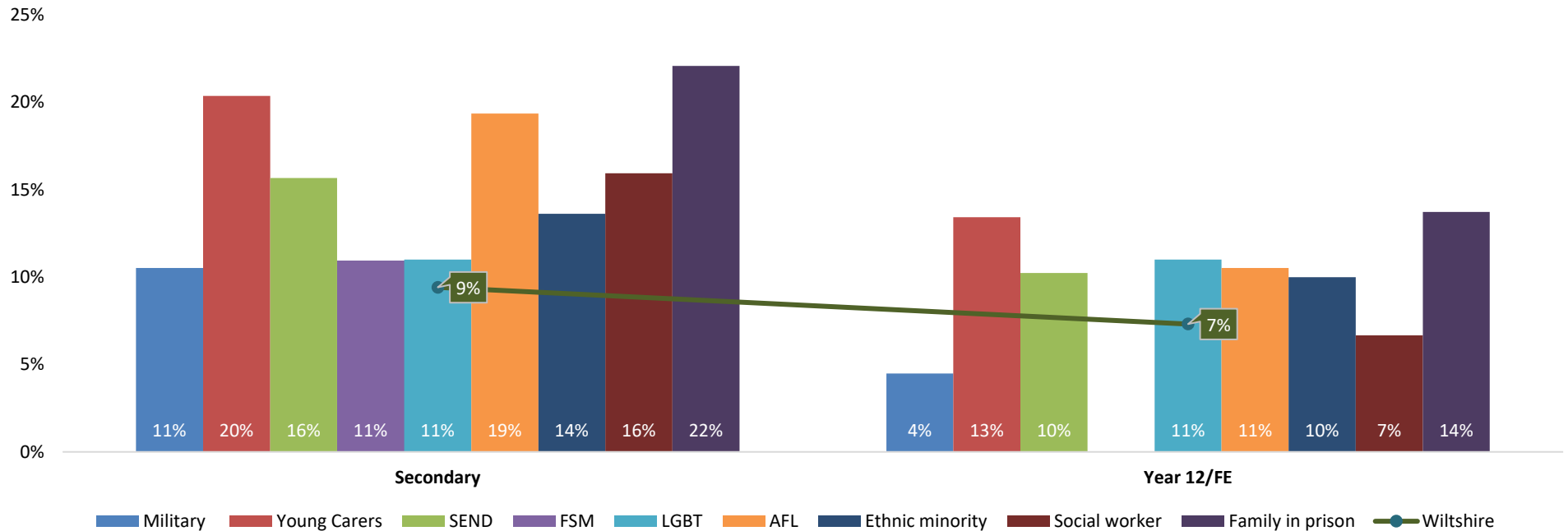


Figure 21a shows that secondary school students, in almost all groups of vulnerable children, were more likely to have tried prescription drugs for recreational use than year 12/FE students. All vulnerable groups in secondary phases were just as likely or more likely to have tried prescription drugs compared to the overall Wiltshire sample. The same was true in year 12/FE phases, apart from children of military parents/carers who were less likely to have tried prescription drugs than the overall Wiltshire sample. Children who have/had a family member in prison in both school phases reported significantly higher proportions than the Wiltshire proportions (22% vs 9% secondary and 14% vs 7% year 12/FE).

Figure 21a: Question 3.23. Have you ever tried prescription drugs (medicine you can only get from your doctor) that are NOT your own, for fun or to feel good? This is sometimes called Pharming. Vulnerable groups. *

Response: Yes.

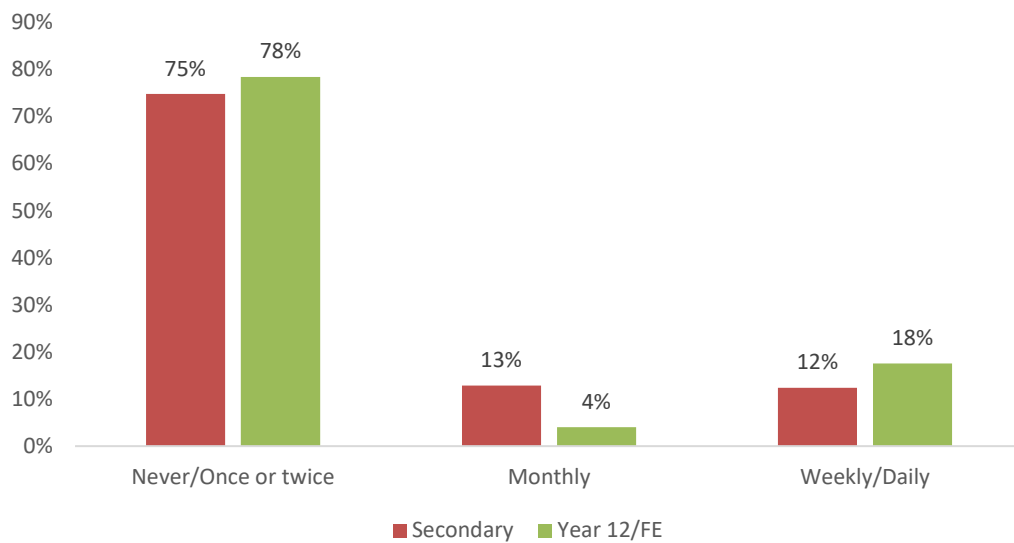


* Year 12/FE students were not asked if they were in receipt of free school meals. The AFL group in all school phases represents a small sample size and caution should be used in interpreting its results.

Of those who answered yes to question 3.23 (have you ever tried prescription drugs that are not your own for fun or to feel good?), 12% of secondary school children and 18% of year 12/FE children reported using prescription drugs for recreational purposes frequently, either quite often (e.g. weekly) or on most days (Figure 22). This represents 1% of the overall secondary school and year 12/FE samples.

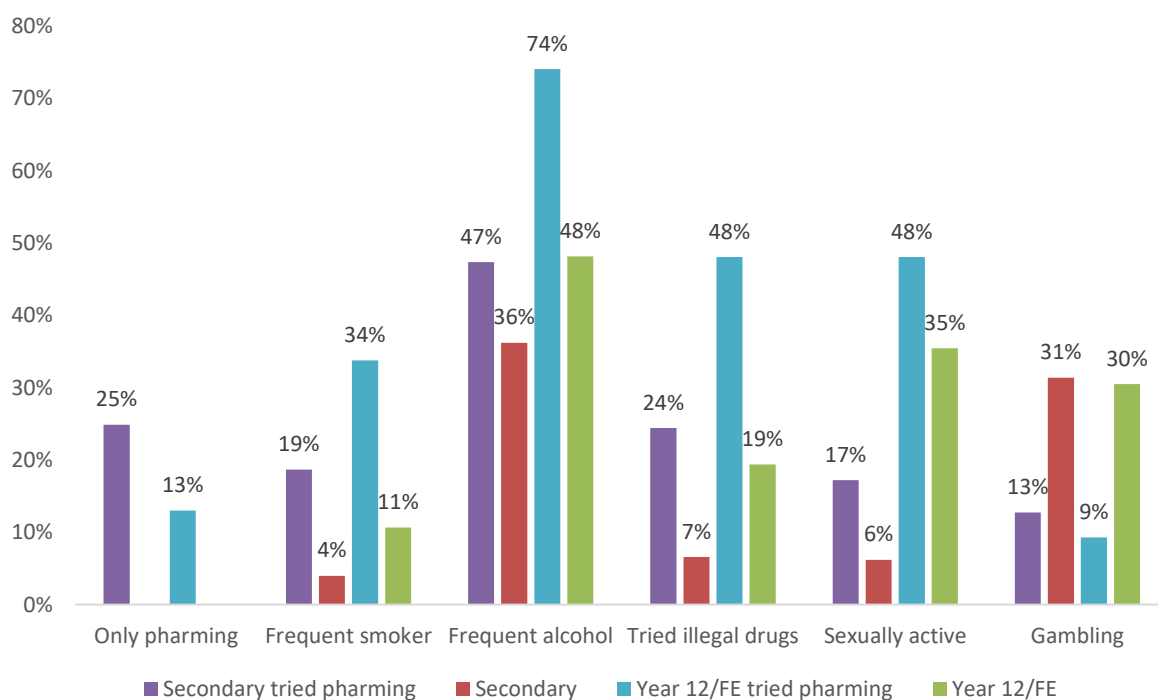
Previous years: These results represent an increase from previous years in the number of year 12/FE students reporting taking prescription drugs frequently (8% in 2017 and 7% in 2020). Proportions were similar for secondary students in previous years.

Figure 22: Question 3.27. How often do you take prescription drugs that are not your own, for fun or to feel good? Those who have tried them.



75% of those in the secondary school sample who have tried the recreational use of prescription drugs, and 87% of those in the year 12/FE sample, also reported engaging in other risky behaviours. The chart below (Figure 23) shows the proportions of those who have tried pharming who also engage in other risky behaviours, compared to the overall sample. The difference between groups was most apparent between year 12/FE respondents who had tried pharming and tried illegal drugs compared to the overall year 12/FE sample who had just tried illegal drugs (48% vs 19%).

Figure 23: Question 3.23, Question 3.01, Question 3.04, Question 3.09, Question 11.07 and Question 3.56. Tried pharming (recreational use of prescription drugs) and other risky behaviours.



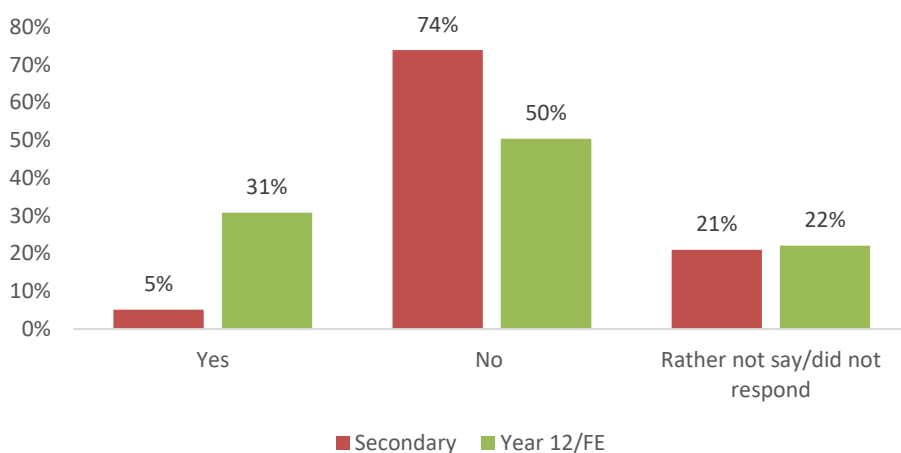
*Frequent smoker = weekly or more often. Frequent alcohol = monthly or more often. Sexually active = has had sex. Gambling = loot boxes, in-game currency, apps or websites and other

Sexual behaviour

5% of secondary school respondents and 31% of Year 12/FE respondents reported having had sexual intercourse (Figure 24).

Previous years: Proportions were the same for secondary respondents in 2017 and 2020, but for year 12/FE respondents, the proportion who reported having had sexual intercourse has decreased since 2017 (46%) and 2020 (43%). Proportions who said no were slightly different: secondary (78% in 2020, 72% in 2017), year 12/FE (47% in 2020 and 37% in 2017).

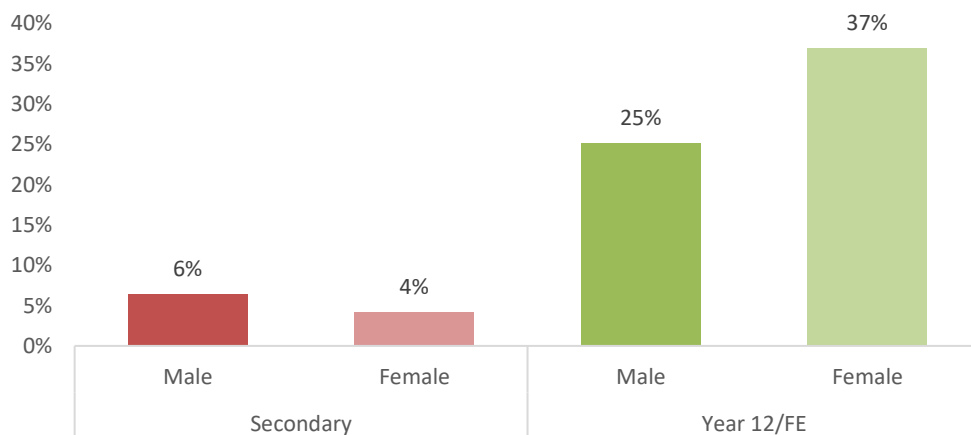
Figure 24: Question 11.07. Have you ever had sex (sexual intercourse)?



The differences between females and males were minimal in secondary school phases (Figure 24a). In year 12/FE phases, a higher proportion of females reported having had sexual intercourse compared to males.

Previous years: In 2020, this was also the case but the difference between the groups was significantly less (40% males and 45% females). Patterns and proportions in 2017 were similar to 2020. The proportion of male year 12/FE respondents reporting having had sexual intercourse has decreased over the years (45% in 2017, 40% in 2020 and 25% in 2021).

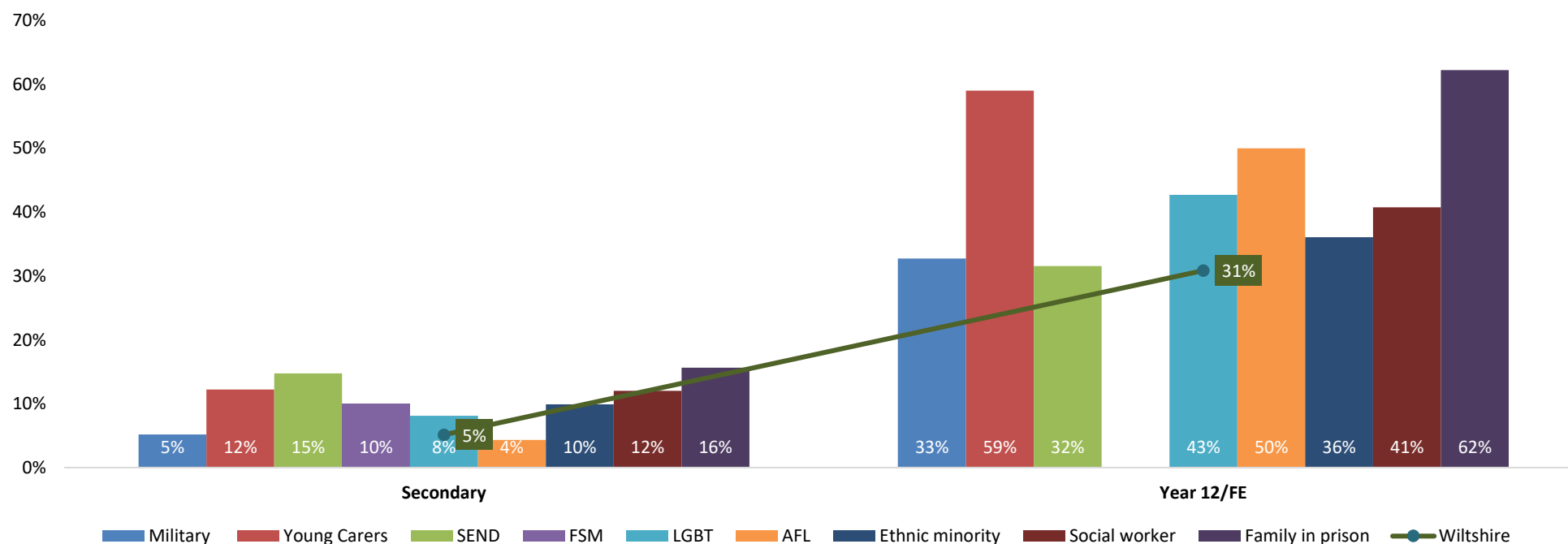
Figure 24a: Question 11.07. Have you ever had sex (sexual intercourse)? Gender. Response: Yes.



In secondary school phases, almost all vulnerable groups were more likely to report having had sexual intercourse than the overall Wiltshire sample, apart from AFL children and children of military carers (Figure 24b). The highest proportions can be seen in children who have/had a family member in prison (16%). In year 12/FE phases, all vulnerable groups bar SEND children and children of military carers had higher proportions than the Wiltshire proportion. This was particularly true in the young carers group (59%) and the children who have/had a parent in prison group (62%).

Figure 24b: Question 11.07. Have you ever had sex (sexual intercourse)? Vulnerable groups. *

Response: Yes.

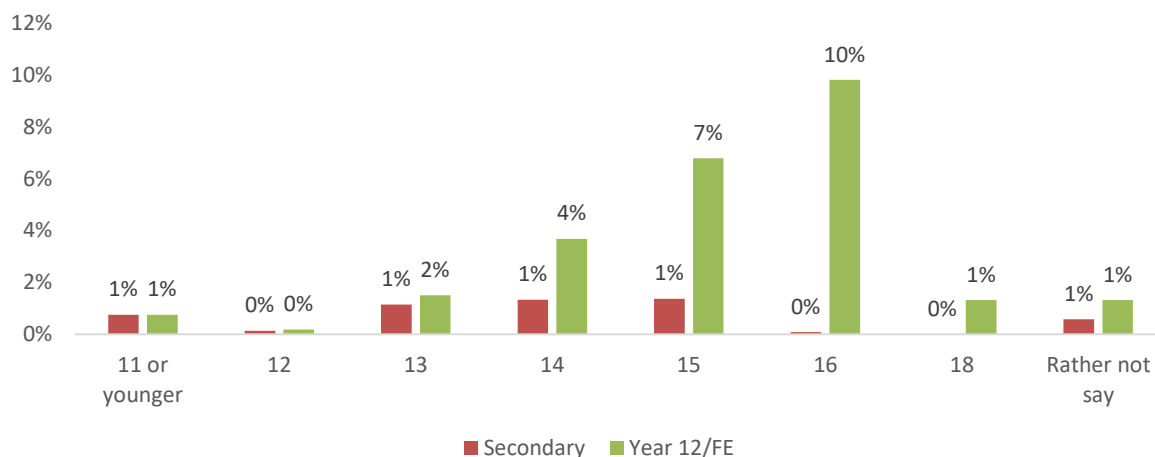


* Year 12/FE students were not asked if they were in receipt of free school meals. The AFL group in all school phases represents a small sample size and caution should be used in interpreting its results.

Out of the total populations, 14% of year 12/FE students and 4% of secondary students reported first having sexual intercourse while under the age of legal consent (Figure 25). There were minimal gender differences in both school phases regarding having sexual intercourse under the legal age of consent.

Previous years: There have been no changes in the secondary school phases since 2017 and 2020. There has been a slight decrease for year 12/FE pupils since 2020 and 2017 (19%).

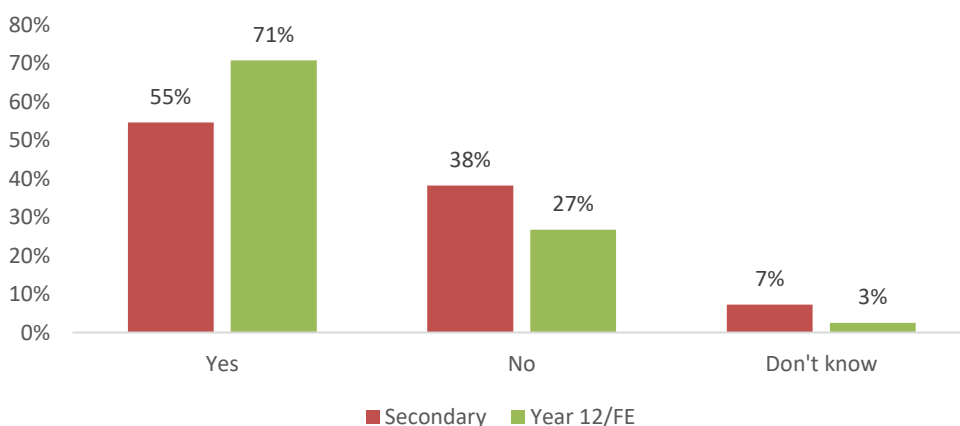
Figure 25: Question 11.08. How old were you when you had sexual intercourse for the first time?



71% of the year 12/FE respondents who have had sex, and 55% of the secondary school respondents who have had sex, reported that they used contraception or took precautions the last time that they had sex (Figure 26). 38% of the secondary school group and 27% of the year 12/FE group reported that they had not.

Previous years: In 2020 and 2017, proportions were very similar, though there has been an increase in the proportion of secondary children reporting not using any form of contraception (30% in 2017 and 33% in 2020) to 38% in 2021.

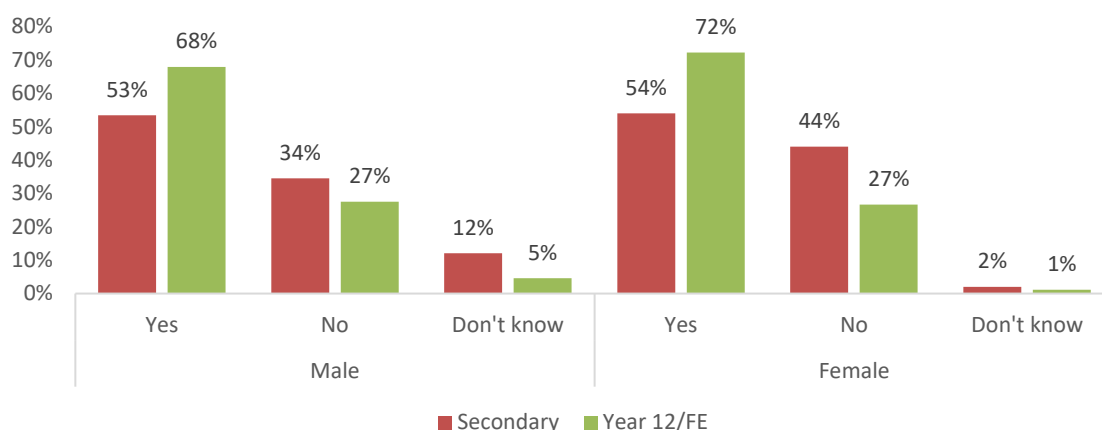
Figure 26: Question 11.14. The last time you had sexual intercourse did you or your partner use any form of contraception or take any precautions? Sexually active respondents.



In both the secondary and year 12/FE phases, a higher proportion of females than males reported that they or their partner used contraception or precautions last time they had sex, though the differences were small (Figure 26a).

Previous years: The same gender patterns were observed in 2020 and 2017. There has been a decrease in secondary males reporting that they or their partner used contraception over the years (58% in 2017, 63% in 2020 and 53% in 2021).

Figure 26a: Question 11.14. The last time you had sexual intercourse did you or your partner use any form of contraception or take any precautions? Sexually active respondents. Gender.

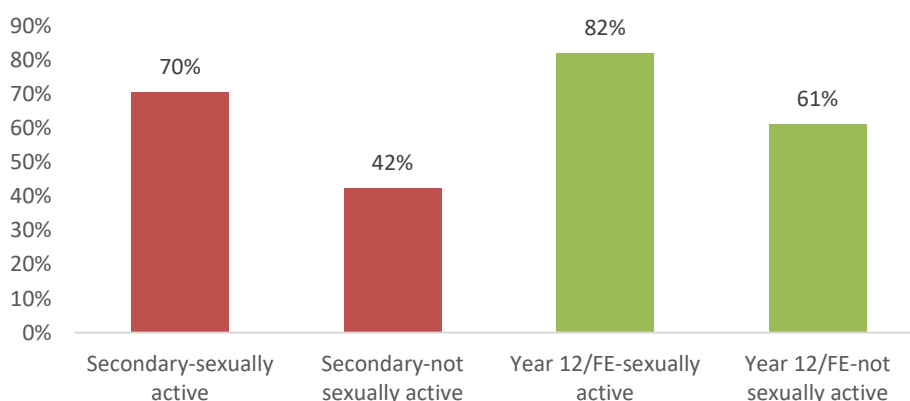


Pupils in both school phases who have already had sex were much more likely than those who have not to know how and where to access contraception and sexual health advice and services (Figure 27).

Previous years: This pattern was also true in 2017 and 2020. There has been a decrease in knowledge amongst non-sexually active pupils, regarding where to access contraception and sexual health advice over the years.

Figure 27: Question 11.03. Do you know how and where to access contraception and sexual health advice and services?

Response: Yes.

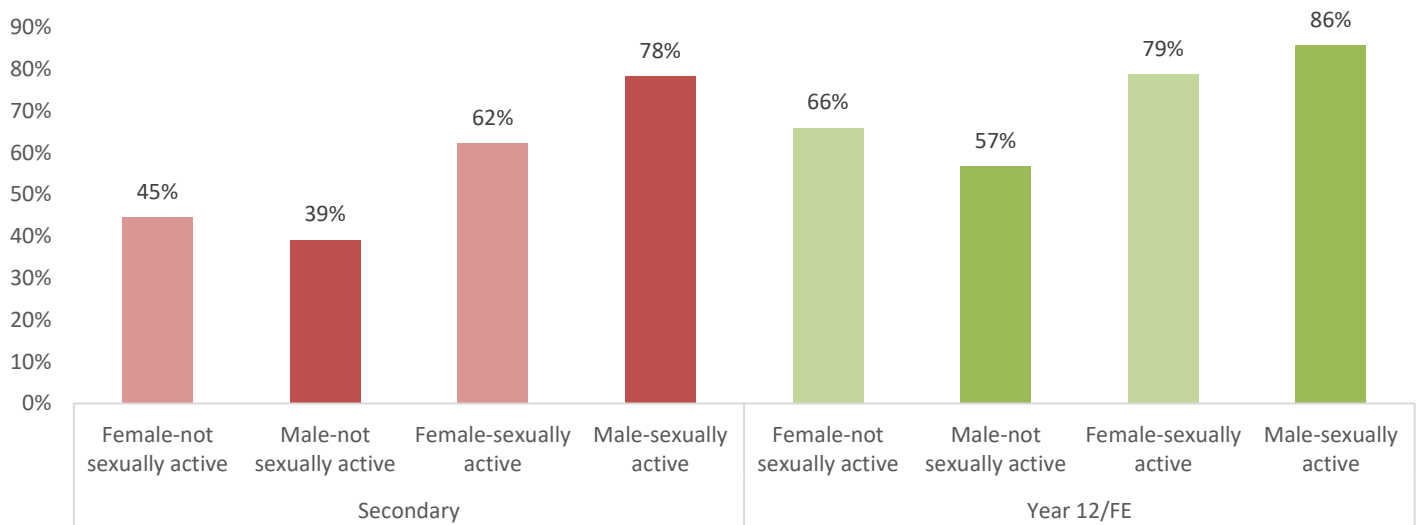


In both school phases, sexually active males were more likely to know how and where to access contraception and sexual health services than their female counterparts (Figure 27a). The opposite was true for non-sexually active respondents.

Previous years: In 2017 and 2020 patterns were slightly different. Higher proportions of females who were sexually active reported knowing where to access sexual health advice compared to males in both school phases.

Figure 27a: Question 11.03. Do you know how and where to access contraception and sexual health advice and services? Gender.

Response: Yes.

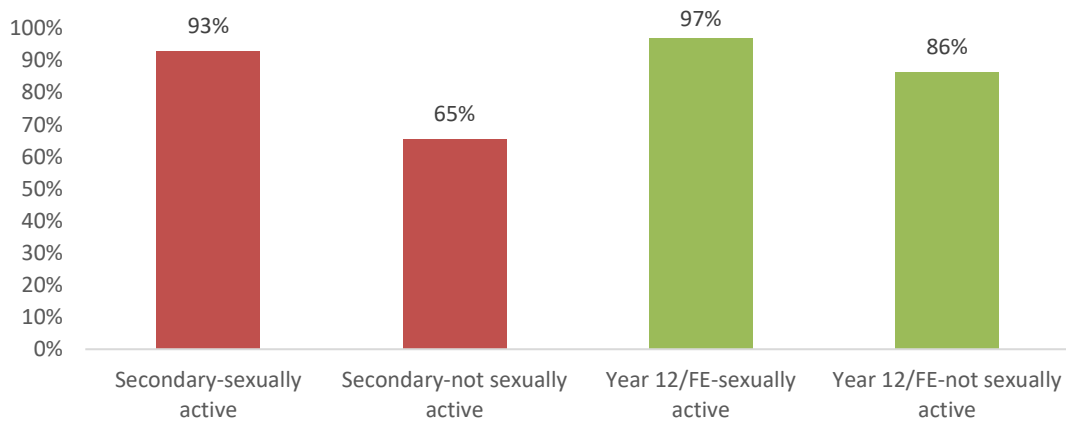


Pupils who have already had sex were also more likely than those who have not to know where to get hold of a condom, with over 90% of those who have had sex knowing this in both school phases. This reduced to 65% of secondary school pupils and 86% of year 12/FE respondents who have not had sex (Figure 28). The only gender difference observed was between secondary sexually active males (90%) and females (96%) in knowing where to get hold of a condom.

Previous years: Similar patterns were observed in 2020, though higher proportions of pupils who had not had sexual intercourse knew where to get hold of a condom (72% secondary and 92% year 12/FE). The same patterns were observed in 2017, but lower proportions of pupils who had not had sexual intercourse knew where to get hold of a condom (53% secondary, 69% year 12/FE).

Figure 28: Question 11.12. Do you know where to get hold of a condom?

Response: Yes.



When asked about their levels of confidence in using a condom, 82% of year 12/FE pupils who have had sex and 73% of secondary school pupils who have had sex reported that they felt confident or extremely confident. These proportions were much lower for pupils who were not sexually active: 35% of year 12/FE pupils and 24% of secondary school pupils (Figure 29). In both school phases, for both sexually active and non- sexually active pupils, males were more likely to feel confident about using a condom than females.

Previous years: Patterns were the same in previous years. There has been a gradual increase in confidence in using a condom for year 12/FE sexually active pupils since 2017 (77% in 2017, 81% in 2020 and 82% in 2021). The proportion for secondary sexually active pupils has fluctuated over the years (75% in 2017, 56% in 2020 and 73% in 2021).

Figure 29: Question 11.01. How confident are you about using a condom?

Responses: Confident/Extremely confident.

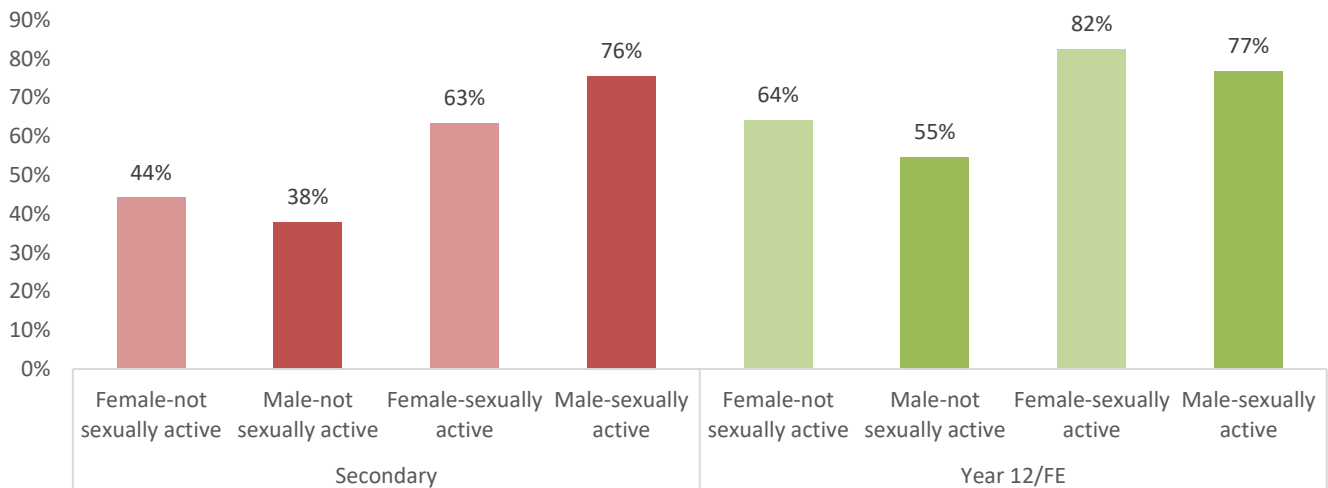


While year 12/FE males were generally more confident than females about using a condom, females in this school phase were more likely than their male counterparts to know how to get hold of emergency contraception (Figure 30). This was also the case for non-sexually active secondary school respondents. For sexually active secondary respondents, males were more likely to know how to get hold of emergency contraception.

Previous years: In previous years, higher proportions of females knew how to get hold of emergency contraception compared to their males' counterparts. The proportion of secondary females knowing how to get hold of emergency contraception has fluctuated over the years (65% in 2017, 84% in 2020 and 63% in 2021), while for males, the proportion has increased (62% in 2017, 71% in 2020 and 76% in 2021).

Figure 30: Question 11.02. Do you know how to get hold of emergency contraception (e.g. the morning after pill) for yourself or for a friend or girlfriend? Gender.

Response: Yes.

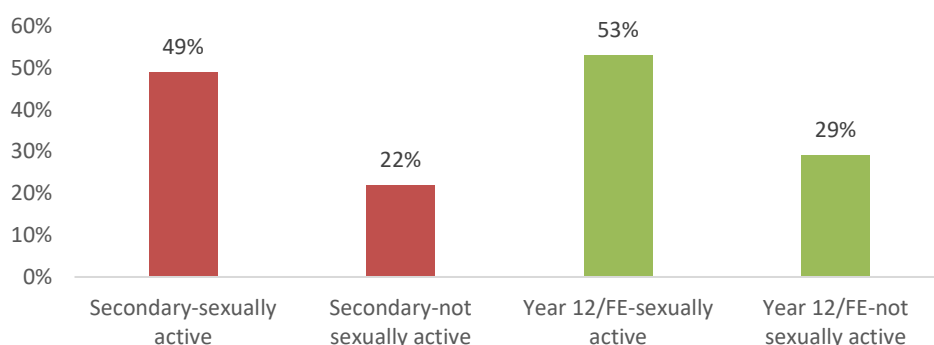


Around half of the year 12/FE and secondary respondents who have had sex reported that they would be comfortable using sexual health and contraceptive services (Figure 31). These proportions are much lower for respondents who are not sexually active.

Previous years: Patterns were the same in 2020 and 2017. The proportion of secondary sexually active respondents reporting feeling comfortable/extremely comfortable using sexual health services has fluctuated over the years (44% in 2017, 31% in 2020, 49% in 2021).

Figure 31: Question 11.13. How comfortable would you be using sexual health and contraceptive services?

Responses: Comfortable/Extremely comfortable.

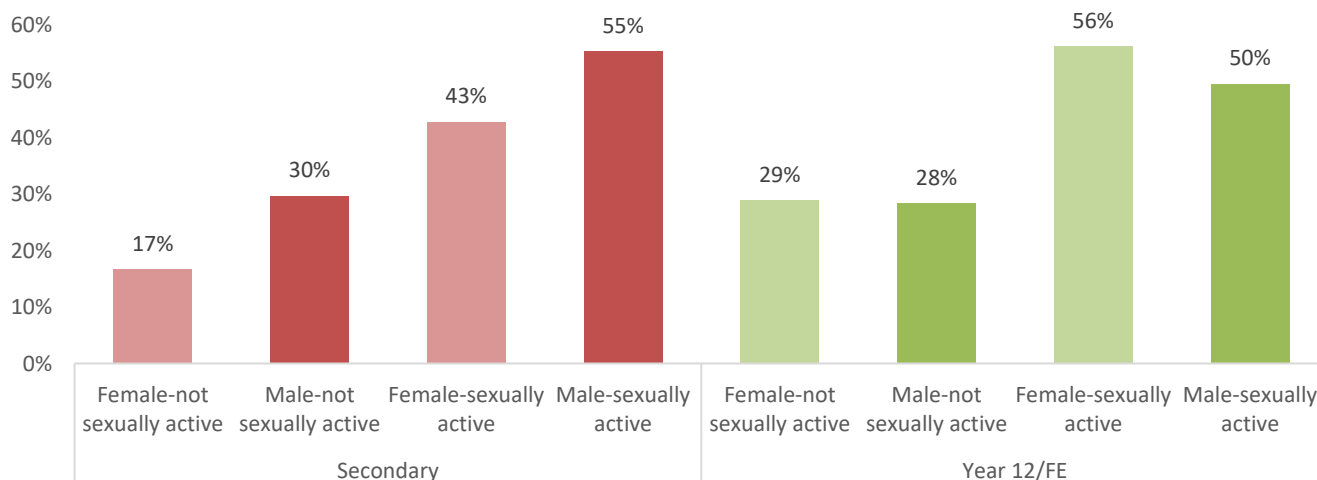


In secondary school phases, males were more likely to feel comfortable using sexual health and contraceptive services (Figure 31a). The opposite was true in year 12/FE phases though the gender differences between non-sexually active respondents was minor.

Previous years: Gender patterns were the same in 2017. In 2020, patterns were slightly different as there were no gender differences between non-sexually active secondary pupils and year 12/FE non-sexually active males were more likely than their female counterparts to be comfortable using sexual health services.

Figure 31a: Question 11.13. How comfortable would you be using sexual health and contraceptive services? Gender.

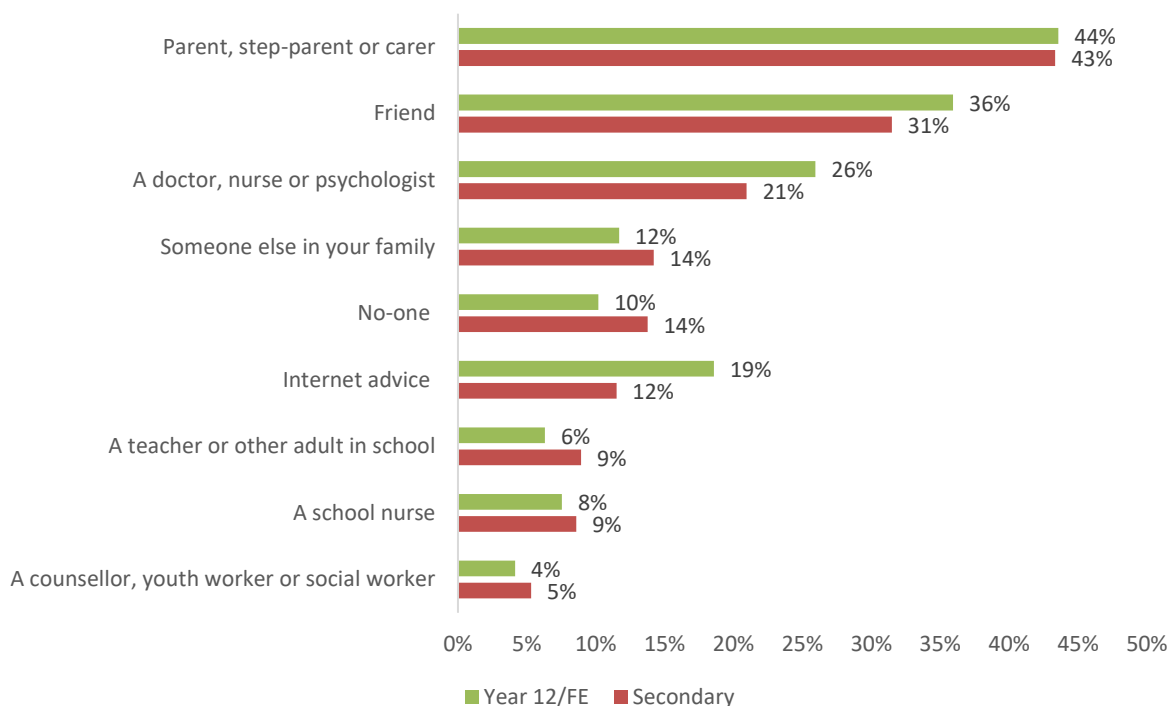
Responses: Comfortable/Extremely comfortable.



When asked who they would go to for help or advice about contraception, emergency contraception, not getting pregnant or preventing STIs, both secondary school and year 12/FE children were most likely to report going to a parent, step-parent or carer (43% and 44% respectively; Figure 32).

Previous years: Patterns were similar in 2020. In 2017, year 12/FE respondents were more likely to go to a doctor, nurse, or psychologist.

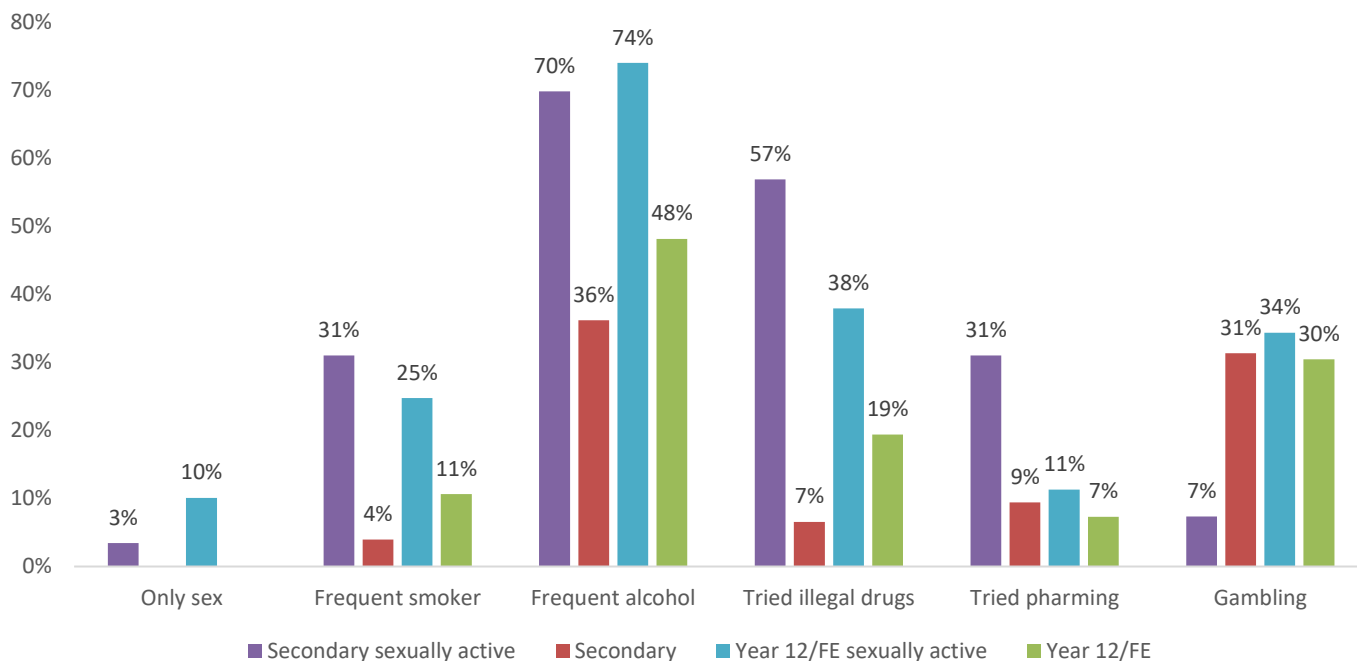
Figure 32: Question 6.20. If you needed help and advice about contraception/emergency contraception/not getting pregnant or preventing STIs who would you go to for help?*



*Respondents could select multiple options

97% of the secondary school pupils who reported having had sex, and 90% of the year 12/FE pupils, also reported engaging in other risky behaviours. The chart below (Figure 33) shows the proportions of those who have had sex who also engage in other risky behaviours, compared to the overall sample. Differences were most apparent between secondary school respondents who reported having had sex and tried illegal drugs and the overall secondary population who had tried illegal drugs (57% vs 7%).

Figure 33: Question 11.07, Question 3.01, Question 3.04, Question 3.09, Question 3.23 and Question 3.56. Have had sexual intercourse and other risky behaviours.*



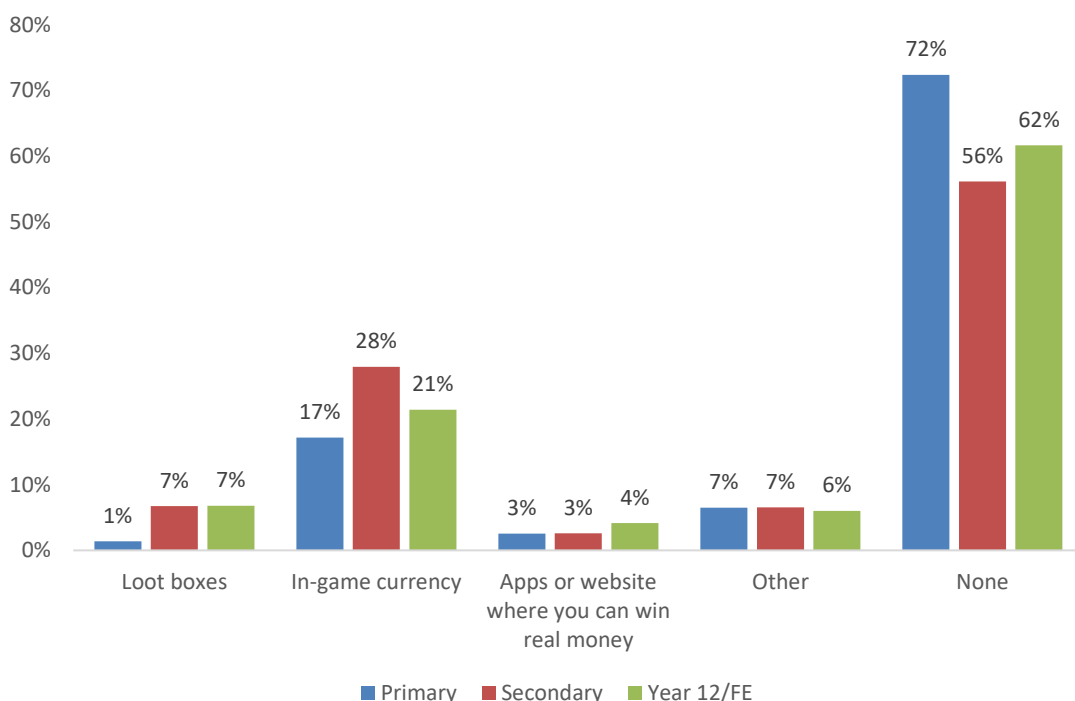
*Frequent smoker = weekly or more often. Frequent alcohol = monthly or more often. Pharming = the recreational use of prescription drugs. Gambling = loot boxes, in-game currency, apps or websites and other.

Gambling

When asked about gambling, 28% of primary respondents, 36% of secondary respondents and 32% of year 12/FE respondents said they had spent money on gambling activities in the past 12 months (Figure 34). In 2020, a national survey found that 37% of 11–16-year-olds had gambled in the last 12 months, which roughly corresponds to the Wiltshire data.¹⁴

Previous years: In 2020, proportions were largely the same apart from a slightly higher proportion of primary and secondary respondents reporting never having gambled in the past 12 months (77% primary 2020 vs 72% 2021; 71% secondary 2020 vs 64% 2021). This question was not asked in 2017.

Figure 34: Question 3.56. Have you spent any of your money on any of the following gambling activities in the past 12 months?*



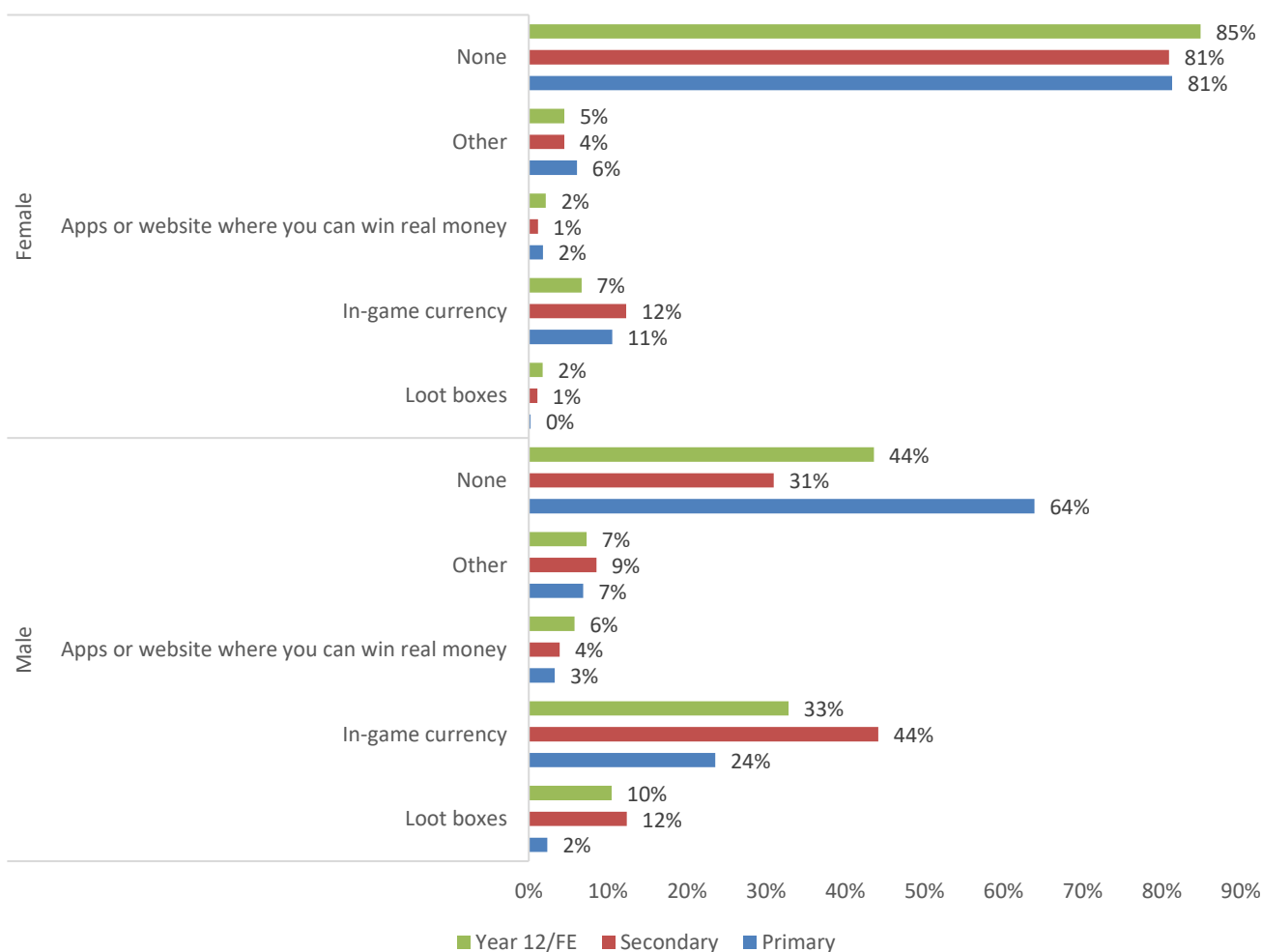
*Respondents could select multiple options other than none.

¹⁴ [Young People and Gambling 2020 - Gambling Commission](#)

There were clear gender differences in all school phases. Males were much more likely to have spent any money on gambling activities in the past 12 months (Figure 34a; primary female 21% vs primary male 35%, secondary female 18% vs secondary male 60%, year 12/FE female 14% vs year 12/FE male 48%).

Previous years: In 2020, gender differences were the same were the same. Fewer secondary school males participated in gambling activities in 2020 (51% vs 60% in 2021). The same was true for year 12/FE males (32% vs 48% in 2021).

Figure 34a: Question 3.56. Have you spent any of your money on any of the following gambling activities in the past 12 months? Gender.*

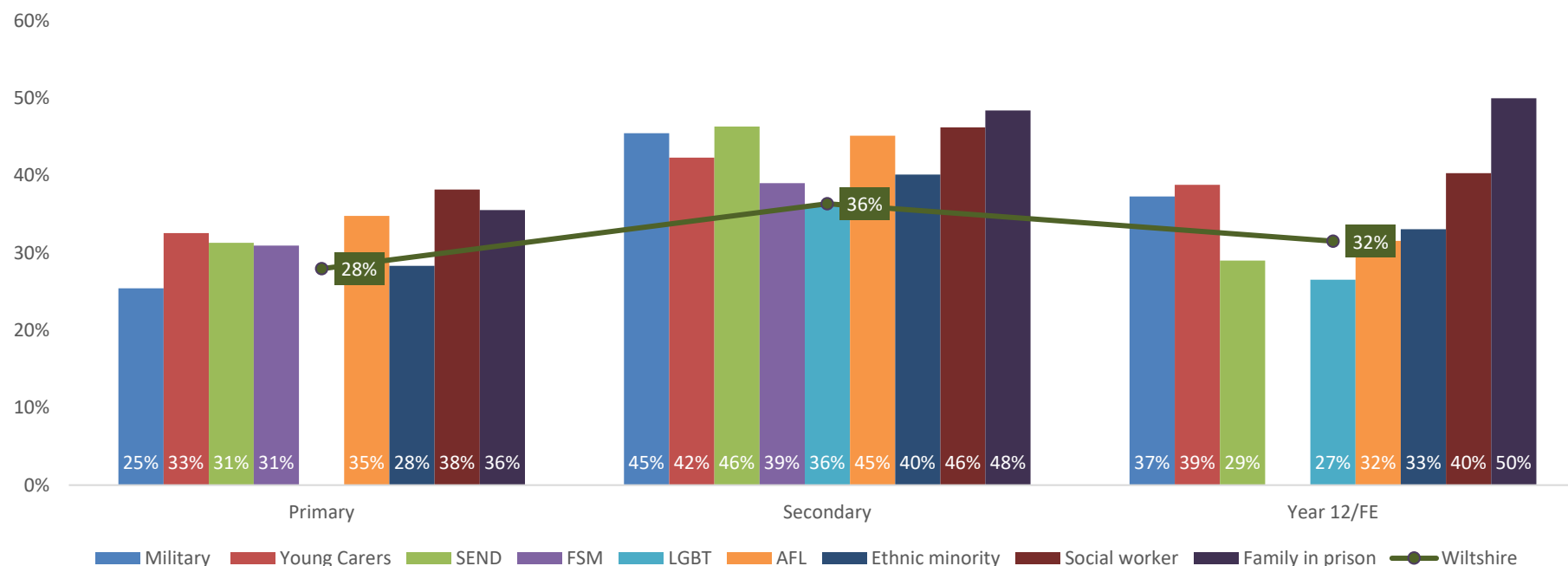


*Respondents could select multiple options other than none.

In primary school phases, all vulnerable groups apart from children of military parent/carers and ethnic minority children, were statistically significantly more likely to have participated in gambling activities than the overall Wiltshire sample (Figure 34b). In secondary phases, all groups apart from the LGBT children were statistically significantly more likely to have gambled than the overall Wiltshire sample. In year 12/FE phases, SEND children and LGBT children were slightly less likely to have taken part in gambling activities when compared to the overall Wiltshire sample.

Figure 34b: Question 3.56. Have you spent any of your money on any of the following gambling activities in the past 12 months? Vulnerable groups.*

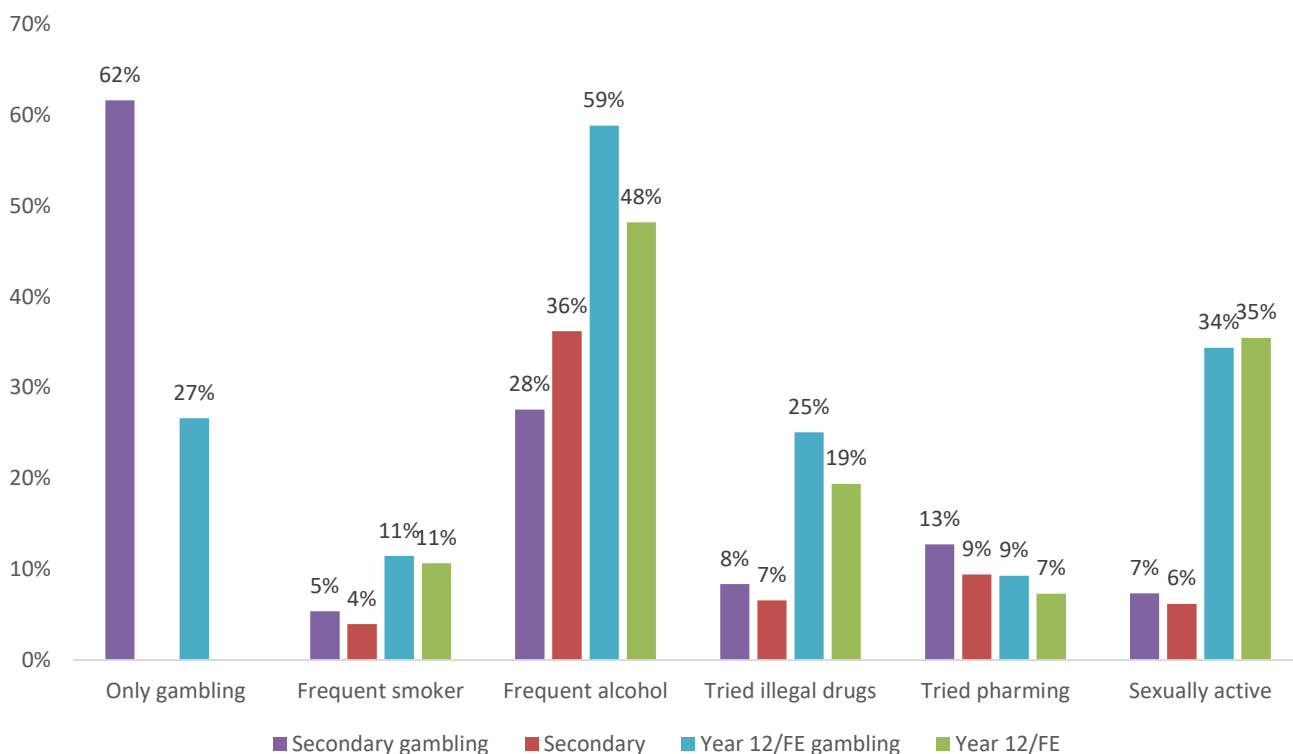
Response: At least one type of gambling.



*Primary students were not asked about their LGBT status. Year 12/FE students were not asked if they were in receipt of free school meals. The AFL group in all school phases represents a small sample size and caution should be used in interpreting results.

38% of the secondary school pupils who reported gambling, and 73% of the year 12/FE pupils, also reported engaging in other risky behaviours. The chart below (Figure 35) shows the proportions of those who have gambled who also engage in other risky behaviours, compared to the overall sample. The other risky behaviour that gambling correlates with the most is frequent alcohol consumption.

Figure 35: Question 3.56, Question 11.07, Question 3.01, Question 3.04, Question 3.09 and Question 3.23. Have gambled and other risky behaviours.*



*Frequent smoker = weekly or more often. Frequent alcohol = monthly or more often. Pharming = the recreational use of prescription drugs. Gambling = loot boxes, in-game currency, apps or websites and other.

Summary of multiple risky behaviours

76% of year 12/FE respondents and 52% of secondary school respondents reported having engaged in at least one of the risky behaviours of cigarette smoking weekly or more often, consuming alcohol monthly or more often, having tried illegal drugs, having tried prescription drugs for recreational purposes, sexual activity and/or gambling behaviours. Table 10 shows the proportions of pupils taking part in multiple risky behaviours.

33% of the secondary school respondents had engaged in only one of the listed risky behaviours. The most frequent of these were the consumption of alcohol monthly or more often, and gambling activities, both of which were less likely to combine with other multiple risky behaviours than did the other risks. 34% of secondary school pupils who reported drinking alcohol monthly or more often, and 62% of those who had participated in gambling activities, reported engaging in no other risky behaviours (see Figures 14 and 35). 12% of the overall secondary school sample reported engaging in two of the listed risky behaviours, and 7% in three or more.

30% of year 12/FE respondents reported engaging in only one of the listed risky behaviours. The most frequent of these was the consumption of alcohol monthly or more often, and gambling activities. 31% of year 12/FE pupils who reported drinking alcohol monthly or more often and 27% of year 12/FE pupils who reported participating in gambling activities, reported engaging in no other risky behaviours (see Figure 14 and 35). Both frequent cigarette smoking, and having tried illegal drugs, were very likely to combine with multiple risky behaviours, with only 2% of year 12/FE frequent smokers and 3% of those who have tried illegal drugs engaging in no other risky behaviours (see Figures 10 and 19). 21% of the overall year 12/FE sample reported engaging in two of the listed risky behaviours, and 9% in three or more.

Table 10: Multiple risky behaviours.

Number of reported risky behaviours*	Secondary school		Year 12/FE	
	Number	% of total sample	Number	% of total sample
0	1084	48%	256	24%
1	735	33%	322	30%
2	269	12%	245	23%
3	93	4%	139	13%
4	43	2%	69	7%
5	29	1%	23	2%
6	6	0%	7	1%

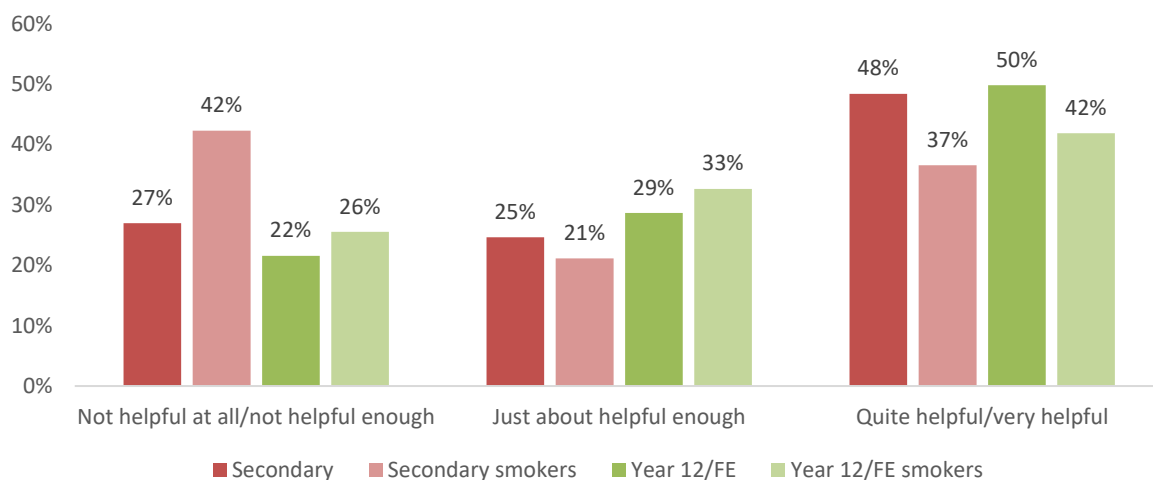
* Cigarette smoking weekly or more often, alcohol consumption monthly or more often, tried illegal drugs, tried prescription drugs for fun or to feel good, has had sexual intercourse and has participated in gambling activities. Percentages do not sum due to independent rounding.

Education relating to the risky behaviours

This section of the report describes how helpful the respondents have found it to learn about risky behaviours included in this report and the areas in which they would like more support and knowledge. In most cases, those partaking in a particular risky behaviour were less likely to find it helpful to learn about it than the total samples.

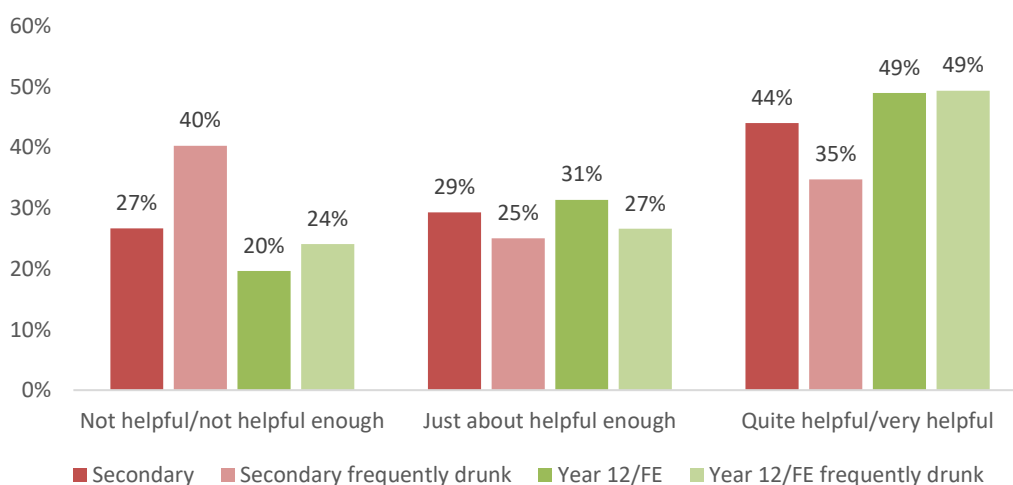
50% of the year 12/FE sample and 48% of the secondary school sample have found it quite helpful or very helpful to learn about smoking (Figure 36). These proportions were lower for those who smoke frequently.

Figure 36: Question 4.20.03. How helpful have you found it to learn about the things listed below: Smoking.



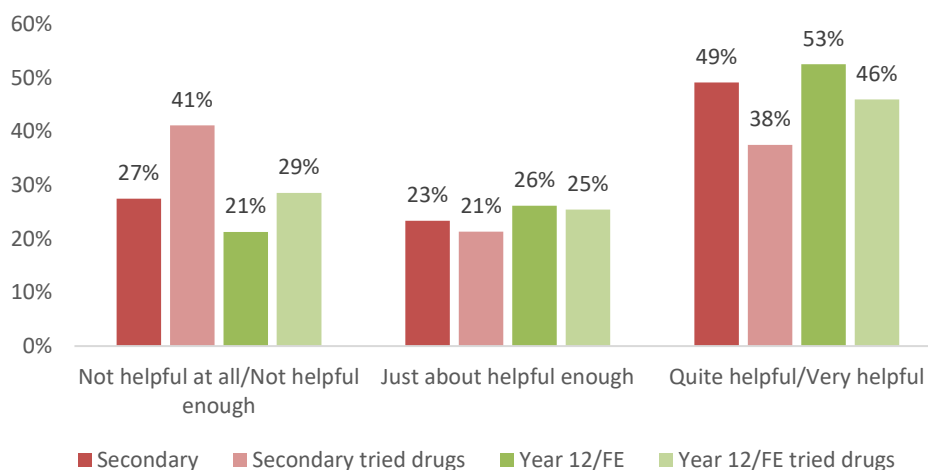
44% of the secondary school respondents and 49% of the year 12/FE respondents reported finding it quite helpful or very helpful to learn about alcohol (Figure 37). This proportion reduces for secondary respondents who reported being frequently drunk (35%).

Figure 37: Question 4.20.02. How helpful have you found it to learn about the things listed below: Alcohol.



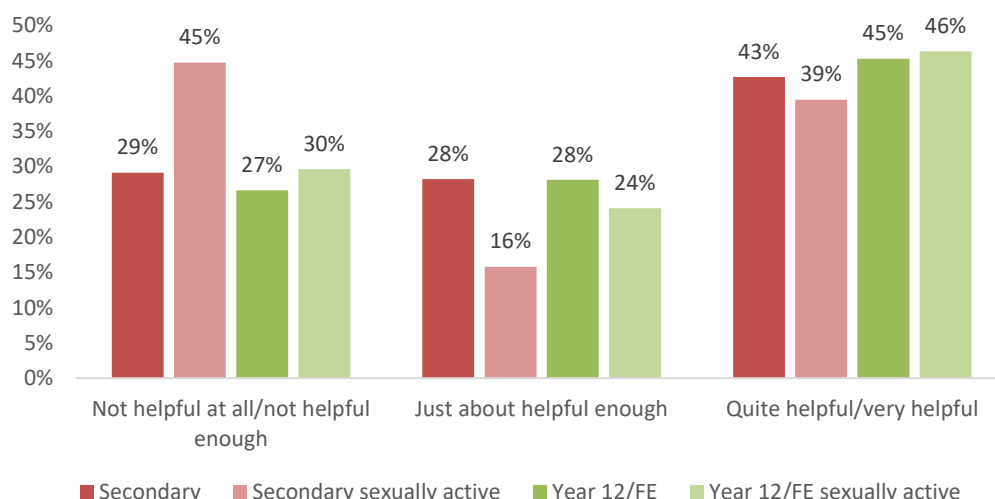
49% of the secondary school respondents and 53% of the year 12/FE respondents reported having found it helpful or quite helpful to learn about drugs (Figure 38). The proportions were lower among the respondents who reported having tried illegal drugs in both school phases.

Figure 38: Question 4.20.04. How helpful have you found it to learn about the things listed below: Drugs.



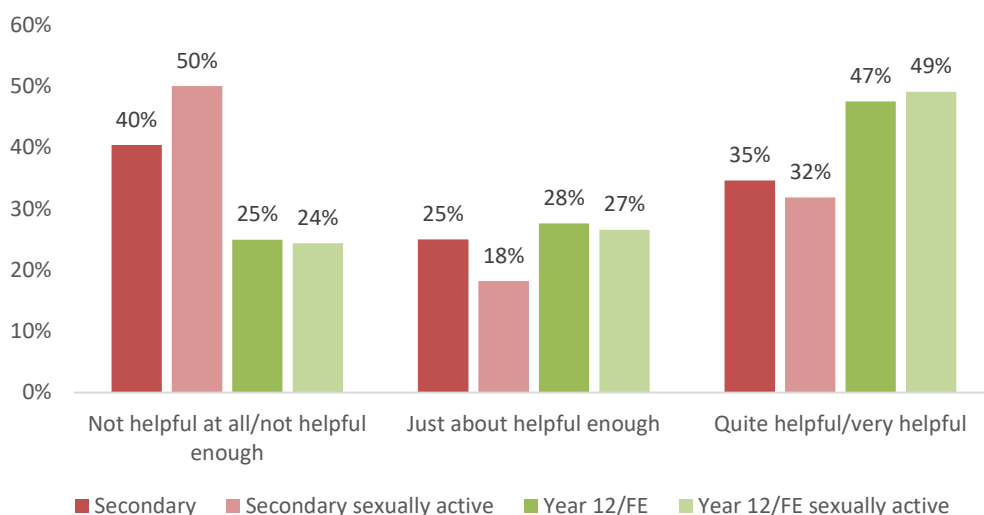
When asked how helpful they had found it to learn about sex and relationships, 43% of the secondary and 45% of the year 12/FE respondents reported finding it helpful or quite helpful (Figure 39). There were not any major differences between the overall year 12/FE respondents and year 12/FE sexually active respondents. In secondary phases, however, pupils who reported that they have had sex were more likely to report not finding it helpful to learn about sex and relationships (45%).

Figure 39: Question 4.20.05. How helpful have you found it to learn about the things listed below: Sex and relationships.



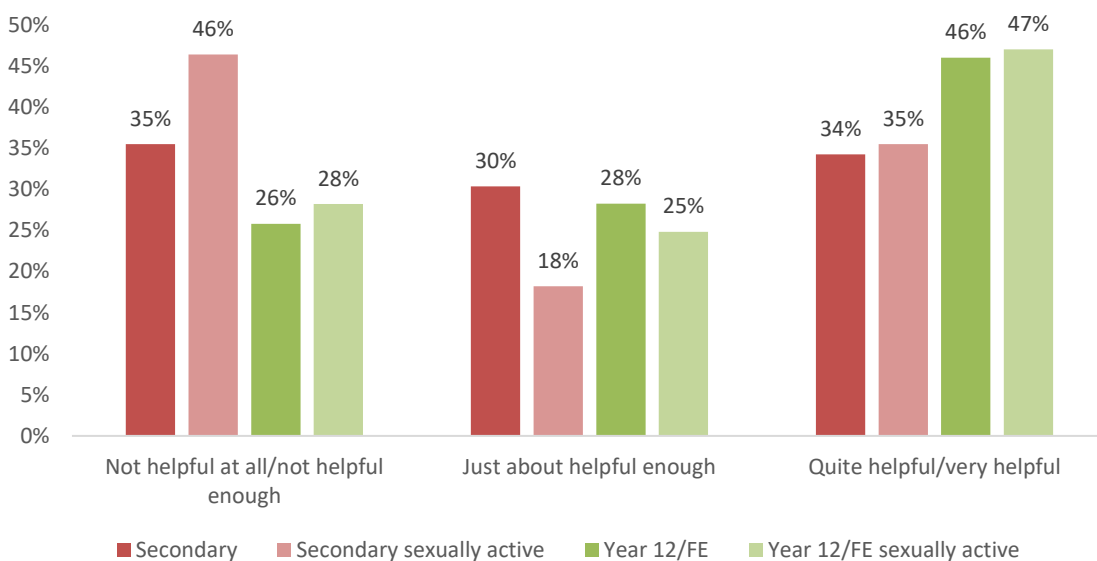
Proportions of year 12/FE respondents who reported finding learning about STIs helpful did not differ between those who were sexually active and those who were not (Figure 40). The same was true in the secondary school phases, though more secondary respondents who reported having had sexual intercourse found it not helpful compared to the overall secondary sample.

Figure 40: Question 4.20.08. How helpful have you found it to learn about the things listed below: Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including chlamydia and HIV.



Similar patterns to the above were observed when respondents were asked about how helpful they found it to learn about contraception. In both school phases, similar proportions of the overall population group and the sexually active group found it helpful to learn about contraception (Figure 41). However, higher proportions of the secondary sexually active group found it not helpful (46%).

Figure 41: Question 4.20.11. How helpful have you found it to learn about the things listed below: Contraception, including emergency contraception.



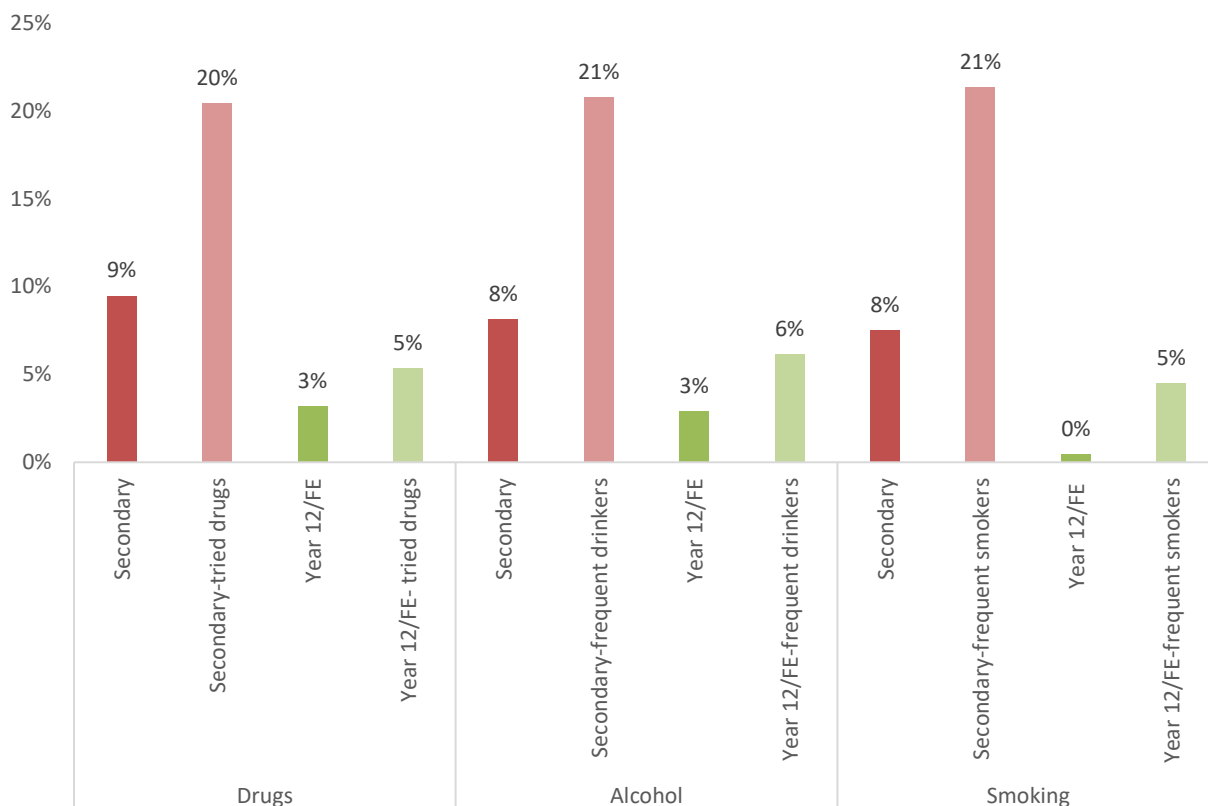
Support and knowledge

When asked if there was anything pupils wanted to know more about or want more support in, around 9% of primary school respondents felt they wanted to know more about smoking and alcohol, while 12% felt they needed more support or knowledge about drugs. Around 9% of secondary school children needed more support or information about alcohol, drugs and smoking. Higher proportions felt they needed more support or knowledge about safer sex (15%). Very low percentages of year 12/FE students reported needing more support or knowledge about smoking, drugs or alcohol. 9% wanted more support or knowledge in safe sex.

The proportions of secondary school respondents who felt they needed more support and knowledge about drugs, alcohol and smoking were uniformly higher among those who had tried or frequently engaged in the risky behaviour in question (Figure 42). This was particularly noticeable among secondary school pupils who smoke cigarettes weekly or more often, with 21% of these pupils feeling they needed more support and knowledge about smoking, compared to 8% of the overall secondary sample. The differences between groups in year 12/FE phases were minimal.

Figure 42: Question 6.14, Question 3.09, Question 3.04, Question 3.01: Are there any areas in your life that you feel you need more support or knowledge in? Drugs, alcohol and smoking.

Response: Yes.



* Frequent drinkers = consume alcohol monthly or more often. Frequent smokers = smoke cigarettes weekly or more often.

Next steps

The data from this report will help schools to identify areas for improvement and address issues that were raised by their own pupils and will provide evidence to influence future services provided by Wiltshire Council and partners to improve the health and wellbeing of our children and young people. If you wish to discuss the data in this report or the other Wiltshire Children and Young People's School Health and Wellbeing Survey reports please contact the Public Health Team at Wiltshire Council: publichealth@wiltshire.gov.uk

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank schools who took part in the 2021 survey (May to July) and the 2020 survey (January to March), particularly the staff that organised its administration and all the pupils who gave up their time to provide information. A list of schools who participated can be found at the end of the Overview report on the Wiltshire Intelligence website: [School Health Survey - Wiltshire Intelligence](#)

Report prepared by

Wiltshire Council Public Health Intelligence Team in partnership with Local Authority colleagues.

Appendix

Table A. Primary schools involved in the 2021 survey: FSM eligibility and school ranking based on summer 2021 school census data

School	Proportion of pupils eligible and claiming FSM	Rank out of all Wiltshire primary schools (203)
River Mead School	58.62%	1
Studley Green Primary School	47.87%	4
Longford CofE (VC) Primary School	44.73%	5
Corsham Regis Primary Academy	37.58%	10
St Martin's CofE Voluntary Aided Primary School	36.49%	12
Holbrook Primary School	26.58%	27
Old Sarum Primary School	24.69%	29
Five Lanes Primary	24.66%	30
Ludgershall Castle Primary School	23.10%	34
Saint Edmund's Roman Catholic Academy Calne	22.73%	35
St Peter's Church of England Academy, Chippenham	22.58%	36
Bellefield Primary and Nursery School	21.92%	37
Fynamore Primary School	20.54%	42
Amesbury Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	20.27%	44
Redland Primary School	18.39%	50
Fitzmaurice Primary School	18.15%	51
Staverton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School	18.15%	52
St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School Wootton Bassett	17.80%	56
Westbury Leigh CofE Primary School	17.24%	59
Grove Primary School (The)	17.11%	60
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Malmesbury	16.66%	62
Nursted Primary School	15.46%	73
Greentrees Primary School	14.39%	80
Wansdyke Community School	14.10%	82
Sutton Benger Church of England Aided Primary School	12.35%	95
Forest & Sandridge Church of England Primary School	12.32%	98
Queen's Crescent School	11.74%	100
St George's Catholic Primary School, Warminster	11.11%	103

Dinton CofE Primary School	10.98%	106
Bowerhill Primary School	10.97%	107
St John's Catholic Primary School Trowbridge	10.35%	112
St Andrew's Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School Laverstock	10.14%	114
Malmesbury Church of England Primary School	9.43%	118
Cherhill C of E Primary School	9.36%	120
Clarendon Junior School	9.29%	121
Pitton Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School	9.09%	124
Coombe Bissett Church of England Primary School	8.85%	125
Brinkworth Earl Danby's Church of England Primary School	8.07%	138
Neston Primary School	7.46%	140
Langley Fitzurse Church of England Primary School	7.44%	141
Kington St Michael Church of England Primary School	7.35%	145
Aldbury & West Grimstead Church of England Primary School	7.22%	146
Hilmarton Primary School	7.14%	147
St Nicholas Church of England Primary School, Porton	7.04%	148
St Nicholas Church of England VC Primary School Bromham	6.81%	151
Winterslow Church of England Aided Primary School	6.70%	153
Holt Voluntary Controlled Primary School	6.33%	156
Great Bedwyn Church of England School	6.00%	161
North Bradley CofE Primary School	5.55%	168
Woodford Valley CE Primary Academy	5.26%	171
Bulford St Leonard's CE (VA) Primary School	5.00%	176
Dauntsey's Academy Primary School	4.62%	178
Crudwell CofE Primary School	4.03%	186
Christ Church Church of England Controlled Primary School	3.37%	190
Winterbourne Earls Church of England Primary School	3.19%	191
Colerne CofE Primary School	3.08%	194
Stanton St Quintin Primary School	2.94%	195
Baydon St Nicholas Church of England Primary School	2.83%	197

Box Church of England Primary School	2.38%	199
Newton Tony Church of England Voluntary Controlled School	1.20%	203

Source: Summer term school census 2021.

Table B. Secondary schools involved in the 2021 survey: FSM eligibility and school ranking based on summer 2021 school census data

School	Proportion of pupils eligible and claiming FSM	Rank out of all Wiltshire secondary schools (30)
Abbeyfield School	15.22%	10
Wyvern College	14.75%	11
Wellington Academy (The)	12.38%	15
Bradon Forest School	11.17%	18
Royal Wootton Bassett Academy	9.46%	22
Hardenhuish School	7.87%	24
St Laurence School	7.63%	25
South Wilts Grammar School	2.16%	30

Source: Summer term school census 2021.