

2008-09

SCOTTISH CRIME AND JUSTICE SURVEY

Drug Use



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Scottish Government Social Research

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In spite of all this support, any errors that may remain in this report are, of course, our own.

TNS-BMRB

26th January 2010

Additional publications

In addition to this report on drug use, the results of the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey 2008-09 have been published in three other reports providing information on:

- First findings
- Partner abuse
- Sexual victimisation and stalking.

Copies of these reports, the accompanying technical report and other SCJS related Scottish Government publications are available from the survey Internet site:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Research/by-topic/crime-and-justice/crime-and-justice-survey/publications>

For further information about the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey, please email stuart.king@scotland.gsi.gov.uk or write to: Scottish Crime and Justice Survey, Scottish Government, St Andrew's House – Floor 2 West, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG.

This report is a National Statistics output produced to the highest professional standards and free from political interference. It has been produced by researchers from the respected independent social research organisation TNS-BMRB working with Scottish Government Researchers in the Justice Analytical Services Department.

Conventions used in figures and tables

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

1.1 Figures

Each figure has a title, the data source (survey year etc), a base definition and unweighted base figures, showing the number and definition of respondents who answered the question / in the specified group.

1.2 Weighting and bases

All SCJS percentages presented in the tables are based on weighted data (annex 1). Figures and tables show the unweighted base which represents the number of people interviewed in the specified group.

1.3 Percent ages

Row or column percentages may not add to 100 per cent due to rounding.

Most tables present cell percentages where the figures refer to the percentage of respondents who have the attribute being discussed. The complementary percentage to add to 100 per cent is not shown.

A percentage may be quoted in the report text for a single category that is identifiable in the tables only by summing two or more component percentages. In order to avoid rounding errors and account for multi-coding, the percentages have been recalculated for the single combined category and therefore may differ from the sum of the percentages derived from addition using the tables.

1.4 Table abbreviations

' - ' indicates that no respondents gave an answer in the category.

'0' indicates less than 0.05%.

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

n/a indicates not available.

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Executive summary

Introduction

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) is a large-scale continuous survey measuring adults' experience and perceptions of crime in Scotland. The survey is based on, annually, 16,000 in-home face-to-face interviews with adults (aged 16 or over) living in private households in Scotland. The results for 2008-09 are presented in a series of reports including this one which provides information on self-reported, illicit drug use.

This report identifies the extent of self-reported illicit drug use *ever*, in the *last year* and in the *last month* and examines the experience of first drug use and drug use in the last month by adults aged 16 or over.

Prevalence of illicit drug use in Scotland

Self-reported drug use - the SCJS 2008-09 estimated that:

- A quarter (25.6%) of adults reported taking one or more illicit drugs *at some point in their lives*, even if it was a long time ago
- One in thirteen (7.6%) adults reported having used one or more illicit drugs in the *last year*, i.e. the 12 months prior to interview
- Almost one in twenty (4.4%) adults reported using one or more illicit drugs in the *last month*, i.e. the month prior to interview.

Cannabis was the drug adults most commonly reported that they had used in any of the reference periods. Almost a quarter (22.9%) of adults reported they had taken cannabis *at some point in their lives*, around one in twenty (6.2%) adults reported using cannabis in the *last year*, and 3.5% reported using cannabis in the *last month*.

The next most commonly reported drugs that people had *ever* taken were stimulants including **amphetamines** (7.5%), **ecstasy** (7.2%), **cocaine** (6.6%) and **poppers** (6.5%). **Cocaine** was the next most used drug after cannabis in the *last year* (2.7%) and the *last month* (1.2%).

Demographic variations - men reported higher levels of illicit drug use than women including:

- Over three in ten (31.3%) men reported taking one or more illicit drug *at some point in their lives* compared with around two in ten (20.4%) women
- More than one in ten (11.1%) men reported having used one or more illicit drug in the *last year* compared with 4.3% of women
- 6.7% of men compared with 2.4% of women reported having used one or more illicit drug in the *last month*.

Similar proportions of 16-24 year olds (41.3%) and 25-44 year olds (40.3%) reported that they had used illicit drugs *at some point in their lives*. Reported use of illicit drugs in the *last year* and in the *last month* was higher for 16-24 year olds (23.5% in the *last year* and 13.3% in the *last month*) than for 25-44 year olds (10.1% in the *last year* and 6.0% in the *last month*).

Self-reported drug use in 2008-2009 and 2006 - the proportion of 16-59 year olds who reported that they had taken any illicit drug *at some point in their lives*, in the *last year* and in the *last month* was lower in the SCJS 2008-09 than in the Scottish Crime and Victimisation Survey (SCVS) 2006.

The proportion of 16-59 year olds who reported they had taken an illicit drug *at some point in their lives* was lower in Scotland (SCJS 2008-09) than in England and Wales as measured by the British Crime Survey (BCS) 2008-09. In contrast the proportion of adults who reported they had taken an illicit drug in the *last year* or *last month* was similar in Scotland to England and Wales.

Being offered drugs - around one in seven (13.7%) adults reported that someone had offered to give or sell them at least one illicit drug in the *last year*. 45% of those offered any illicit drug in the *last year* reported that they had used any illicit drug in the *last year* and 55% had not.

The experience of drug users

Drug most commonly reported - of those who had used at least one illicit drug *ever*, almost three in ten (29.6%) reported using at least one drug in the *last year*. Over eight in ten (81.2%) of those who had used any illicit drug in the *last year* had used **cannabis** in that time.

Over half (58.4%) of those who had used any illicit drug in the *last year* had also done so in the *last month*. Almost eight in ten (79.1%) of those who had used any illicit drug in the *last month* had used **cannabis** in that time.

Around seven in ten of those who had used any drugs in the *last month* reported **cannabis** as the drug they had taken most often in that period (70.5%).

Frequency of drug use - half (49.1%) of those who had used drugs in the *last month* had used their most frequently used drug on at least a weekly basis, including a fifth (20.9%) who had done so every day or almost every day.

Dependency on drugs - more than one in five (21.9%) said they had felt dependent on the drug they used *most often in the last month* while almost four in five (77.7%) said they had not. Over one in four (27.1%) said they had tried to cut down on their use of the drug they used *most often in the last month*, but found they could not, while almost three in four (72.1%) said they had not. Almost one in ten (9.5%) of those who had used drugs in the *last month* had, in that period, both felt dependent on the drug they used *most often in the last month* and had tried to cut down on it, but found they could not.

Access to drugs - the majority of adults (87.6%) who used drugs in the *last month* reported that it was easy to get hold of the drug they used most often in that period, including half (48.6%) who claimed it was very easy.

Polydrug use (i.e. mixing drugs with other drugs or alcohol) - over one third (35.3%) of adults who had used at least one illicit drug in the *last month* reported some kind of polydrug use. Around seven in ten (70.6%) of those who had mixed the drug they used *most often in the last month* with any other drug, had mixed **cannabis** with other drugs, reflecting the predominance of cannabis as the drug used *most often in the last month*. The drugs that polydrug users were most likely to have *ever* mixed with the drug they used *most often in the last month* were **ecstasy** (56.9%) and **cocaine** (56.1%).

The majority of adults who had used at least one illicit drug in the *last month* reported drinking alcohol *at some point in their lives* while under the influence of the drug they had *used most often in the last month* (85.3%).

Age of first use - late teens (16-19 years) was the most common age for first using drugs, with half (48.7%) reporting they had first tried illicit drugs at this age. Around a quarter (24.1%) of those who had *ever* used drugs first tried them when they were under 16 years of age. Reflecting its dominance, **cannabis** was the drug that adults were most likely to have tried first, having been tried first by three quarters (76.0%) of those who had *ever* used any illicit drug.

1 Introduction

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS)¹ is a large-scale continuous survey measuring adults' experiences and perceptions of crime in Scotland. The survey is based on, annually, 16,000 in-home face-to-face interviews with adults (aged 16 or over) living in private households in Scotland.

The main aims of the SCJS are to:

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

The first findings for 2008-09 are presented in a series of four reports. This report presents the key findings on self-reported use of illicit drugs (also known as prevalence) collected through the self-completion section of the SCJS 2008-09. Three other publications cover the first findings of the survey, partner abuse and sexual victimisation and stalking. A separate technical report is also available.²

The data for the survey are available on the UK Data Archive in SPSS format.³ The analysis in this report is not exhaustive, and readers are encouraged to conduct their own analysis of the primary data. Supporting documentation for the survey, as well as generic teaching datasets, are also provided on the UK Data Archive.

1.1 Background

The main aim of the self-completion illicit drug use questions included in the SCJS 2008-09 was to establish whether adults aged 16 or over reported using any of 16 specified drugs either at *some point in their lives*, in the *last year* and in the *last month*. Those who had used any types of drugs were asked a series of follow-up questions to provide more detail about being offered drugs, first drug use, and the drug used most often in the last month.

¹ The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey web pages are available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/scjs>.

² All of these reports are available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Research/by-topic/crime-and-justice/crime-and-justice-survey/publications>.

³ The UK Data Archive's website is at: <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>.

Further details of the questionnaire content can be found in annex 2, section A2.5.

The SCJS is the only source of information on self-reported illicit drug use in the general population at national level in Scotland.⁴ A range of stakeholders in the drugs field, including the Scottish Government's Drugs Policy Unit, Scottish Crime and Drug Enforcement Agency (SCDEA) and service providers benefit from up-to-date information on illicit drug misuse and trend data among adults aged 16 or over in Scotland.

The Scottish Government's Drugs Strategy, the Road to Recovery (2008),⁵ recognises that effective treatment must be tailored to the needs of individuals in recovery from drug use and highlights the importance of relevant and credible substance misuse education to prevent substance misuse, informed by a strong evidence base.

In order to successfully implement the drugs strategy, government and other stakeholders must draw on up-to-date and accurate information on substance use and respond appropriately. Figures published in this report aim to inform policy and practice at both national and local level. The report provides information which is of use to policy makers, practitioners, NHS and voluntary service providers to help build a picture of drug use in the general population and provide evidence on the latest trends in drug use for prevention / education work and service planning purposes.

1.2 Methodology

The SCJS 2008-09 was sampled from private residential addresses in Scotland using the Royal Mail Postcode Address File (PAF). One adult aged 16 years or over per household was then randomly selected for interview. As the survey only included private residential addresses, it is acknowledged that it under-represented key groups who were likely to use illicit drugs (section 1.4).

Questions on illicit drug use were included in the self-completion section of the questionnaire, which was undertaken at the end of the main SCJS 2008-09 interview. Respondents were handed the tablet computer and guided through a series of practice questions which explained how to use the computer. Where respondents were unable or unwilling to use the tablet computer themselves, interviewers administered the interview, showing the respondent the screen and helping them to input their answers.

⁴ While drugs such as valium or temazepam were included in the list of drugs asked about in the questionnaire, the question wording emphasised only drugs not given on prescription were of interest.

⁵ The Road to Recovery: A New Approach to Tackling Scotland's Drug Problem: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/05/22161610/0>.

Participation was voluntary, and a response rate of 69% was achieved, with 10,974 of the 16,003 respondents to the main survey completing the self-completion questionnaire. Non-response was higher among older people (see annex 2, section A2.2 for further details).

A more detailed explanation of the methodology for the survey can be found in annex 2, and the accompanying technical report.⁶

1.3 Limitations of the data

Self-reporting drug surveys are valuable in providing information on drug use when there are few other sources of available data about the population as a whole. However, it is recognised that such surveys do have limitations.

Firstly, it is likely that there will be an under-representation of the most problematic or chaotic drug users. This will partly be due to the fact that some groups of drug users live in accommodation not covered by a survey of private households (such as the SCJS) for example including hostels, prisons and student halls of residence. Under-representation may also arise among drug users resident in private households whose chaotic lives may mean that they may rarely be at home or unable to take part in an interview.

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

Thirdly, some of the questions cover past use (ever, in the last year and in the last month) and it is possible that some respondents may simply forget occasional uses of a certain drug, particularly if they last took it a long time ago.

While under-reporting of drug use on surveys such as the SCJS is almost certain, it should be noted that the issues discussed above are unlikely to apply equally across all types of drugs. While a household survey such as the SCJS is likely to provide an insight into the more commonly used drugs, such as cannabis, it may be less effective in providing information for some of the Class A drugs such as opiates or crack cocaine, where a sizeable number of users may be concentrated in small sub-groups of the population not covered by the survey (Hoare 2009).

In addition, while under-reporting is by far the main limitation of this type of household survey, it is also recognised that some people may report taking drugs when they have not actually done so for a number of reasons. To try and counter this mis-reporting, a non-existent drug (semeron) was included in

⁶ The technical report will be available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Research/by-topic/crime-and-justice/crime-and-justice-survey/publications>.

the list of drugs presented to respondents. Including the name of a fictitious drug is a technique that is commonly used in drug surveys (see for example Hoare 2009; Black et al. 2009; Brown and Bolling 2007). In the SCJS 2008-09, 12 respondents reported that they had *ever* taken semeron and were, therefore, excluded from the analysis presented in this report.

1.4 Classification of drugs

The Misuse of Drugs Act classifies illegal drugs into three categories (Class A, B and C) according to the harm they cause. The 16 drugs that respondents were asked about and their classification under the Act are:⁷

- **Class A**, including cocaine, crack, crystal meth, ecstasy, LSD, magic mushrooms, heroin, methadone and amphetamines (if prepared for injection)⁸
- **Class B**, including amphetamines (in powdered form) and cannabis
- **Class C**, including ketamine, temazepam, valium and anabolic steroids
- **Not classified**, including poppers and glues, solvents, gas or aerosols.

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

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

The groups include illicit drugs across the legal classification and provide an additional useful measure, reflecting their shared properties, effects and characteristics. For example, stimulant drugs may be used interchangeably by the same people at similar times and in similar settings.

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

⁷ Annex 2, section A2.8, provides further information about particular points to note about this classification.

⁸ The SCJS does not collect details of whether amphetamines were prepared for injection or were in powdered form. As injection, as a method of taking drugs *ever* reported in the SCJS 2008-09, was relatively rare, all self-reported amphetamine use is included in Class B in the analysis that follows (annex 2, section A2.8).

1.5 A note on reference periods

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

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

1.6 Comparing SCJS 2008-09 with other surveys

Due to the fact that both the British Crime Survey (BCS) 2008-09 and the Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey (SCVS) 2006 self-completion questionnaires were asked of respondents aged between 16 and 59 years while the SCJS 2008-09 asked respondents of all ages, care should be taken when comparing data between surveys. In this report, where comparisons are made with the SCVS 2006 and the BCS 2008-09, the SCJS 2008-09 data has been filtered to exclude those aged 60 years or over.

1.7 Structure of the report

This report looks at self-reported drug use among adults in Scotland. Chapter 2 focuses on prevalence of drug use *ever* (that is, *at least some point in a person's life*), at least once in the *last year* (i.e. the year prior to interview) and at least once in the *last month* (i.e. the month prior to interview) among all adults aged 16 or over.

It looks at key trends in the use of different types of drugs, comparing findings with the SCVS 2006 as well as findings for England and Wales using results from the BCS 2008-09. Variations in self-reported drug use in terms of some key demographic and socio-economic variables are also explored. The chapter concludes by looking at the likelihood of being offered drugs in the last year, again highlighting any demographic and socio-economic differences.

Chapter 3 looks in more detail at the experiences of respondents who reported taking drugs at some point in their lives, firstly looking at self-

reported drug use in the last year, followed by use in the month prior to interview. Providing more in-depth analysis, the chapter then looks more specifically at the drug reported as being used most often in the last month, the frequency with which these drugs were taken and the extent of dependency. The ease with which users were able to obtain drugs is explored along with polydrug use; that is, mixing drugs with other drugs or alcohol. The chapter concludes with a look at first experiences of drug taking, including which drug was first taken and at what age.

2 Prevalence of illicit drug use in Scotland

2.1 Chapter summary

Self-reported drug use:

- The SCJS 2008-09 estimated that:
 - A quarter (25.6%) of adults reported taking one or more illicit drug at some point in their lives (ever), even if it was a long time ago
 - One in thirteen (7.6%) adults reported having used one or more illicit drug in the last year, i.e. the 12 months prior to interview
 - Almost one in twenty (4.4%) reported using one or more illicit drugs in the last month, i.e. the month prior to interview
- **Cannabis** was by far the drug most commonly reported as used in any reference period:
 - Almost a quarter (22.9%) of adults had taken cannabis *at some point in their lives*, around one in twenty (6.2%) adults reported using cannabis in the *last year*, and 3.5% reported using cannabis in the *last month*
- The next most commonly reported drugs that adults had *ever* taken were stimulants including **amphetamines** (7.5%), **ecstasy** (7.2%), **cocaine** (6.6%) and **poppers** (6.5%). **Cocaine** was the next most used drug after cannabis in the *last year* (2.7%) and the *last month* (1.2%).

Demographic variations:

- Men reported higher levels of illicit drug use than women including:
 - Over three in ten (31.3%) men reported taking one or more illicit drugs at some point in their lives compared with around two in ten (20.4%) women
 - More than one in ten (11.1%) men reported having used one or more illicit drug in the last year compared with 4.3% of women
 - 6.7% of men compared with 2.4% of women reported having used one or more illicit drug in the *last month*
- Similar proportions of 16-24 year olds (41.3%) and 25-44 year olds (40.3%) reported that they had used drugs *at some point in their lives*. Reported use of illicit drugs in the *last year* and in the *last month* was higher for 16-24 year olds (23.5% and 13.3% respectively) than for 25-44 year olds (10.1% and 6.0% respectively).

Self-reported drug use compared:

- The proportion of 16-59 year olds who reported they had taken an illicit drug *at some point in their lives*, in the *last year* and in the *last month* was lower in the SCJS 2008-09 than in the SCVS 2006
- The proportion of 16-59 year olds reporting they had taken any illicit drug *at some point in their lives* was lower in Scotland (SJCS 2008-09) than in England and Wales (BCS 2008-09), whereas the proportion taking any illicit drug in the *last year* or *last month* was similar in both Scotland and in England and Wales.

Being offered drugs:

- Around one in seven (13.7%) adults reported that someone had offered to give or sell them at least one type of illicit drug in the *last year*:
 - 45% of those offered any illicit drug in the *last year* had used any illicit drug in the *last year* and 55% had not.

2.2 Introduction

This chapter looks at the prevalence of illicit drug use in Scotland, including the overall extent of drug use, use by composite drug group and legal classification, as well as use of specific drugs. It then moves on to examine demographic, socio-economic and geographical variations in prevalence of drug use. The last section looks at the likelihood of being offered illicit drugs.

Comparisons are made over time using the Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey (SCVS) 2006 and between Scotland and England and Wales (together) using the British Crime Survey (BCS) 2008-09, where relevant. As noted below comparisons are made between 16-59 year olds only.⁹

2.3 Self-reported drug use

The SCJS 2008-09 provides estimates of the proportion of adults aged 16 or over in Scotland who report they had used illicit drugs based on answers provided to three questions covering three periods of time (*ever*, in the *last year* and in the *last month*):

- A quarter (25.6%) of adults reported taking one or more illicit drugs *at some point in their lives (ever)*, even if it was a long time ago
- One in thirteen (7.6%) adults reported having used one or more illicit drugs in the *last year*, i.e. the 12 months prior to interview

⁹ See chapter 1 and the technical report for further details:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Research/by-topic/crime-and-justice/crime-and-justice-survey/publications>.

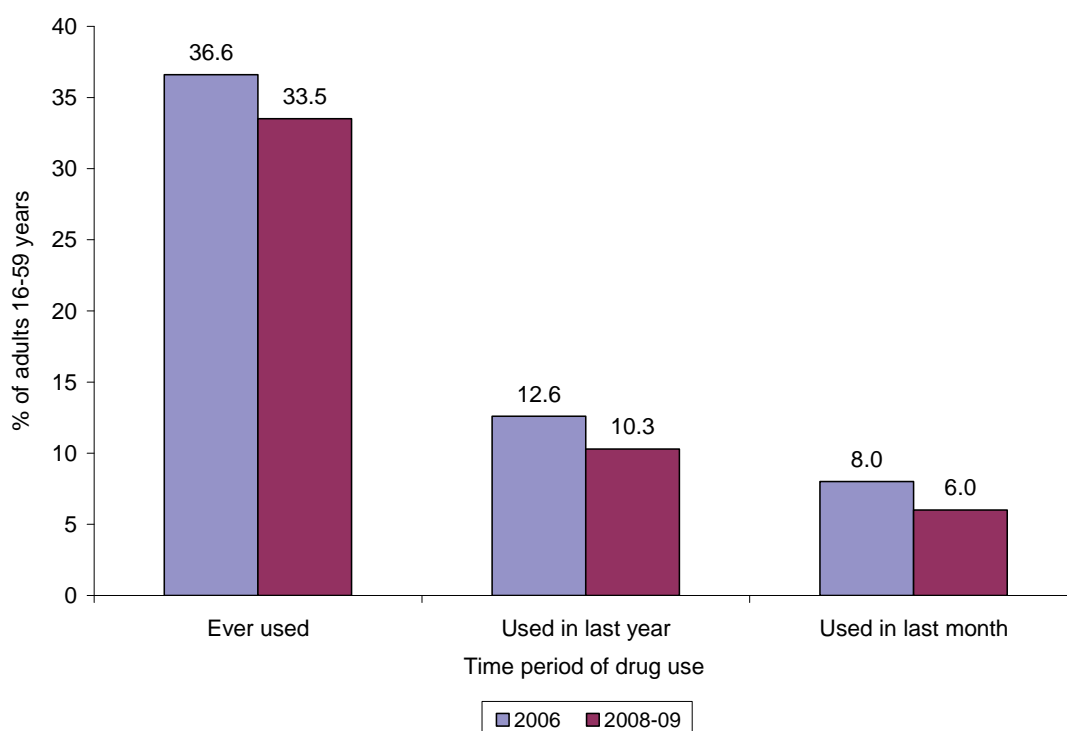
- Almost one in twenty (4.4%) adults reported using one or more in the *last month*, i.e. the month prior to interview.

Comparisons with the SCVS 2006 help to set these findings in context (reported in Brown and Bolling, 2007). However, while the 2006 survey was based on adults aged 16-59 years, the SCJS 2008-09 was expanded to include all adults aged 16 or over. As a result, the data in figure 2.1 present the estimates as measured by the SCJS 2008-09 for 16-59 year olds only in order to provide a more direct comparison. This shows that for all three time periods, the proportion reporting using any drug was significantly lower in the SCJS 2008-09 than in the SCVS 2006.

Figure 2.1 Trends in the proportion of adults aged 16-59 reporting use of drugs ever, in the *last year* and in the *last month*

SCJS 2008-09; SCVS 2006

Adults aged 16-59 (base: 2006 - 3,158; 2008-09 - 7,467)



Estimates in Scotland were also lower than across England and Wales as measured by the BCS in 2008-09, for illicit drug use *ever* among 16-59 year olds (33.5% compared with 36.8% for England and Wales).

Estimates of illicit drug use in Scotland were similar to England and Wales for reported use in the *last year* and the *last month*. In England and Wales 10.1% of 16-59 year olds reported having taken drugs in the *last year* and 5.9% said they had in the *last month* (compared with 10.3% and 6.0% respectively in Scotland). Once again, to enable comparison, the percentages quoted for Scotland refer to 16-59 year olds in line with the England and Wales survey.

2.4 Self-reported drug use by composite group and Class of drug

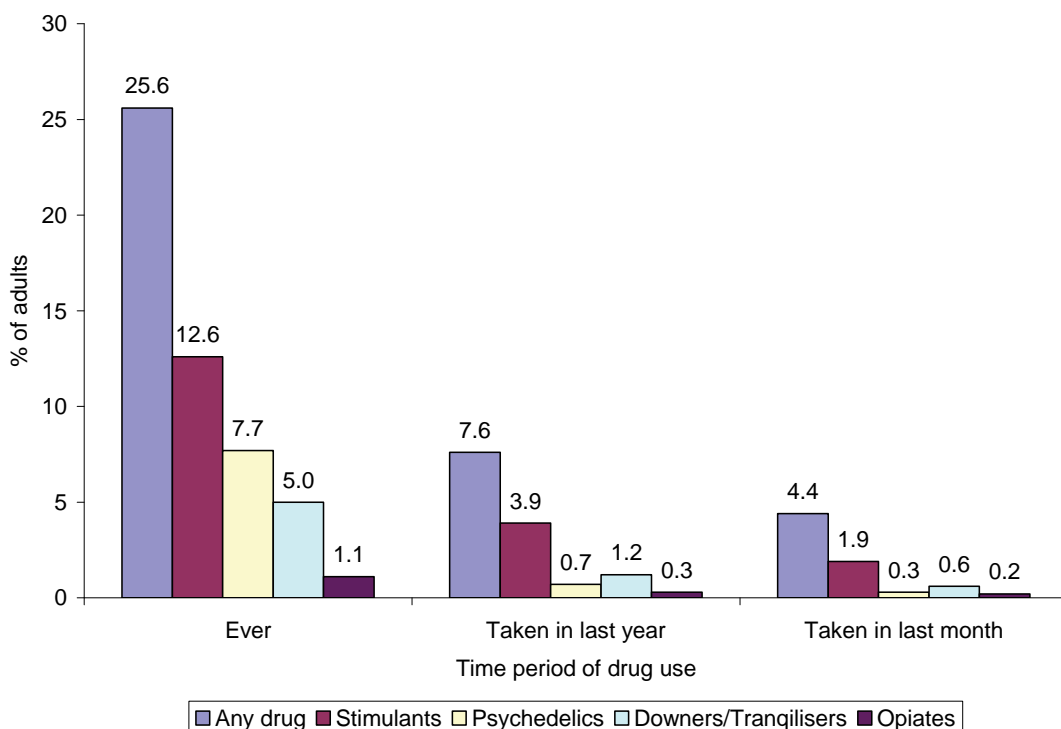
Looking in more detail at self-reported drug use by composite drug group, i.e. classifying them by shared characteristics, figure 2.2 shows that:

- One in eight (12.6%) adults reported that they had taken **stimulant** drugs (cocaine, crack, crystal meth, ecstasy, amphetamines, poppers) *at some point in their lives* while 3.9% had taken these drugs in the *last year* and 1.9% in the *last month*
- One in thirteen (7.7%) reported use of LSD, magic mushrooms and ketamine (grouped as **psychedelics** in this report), *at some point in their lives*. Less than 1% of adults aged 16 or over reported using this composite drug group either in the *last year* or the *last month* (0.7% and 0.3% respectively)
- One in twenty (5.0%) adults reported *ever* using **downers or tranquilisers** (temazepam or valium), with 1.2% having used these in the *last year* and 0.6% in the *last month*
- Use of **opiates** (heroin and methadone) was lower; 1.1% of adults reported taking these drugs *at some point in their lives*, and fewer than half a per cent had taken these either in the *last year* or the *last month* (0.3% and 0.2% respectively).

Figure 2.2 Proportion of adults aged 16 or over reporting use of drugs by composite group ever, in the last year and in the last month

SCJS 2008-09

Adults aged 16 or over (base: 10,962)



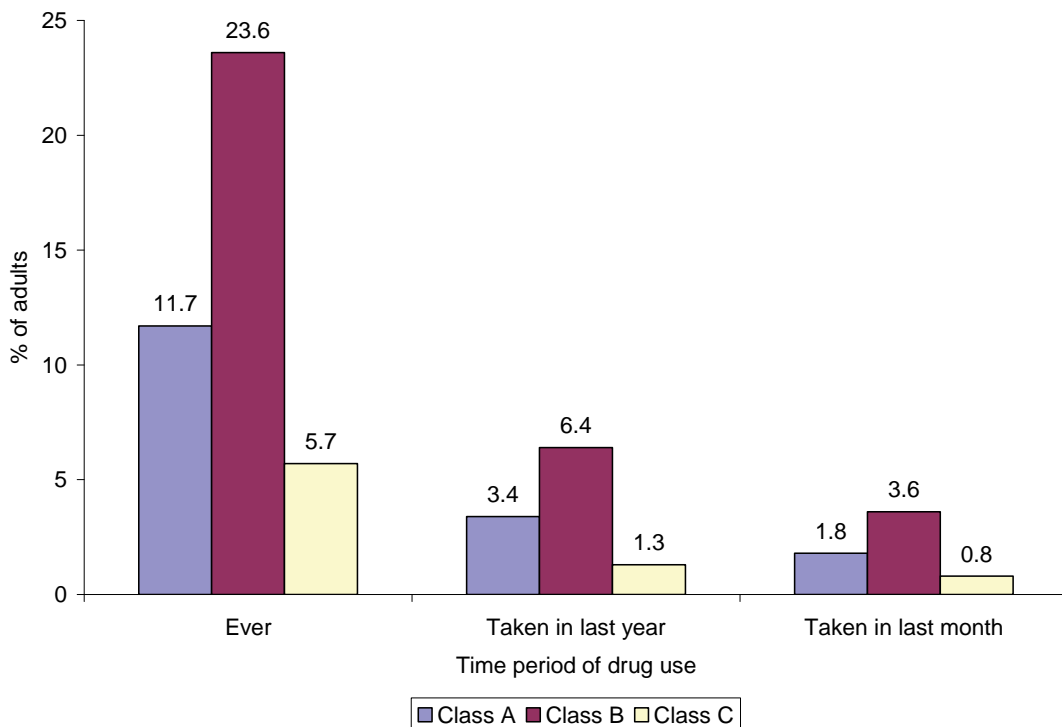
In terms of legal classification, findings from the SCJS 2008-09 showed (figure 2.3):

- One in eight (11.7%) adults aged 16 or over reported use of Class A drugs *at some point in their lives*, with 3.4% reporting use in the *last year* and 1.8% in the *last month*
- Almost a quarter of adults reported use of Class B drugs (23.6%) *at some point in their lives*. Use of Class B drugs was dominated by cannabis use, the drug most commonly reported as being taken by adults (22.9% reported *ever* using cannabis). 6.4% of adults aged 16 or over had taken Class B drugs in the *last year* and 3.6% in the *last month*
- Almost one in eighteen (5.7%) adults aged 16 or over reported use of Class C drugs *ever*, with 1.3% reporting use in the *last year* and 0.8% in the *last month*.

Figure 2.3 Proportion of adults aged 16 or over reporting use of drugs by Class ever, in the last year and in the last month

SCJS 2008-09

Adults aged 16 or over (base: 10,962)



2.5 Self-reported drug use by specific drug

Reported drug use *ever*, in the *last year* and *last month* by adults aged 16 or over followed similar patterns for individual drugs. Patterns of use for all drugs over the three time periods are discussed below and figures 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6 show findings for all three time periods individually. More detailed discussion of drug use in the *last month* is also provided in chapter 3.

The SCJS 2008-09 clearly shows that **cannabis** was the drug most commonly reported as used in any reference period.

- Almost a quarter (22.9%) of adults had taken **cannabis** *at some point in their lives*, more than three times as many as the next most commonly reported drugs (amphetamines, ecstasy, cocaine and poppers – all around 7%)
 - Around one in twenty (6.2%) adults reported using cannabis in the *last year*, which represents 81.2% of all those using drugs in the *last year*
 - Less than one in twenty (3.5%) adults aged 16 or over reported using cannabis in the *last month*
- The next most commonly reported drugs that people had *ever* taken were **amphetamines** (7.5%), **ecstasy** (7.2%), **cocaine** (6.6%) and **poppers** (6.5%)
 - In the *last year* marginally more adults reported that they had used cocaine (2.7%) compared with 1.8% having used ecstasy, 1.0% having used amphetamines and 1.0% having used poppers over the same time period
 - Reported use of cocaine in the *last month* was also marginally greater than other stimulants (1.2% compared with 0.8% ecstasy, 0.4% amphetamines and 0.3% poppers)
- Reported use of the psychedelic drugs, **magic mushrooms** and **LSD**, was similar for each time period
 - One in twenty reported having used magic mushrooms (5.5%) and LSD (4.9%) *at some point in their lives*. Less than 0.5% of adults reported using either of these drugs in the *last year* or *last month*
- Among downers / tranquilisers, reported use of **valium** was greater than **temazepam** over all three time periods. For example, 4.2% had used valium *at some point in their lives* compared with 2.5% for temazepam. 1.1% had used valium in the *last year* and 0.6% had done so in the *last month* compared with 0.4% and 0.1% who had used temazepam in the respective periods
- Use of **glues, solvents, gas or aerosols** was reported by 2.3% of adults aged 16 or over *at some point in their lives*, while use in the *last year* and *month* was 0.1% or lower

- **Ketamine** use ever was reported by 1.2%, reducing to 0.2% in the *last year* and 0.1% in the *last month*. Use of **anabolic steroids** (0.5%) and **crystal meth** (0.2%) ever was reported by fewer adults ¹⁰
- Less than 1% reported use of either **heroin, crack** or **methadone** at *some point in their lives*, with 0.2% or fewer having used these in either the *last year* or *month*.

Results for individual drugs are shown in the three figures that follow. Each time period is shown as a separate figure. The drugs in each figure are ordered consistently, from highest to lowest percentage ever used (figure 2.4) and the same scale (0% - 25%) has been used for the y axis in each figure to aid comparison.

Firstly, figure 2.4 shows reported drug use among adults aged 16 or over at *some point in their lives*:

- Three times as many adults reported that they had used cannabis at *some point in their lives* (22.9%) compared with the next most commonly used drug ever (amphetamines, 7.5 %), illustrating the dominance of cannabis highlighted previously.

¹⁰ The percentage reporting use of anabolic steroids in the last year was 0.1%. Use of anabolic steroids in the last month, of crystal meth in the last year and in the last month was less than 0.05%.

Figure 2.4 Proportion of adults aged 16 or over reporting use ever by drug used

SCJS 2008-09

Adults aged 16 or over (base: 10,962)

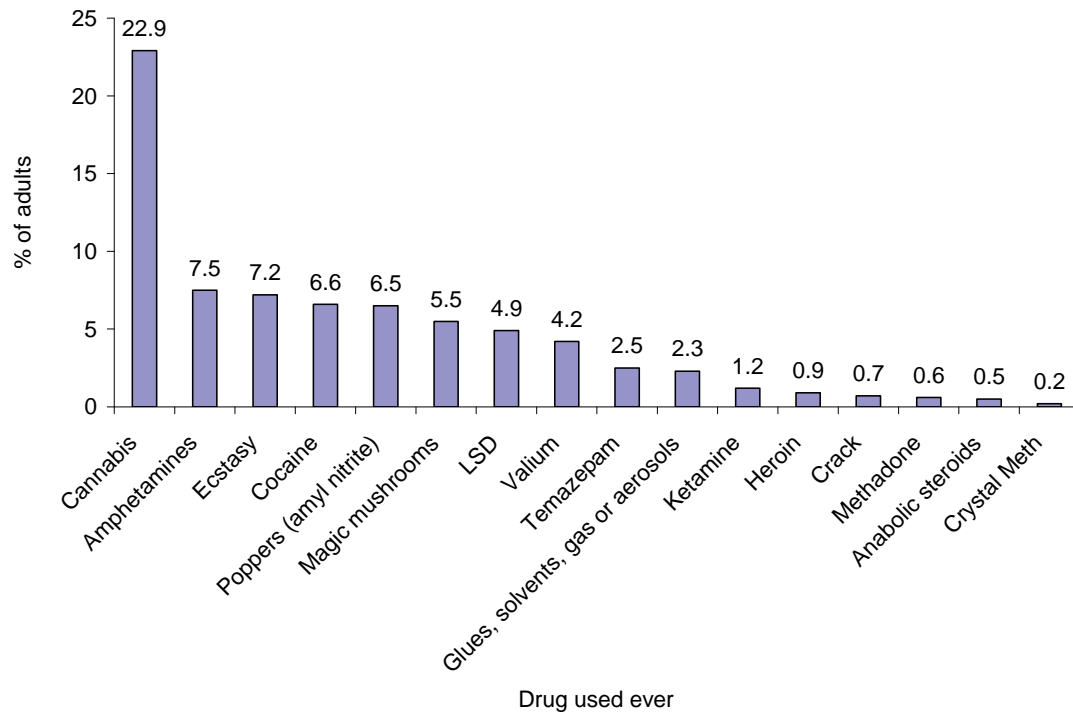


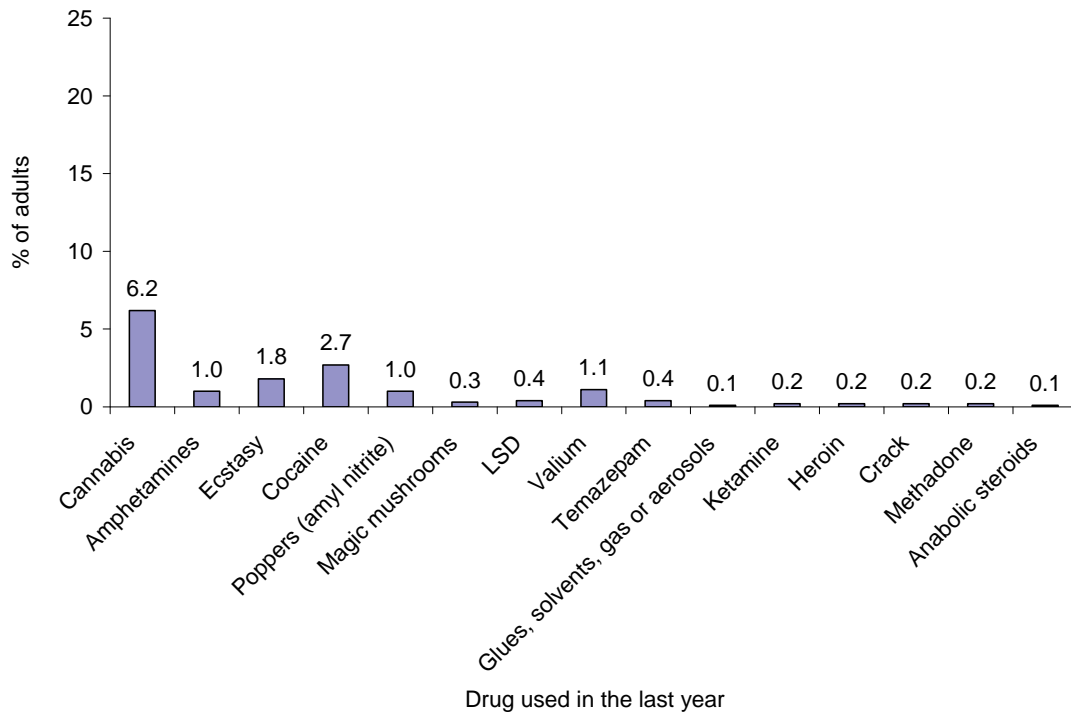
Figure 2.5 shows reported drug use among adults in the *last year*:

- Cannabis was the most commonly used drug (6.2%)
- The next most commonly used drug was cocaine (2.7%)
- More than twice as many adults reported they had used cannabis in the *last year* than cocaine.

Figure 2.5 Proportion of adults aged 16 or over reporting use in the *last year* by drug used ¹¹

SCJS 2008-09

Adults aged 16 or over (base: 10,962)



Finally, figure 2.6 presents drug use reported by adults in the *last month*:

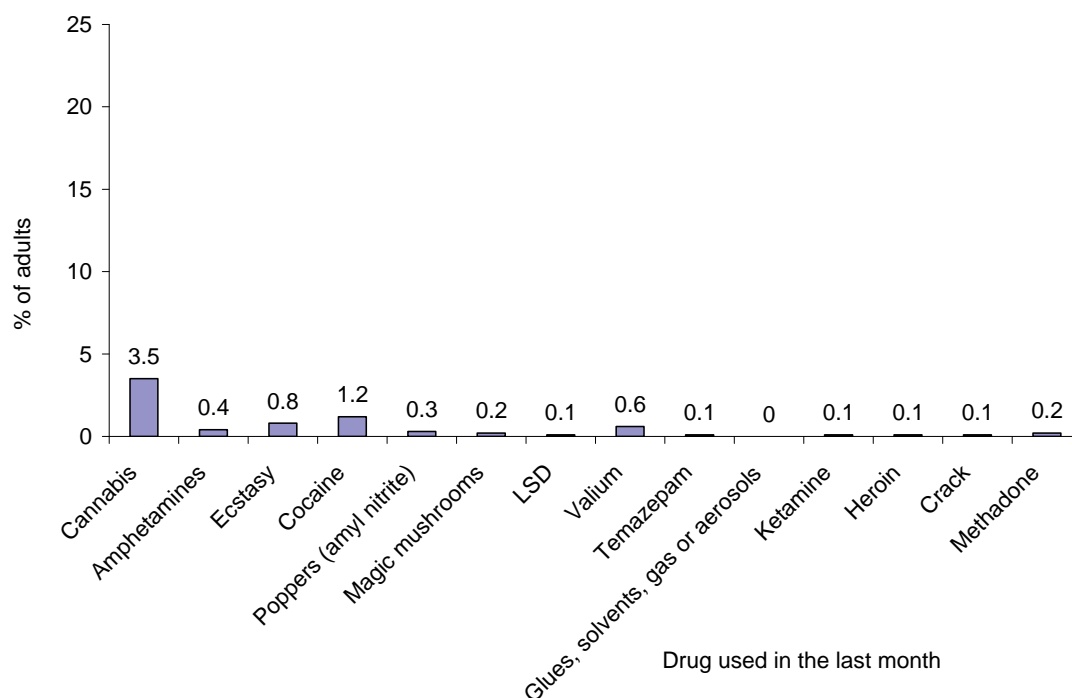
- Cannabis was the most commonly used drug in the *last month* (3.5% of adults reported cannabis use in the month prior to interview)
- Cocaine was the next most commonly used drug in the *last month* (1.2%)
- Almost three times as many adults reported taking cannabis in the *last month* than reported having used cocaine.

¹¹ Less than 0.05% reported having used crystal meth in the last 12 months (2 respondents) and this is not shown in figure 2.5.

Figure 2.6 Proportion of adults aged 16 or over reporting use in the *last month* by drug used ¹²

SCJS 2008-09

Adults aged 16 or over (base: 10,962)



Rebasing the SCJS 2008-09 figures in order to provide a comparison with findings from the SCVS 2006 (i.e. for adults aged 16 – 59 years), shows some consistency in the overall pattern of drug taking, with the same ranking of most commonly cited drugs used in the *last year*.¹³ However, reflecting the fact that the percentage of adults taking any drug in the *last year* was significantly lower than in the SCVS 2006 (section 2.3), findings for individual drugs were also lower for some drugs, notably cannabis, as shown in figure 2.7:

- 11.0% of adults reported taking cannabis in the *last year* in the SCVS 2006 compared with 8.4% of adults in the SCJS 2008-09
- Other significant differences included amphetamines (2.2% in 2006 compared with 1.4% in 2008-09) and magic mushrooms (0.9% in 2006 and 0.4% in 2008-09).

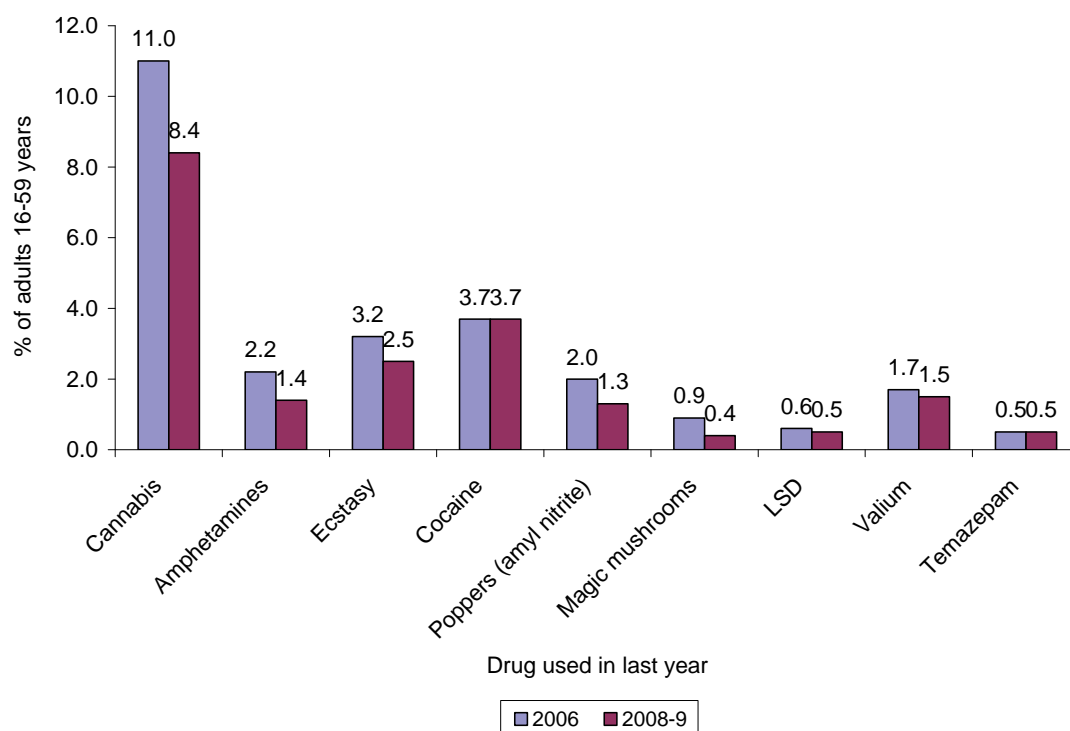
¹² Less than 0.05% of adults aged 16-59 reported use of anabolic steroids (3 respondents), crystal meth (1 respondent), glues, solvents, gas or aerosols (2 respondents) in the last 12 months and these are not shown in figure 2.6.

¹³ In figure 2.7, drugs are ordered from highest to lowest on percentage ever used as measured in the SCJS 2008-09.

Figure 2.7 Trends in the proportion of adults aged 16-59 reporting use of the most prevalent drugs in the *last year* ¹⁴

SCJS 2008-09; SCVS 2006

Adults aged 16-59 (base: 2006 - 3,158; 2008-09 - 7,467)



Findings from the BCS 2008-09 among 16-59 year olds can also be compared with results from the SCJS 2008-09. Across England and Wales, patterns of reported drug use were similar to those found in Scotland, with similar proportions of 16-59 year olds having used cannabis in the *last year* (7.9% England and Wales; 8.4% Scotland), as well as a number of other drugs, including cocaine (3.0% England and Wales; 3.7% Scotland), ecstasy (1.8% in England and Wales; 2.5% in Scotland) and amphetamines (1.2% and 1.4% respectively).

2.6 Variations in self-reported drug use

This section looks at estimates of illicit drug use by gender, age, and a series of other factors.

2.6.1 Variation by gender

Men reported higher levels of illicit drug use than women (figure 2.8):

- Around three in ten (31.3%) men reported taking an illicit drug at *some point in their lives* compared with one in five women (20.4%)

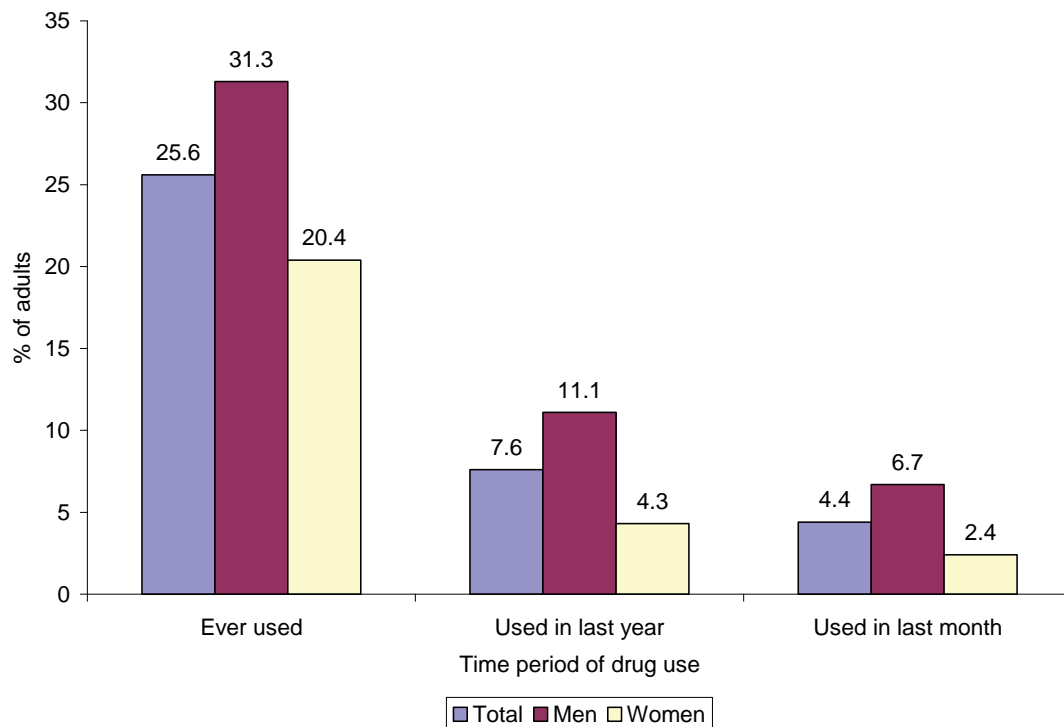
¹⁴ Less than 0.5% of adults aged 16-59 years reported using the remaining drugs during the last year and these are not shown in figure 2.7.

- Over the *last year*, almost three times as many men (11.1%) than women (4.3%) reported taking an illicit drug, a pattern that was repeated for self-reported drug use in the *last month* (6.7% and 2.4% respectively).

Figure 2.8 Variation in self- reported drug use ever, in the *last year* and *last month* among adults aged 16 or over by gender

SCJS 2008-09

Adults aged 16 or over (base: adults - 10,962; men - 4,804; women - 6,158)



This gender difference also extended to composite drug groups and Class. Firstly figure 2.9 shows how reported use in the *last year* varies by gender within the composite drug groups:

- Men were almost three times more likely to have reported using any **stimulant drug** in the *last year* (5.9% compared with 2.1% women)
- 1.2% of men reported using **psychedelics** in the *last year* compared with 0.2% of women
- 1.7% of men reported using **downers / tranquilisers** in the *last year* compared with 0.8% of women
- Less than one percent of men (0.5%) and women (0.1%) reported that they had used **opiates** in the *last year*.

Figure 2.9 Variation in self-reported drug use in the *last year* among adults aged 16 or over by gender within composite drug group

SCJS 2008-09

Adults aged 16 or over (base: adults - 10,962; men - 4,804; women - 6,158)

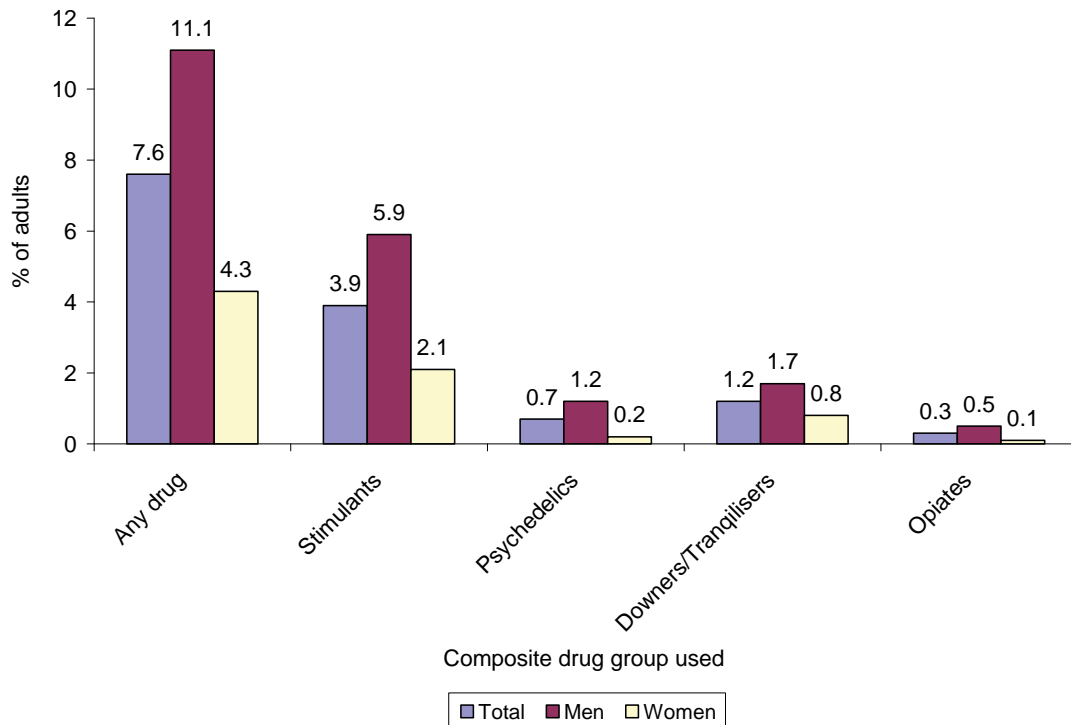


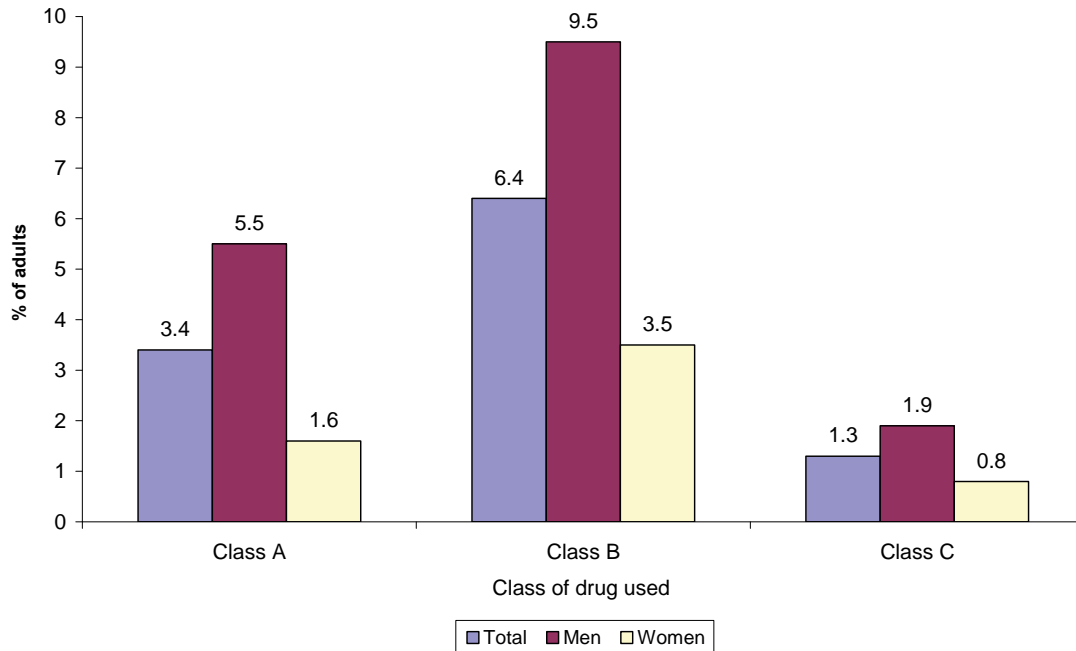
Figure 2.10 shows that:

- Men were also more than three times as likely than women to have reported using one or more **Class A** drug in the *last year* (5.5% and 1.6% respectively)
- Men were more than twice as likely to have reported using one or more **Class B** drug in the last year (9.5% and 3.5% respectively)
- Similarly, men were more than twice as likely to have reported using one or more **Class C** drug in the last year (1.9% and 0.8% respectively).

Figure 2.10 Variation in self-reported drug use in the *last year* among adults aged 16 or over by gender within Class of drug

SCJS 2008-09

Adults aged 16 or over (base: adults - 10,962; men - 4,804; women - 6,158)



The pattern is the same in terms of specific drugs, with 9.2% of men reporting use of **cannabis (Class B)** in the *last year* compared with 3.4% of women, and 4.4% of men having used **cocaine (Class A, stimulant)** compared with 1.1% of women.

2.6.2 Variation by age

In terms of age, the youngest age groups reported the highest levels of drug use in the *last year* and in the *last month* compared with other age groups and prevalence decreased steadily with age:

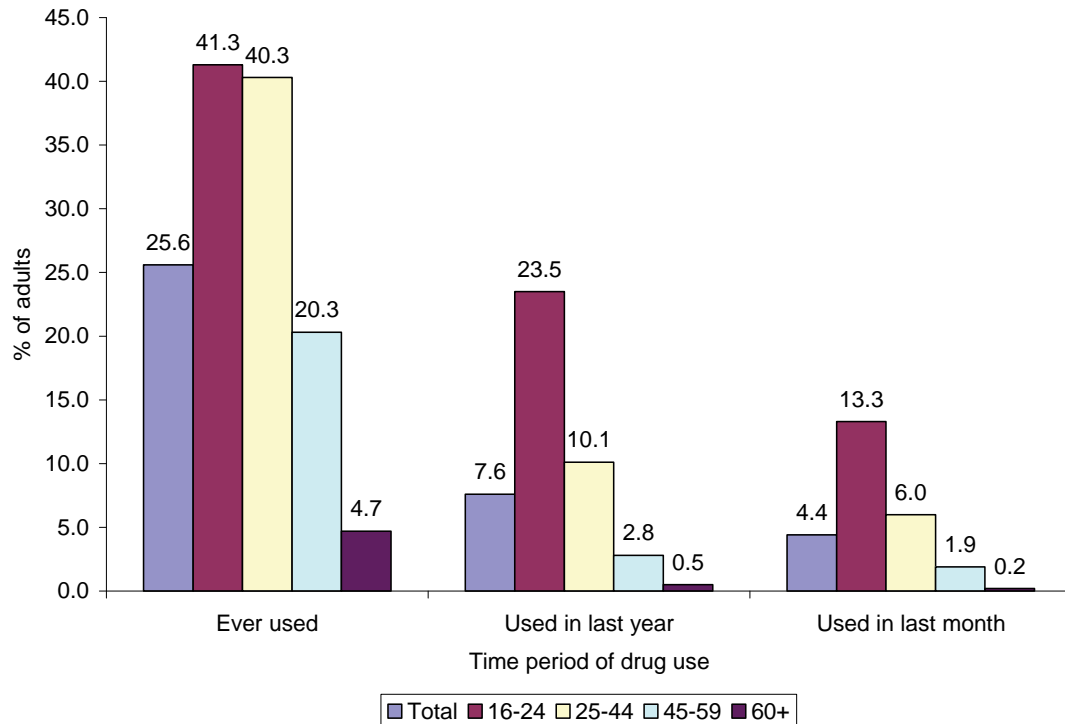
- 23.5% of 16-24 year olds reported using drugs in the *last year*, compared with 10.1% of those aged 25-44, 2.8% of 45-59 year olds and 0.5% of those aged 60 or older
- In the *last month*, 13.3% of 16-24 year olds reported using illicit drugs compared with 6.0% of 25-44 year olds, 1.9% of 45-59 year olds and 0.2% of those aged 60 or over.

However, as figure 2.11 shows similar proportions of 16-24 year olds (41.3%) and 25-44 year olds (40.3%) reported having used illicit drugs *at some point in their lives*, reflecting drug use in the past among these older adults.

Figure 2.11 Variation in drug use ever, in the *last year* and *last month* among adults aged 16 or over by age

SCJS 2008-09

Adults aged 16 or over (base: adults -10,962; 16-24 - 1,003; 25-44 - 3,554; 45-59 - 2,910; 60+ - 3,495)



Those aged 25-44 were most likely to have *ever* used **opiates, psychedelics, tranquilisers or downers** and **Class A** drugs, though in the *last year* the younger age group (16-24 year olds) were more likely to report using all of these, with the exception of **opiates** (see tables A1.5 and A1.6 in annex 1).

2.6.3 Variation by gender and age

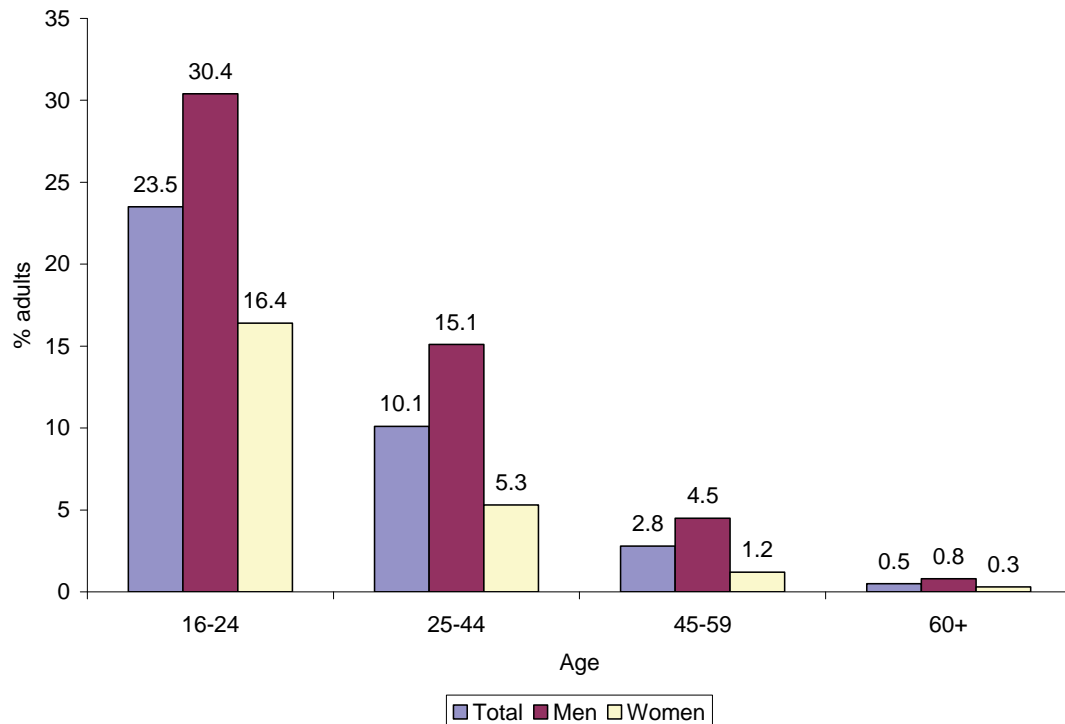
Examining drug use in the *last year* by gender within age shows a consistent pattern to use *ever*, with men in all age cohorts more likely to report using drugs, and a clear association between age and likelihood of use (figure 2.12).

Figure 2.12 Variation in drug use in the *last year* among adults of different age groups by gender

SCJS 2008-09

Adults aged 16 or over (base: adults - 10,962);

Adults in each age range / age group within gender (bases range from age 25-44 – 3,554 to males aged 16-24 - 492)



2.6.4 Variation in drug use by other factors

Variation in drug use in the *last year* among adults aged 16 or over was also investigated by other socio-economic, experiential and area factors. The fact that an association is identified between these factors and drug taking does not imply that one causes the other. Associations were investigated as simple one-to-one relationships rather than more complex statistical ones that take into account links between factors that might be identified through statistical modelling.¹⁵

Factors where differences in drug use between sub-groups were identified included self-reported experience of being a victim of crime as measured by the SCJS 2008-09; socio-economic classification, as measured by National

¹⁵ Statistical modelling would identify the main factors associated with drug use and other factors where association arises through links to these main factors. For example, social housing is more commonly found in deprived areas and private rented accommodation is more common in urban areas, which is also where the vast majority of deprived areas are located. Statistical modelling would establish the extent to which any of these was a factor associated with drug use directly rather than through links to the main factors.

Statistics socio-economic classification (NS-SEC);¹⁶ tenure; area deprivation¹⁷ and urban rural classification.¹⁸

Associations identified included:

- **Victims of crime** as measured by the SCJS 2008-09 were more likely than average to report using illicit drugs in the *last year* (14.6% compared with 7.6% overall)
- Those working in **routine and manual occupations** (9.8%) were more likely to have taken illicit drugs in the *last year* than those who were not working or long-term unemployed (4.6%) and those in managerial and professional occupations (6.0%). 7.7% of those in intermediate occupations had used any drug in the *last year*
- Those living in **private rented accommodation** (17.2%) or in **social rented housing** (11.5%) were more likely to report having used any drug in the *last year* compared with 4.0% of owner occupiers
- Those living in the **15% most deprived areas** of Scotland were more likely to report having used drugs in the *last year* than adults living elsewhere (12.0% compared with 6.8% respectively)
- Those living in **urban areas** (8.6%) were more likely to report having used any drug in the *last year* than adults living in rural areas (3.1%).

2.7 Being offered drugs in the last year

The SCJS 2008-09 estimated that around one in seven (13.7%) adults reported that someone had offered to give or sell them at least one type of drug in the *last year*. The particular drugs offered showed similar patterns to levels of usage of different drugs.

Figure 2.13 shows the proportion of adults aged 16 or over who reported being offered at least one drug within composite drug groups and Class in the *last year*. It also shows the top three individual drugs adults reported being offered:¹⁹

¹⁶ Further details of NS-Sec coding can be found on the ONS website: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/about-statistics/classifications/current/ns-sec/index.html>.

¹⁷ Area deprivation is measured by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SIMD/>

¹⁸ Details of the 2007-2008 Scottish Government urban rural Classification used in this survey can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/233802/0063988.pdf>.

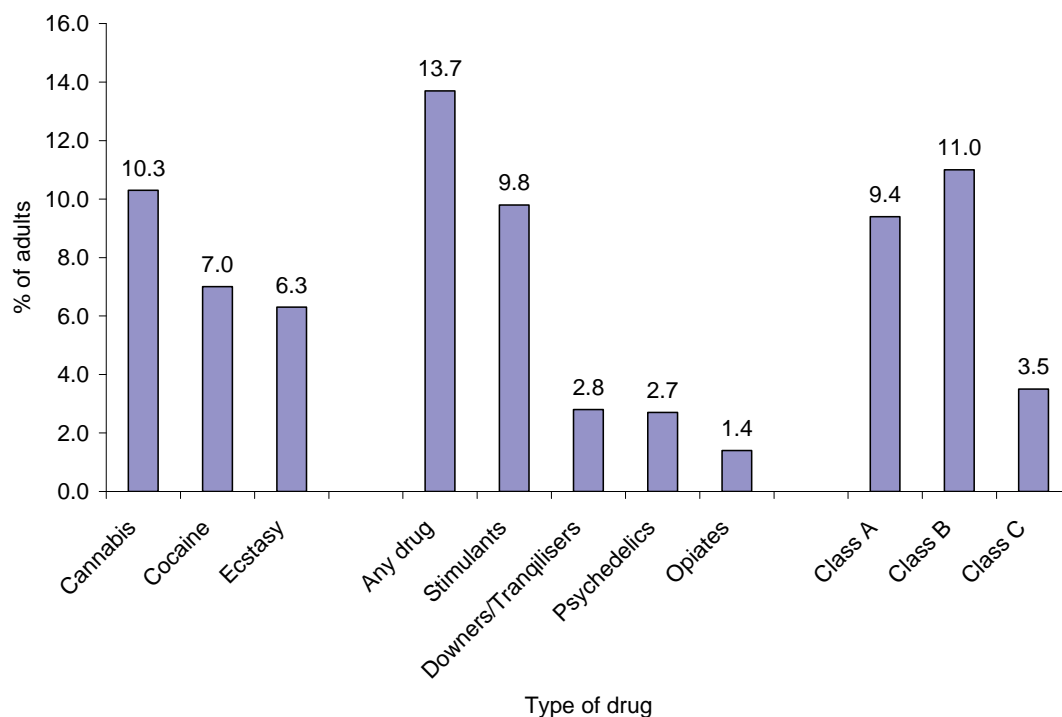
¹⁹ Other individual drugs were offered to 3% of adults or less and are not shown.

- The drug most likely to have been offered to adults aged 16 or over was **cannabis** (10.3%), followed by **cocaine** (7.0%) and **ecstasy** (6.3%) respectively
- One in ten (9.8%) adults had been offered **stimulants** and far fewer had been offered any of the other drug groupings: **downers or tranquilisers** (2.8%); **psychedelics** (2.7%); and **opiates** (1.4%)
- Overall, almost one in ten (9.4%) mentioned being offered at least one **Class A** drug in the last year, 11.0% **Class B** (reflecting Cannabis - 10.3% - being the most likely drug being offered) and 3.5% **Class C**.

Figure 2.13 Proportion of adults aged 16 or over being offered drugs in last year within type of drug

SCJS 2008-09

Adults aged 16 or over (base: 10,962)



There were distinct differences among the main demographic sub-groups in terms of likelihood of being offered drugs in the *last year*, similar to those seen for use.

2.7.1 Variation in being offered drugs by gender

Men were almost twice as likely as women to have been offered drugs in the *last year* (17.9% compared with 9.9% women):

- This difference was most pronounced for stimulants (13.1% men compared with 6.8% women) and Class A drugs (12.8% and 6.2% respectively).

2.7.2 Variation in being offered drugs by age

A relationship with age was also apparent:

- Younger adults were more likely to have been offered any illicit drug in the *last year*, with 41.4% of 16-24 year olds offered illicit drugs compared with 18.1% of 25-44 year olds, 5.5% of 45-59 year olds and 1.5% of those aged 60 or over
- 16-24 year old men (46.2%) were more likely than 16-24 year old women (36.3%) to have been offered any illicit drug
- 16-24 year old women (36.3%) were three times more likely than 25-44 year old women (12.0%) to have been offered illicit drugs.

2.7.3 Variation in being offered drugs by other factors

Variation in reporting of being offered any illicit drug in the last year among adults aged 16 or over also varied by other socio-economic, experiential and area factors. As noted in section 2.6.4, associations were investigated as simple one-to-one relationships and association does not imply a causal relationship.

Factors other than age and gender associated with being offered any drug were similar to those associated with drug use (section 2.6.4).

- **Victims of crime** as measured by the SCJS 2008-09 were more than twice as likely to have been offered drugs in the *last year* compared with non-victims (25.3% compared with 10.6% respectively)
- Those working in **routine and manual occupations** (17.1%) and those in **intermediate occupations** (15.3%) were significantly more likely to have been offered drugs in the *last year* than those in managerial and professional occupations (12.5%) and those who were not working or long term unemployed (6.7%)
- Those living in **private rented accommodation** (30.1%) or in **social rented housing** (18.1%) were more likely to report having been offered any drug in the *last year* compared with 8.6% of owner occupiers
- Those living in the **15% most deprived areas** of Scotland were more likely to report that they had been offered drugs in the *last year* than adults living elsewhere (20.0% compared with 12.6% respectively)
- Those living in **urban areas** (15.2%) were significantly more likely to report having been offered any drug in the *last year* than adults living in rural areas (7.4%).

2.7.4 Variation in being offered any drugs by drug use in the last year

Over one in ten (13.7%) adults aged 16 or over reported that someone had offered to give or to sell them illicit drugs in the *last year* (section 2.7). Among those reporting they had not used any illicit drugs in the *last year*, 8.2% said they had been offered them in that period, demonstrating it was not necessarily the case that those reporting being offered illicit drugs would have actually used any illicit drug.

To explore this further, analysis of those who were offered any illicit drug in the *last year* was carried out to identify the proportion who reported they had or had not used any illicit drug in the *last year*. This analysis showed that 45% of those offered any illicit drug in the *last year* had used any illicit drug in the *last year* and 55% had not.

3 The experience of drug users

3.1 Chapter summary

Drug most commonly reported:

- Of those who had used at least one illicit drug *ever*, almost three in ten (29.6%) reported using at least one drug in the *last year*
 - More than eight in ten (81.2%) of those who had used any illicit drug in the *last year* had used **cannabis** in that time
- Over half (58.4%) of those who had used any illicit drug in the *last year* had also done so in the *last month*
 - Almost eight in ten (79.1%) of those who had used any illicit drug in the *last month* had used **cannabis** in that time
- Around seven in ten of those who had used any drugs in the *last month* reported cannabis as the drug they had taken most often in that period (70.5%).

Frequency of drug use:

- Half (49.1%) of those who had used drugs in the *last month* had used their most frequently used drug on at least a weekly basis, including a fifth (20.9%) who had done so every day or almost every day.

Dependency on drugs

- More than one in five (21.9%) adults reported that they had felt dependent on the drug they used *most often in the last month* while almost four in five (77.7%) said they had not
- Over one in four (27.1%) said they had tried to cut down on their use of the drug they used *most often in the last month*, but found they could not, while almost three in four (72.1%) said they had not tried to cut down
- Almost one in ten (9.5%) of those reporting drug use in the *last month* had, in that period, felt dependent on the drug they used *most often in the last month* and had tried to cut down on it but found they could not.

Access to drugs:

- The majority of adults (87.6%) who used drugs in the *last month* reported that it was easy to get hold of the drug they used most often in that period, including half (48.6%) who claimed it was very easy

Polydrug use:

- Over one third (35.3%) of adults who had used at least one illicit drug in the *last month* reported some kind of polydrug use
 - Around seven in ten (70.6%) of those who had mixed the drug they used *most often in the last month* with any other drug, had mixed **cannabis** with other drugs, reflecting the predominance of cannabis as the drug used *most often in the last month*
 - The drugs that polydrug users were most likely to have *ever* mixed with the drug they used *most often in the last month* were **ecstasy** (56.9%) and **cocaine** (56.1%)
- The majority of adults who had used at least one illicit drug in the *last month* reported drinking alcohol *at some point in their lives* while under the influence of the drug they had *used most often in the last month* (85.3%).

Age of first use:

- Late teens (16-19 years) was the most common age for first using drugs, with half (48.7%) of adults reporting having first tried illicit drugs at this age. Around a quarter (24.1%) of those who had *ever* used drugs first tried them when they were under 16 years of age
- Reflecting its dominance, **Cannabis** was the drug that adults were most likely to have tried first, having been tried first by three-quarters (76.0%) of those who had *ever* used any illicit drug.

3.2 Introduction

This chapter takes a more detailed look at the experiences of adults who reported illicit drug use in the *last year* and / or the *last month*.

Initially it examines drug use in the *last year* and in the *last month* by individual drug.

The chapter then moves on to look at more detailed experiences of drug use in the *last month*, including drugs used, frequency of use, levels of dependency, ease of obtaining drugs and polydrug use.

The chapter concludes by looking at first experiences and methods of drug taking.

3.3 Self-reported drug use in the last year

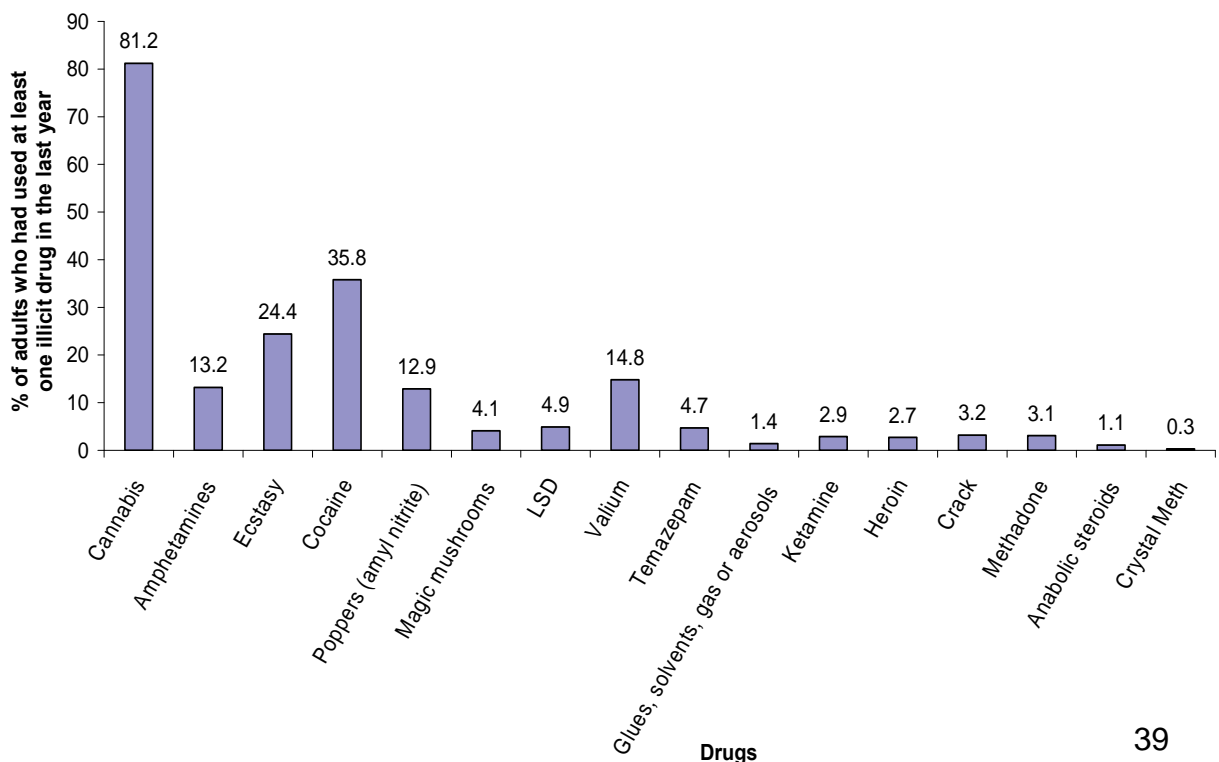
As discussed in chapter 2, a quarter (25.6%) of adults in Scotland reported they had used drugs *at some point in their lives* (SCJS 2008-09). Of these, almost three in ten (29.6%) reported using at least one drug in the *last year*. Figure 3.1 examines this in more detail by individual drug taken in the *last year*. The figure is ranked in order of drugs *ever* used:

- Over eight in ten (81.2%) of those who had used any illicit drug in the *last year* had used **cannabis** in that time
- A little over half (51.2%) of those who had used any illicit drug in the *last year* had used a **stimulant** in that time period. This included 35.8% who had taken **cocaine** in the *last year*, 24.4% who had taken **ecstasy**, 13.2% **amphetamines**, 12.9% **poppers**, 3.2% **crack** and 0.3% who had taken **crystal meth** in the *last year*
- Of those who had taken any drug in the *last year*, 15.8% had taken **downers / tranquilis ers** in the *last year* including 14.8% who had taken **valium** and 4.7% who had taken **temazepam**
- Almost one in ten (9.1%) of those who had used any illicit drug in the *last year* had used a **psychedelic** drug, including 4.9% who reported taking **LSD**, 4.1% taking **magic mushrooms** , and 2.9% taking **ketamine** in the *last year*
- 4.2% of those who had used any illicit drug in the *last year* had taken an **opiate** in that time period. This included 3.1% who had taken **methadone** in the *last year* and 2.7% who had taken **heroin**
- A little over 1% of those using any illicit drug in the *last year* had used **glues, solvents, gas or aerosols** (1.4%) or **anabolic steroids** (1.1%) in the *last year*.

Figure 3.1 Proportion of adults aged 16 or over who had used at least one illicit drug in the last year

SCJS 2008-09

Adults aged 16 or over who had used at least one illicit drug in the *last year* (base: 659)



Examining the use of individual drugs in the *last year* as a proportion of those having used any illicit drug in the *last year* gives an indication of the relative use of different types of drugs within this 12 month time frame. It is also illuminating to examine use of an individual drug in the *last year* as a proportion of those who had *ever* used that individual drug at some point in their lives. This takes into account relative differences in the continuity and scale of use of different drugs over different time periods and may inform discussions on levels of 'dependency' and 'entry-level' drugs:

- Around a quarter of those who reported taking **cannabis** (26.9%) *at some point in their lives* reported using it in the *last year*
- Around three in ten (30.9%) of those who had used at least one type of **stimulant** *at some point in their lives* reported stimulant use in the *last year*. This included **cocaine** (40.9%), where reported use in the *last year* among those adults who had *ever* used this drug was highest for any drug. It also included **crack** (34.4%),²⁰ **ecstasy** (25.6%), **poppers** (15.1%) and **amphetamines** (13.4%)
- Around three in ten (29.7%) of those who reported using at least one type of **opiate** *at some point in their lives* also reported using at least one opiate in the *last year* including almost two in five who had *ever* used **methadone** (38.7%)²¹ and around one in five who had *ever* used **heroin** (21.8%) in the last year
- Almost a quarter (24.0%) who reported *ever* using **downers / tranquilisers** also reported using this type of drug in the *last year*. This included 26.9% of users of **valium** *at some point in their lives* reporting using this in the *last year*. Around one in seven adults who reported use of **temazepam** *at some point in their lives* had also used this drug in the *last year* (14.2%)
- Less than one in ten (8.9%) who reported using **psychedelics** *at some point in their lives* also reported using them in the *last year*. This included 18.2% of those who had used **ketamine** *at some point in their lives* reported that they had used this drug in the *last year*, 7.7% of those who had used **LSD** *at some point in their lives* had also used it in the *last year* and 5.7% of those who had *ever* used **magic mushrooms** had done so in the last year

²⁰ The unweighted base size for those who had ever used crack was 78. This is subject to large confidence intervals so the percentages reported should be used with caution.

²¹ The unweighted base size for those who had ever used methadone was 64. This is subject to large confidence intervals so the percentages reported should be used with caution.

- One in six (16.7%) who reported using **anabolic steroids** *at some point in their lives* had used them in the *last year*²²
- Around one in twenty who reported taking **glues, solvents, gas or aerosols** (4.7%) *at some point in their lives* had used these in the *last year*.

3.4 Self-reported drug use in the last month

Chapter 2 identified that almost one in twenty (4.4%) adults aged 16 or older reported using one or more illicit drug in the *last month*. Figure 3.2 shows use of individual drugs in the *last month* as a proportion of those who had used at least one drug in the *last month* to give a relative indication of the most commonly used drugs.

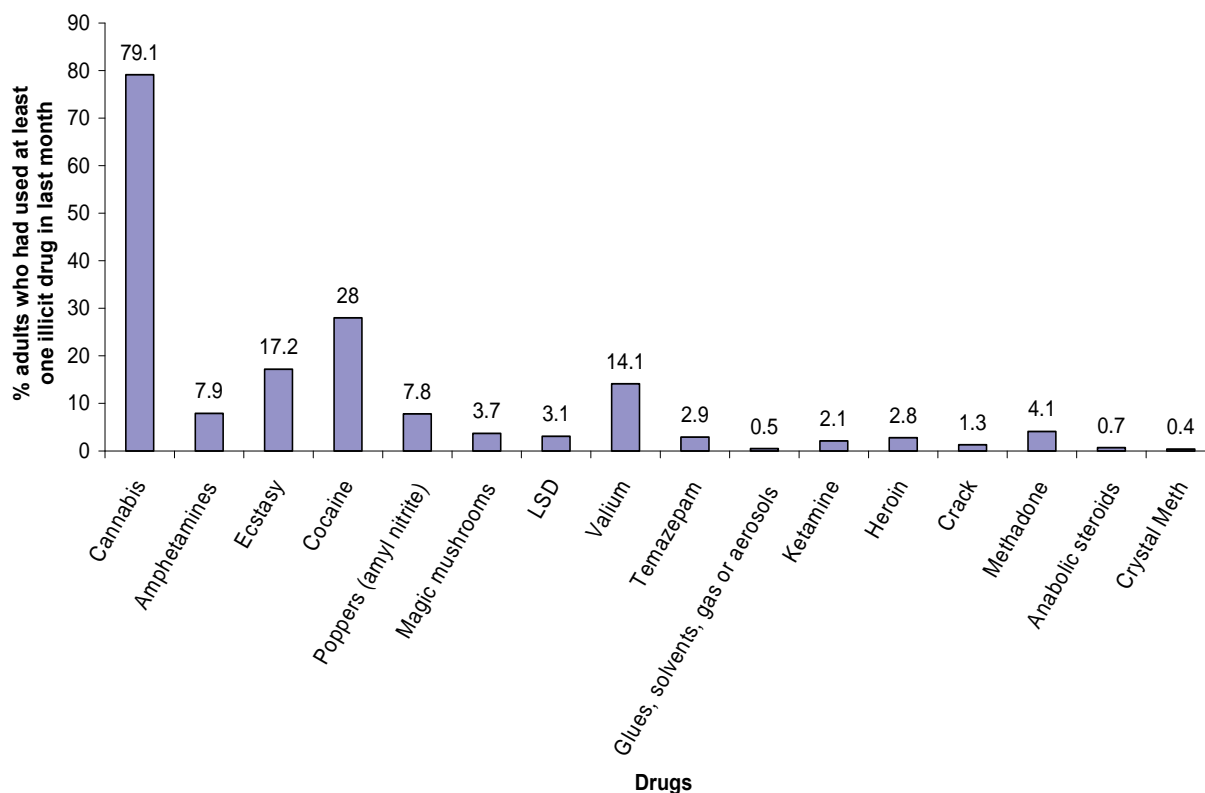
- Almost eight in ten (79.1%) of those who had used any illicit drug in the *last month* reported that they had used **cannabis** in that time period
- Over four in ten (43.7%) of those who had used any illicit drug in the *last month* reported **stimulant** use in that time period. This included 28.0% who had taken **cocaine** in the *last month*, 17.2% **ecstasy**, 7.9% **amphetamines**, 7.8% **poppers**, 1.3% **crack** and 0.4% **crystal meth** in the *last month*
- Of those who had taken any drug in the *last month*, 14.7% had taken **downers / tranquilisers** in the *last month* including 14.1% who had taken **valium** and 2.9% who had taken **temazepam**
- One in fifteen (6.6%) of those who had used any illicit drug in the *last month* had used a **psychedelic** drug, including 3.1% taking **LSD**, 3.7% taking **magic mushrooms**, and 2.1% having taken **ketamine** in the *last month*
- 5.6% of those who had used any illicit drug in the *last month* had taken an **opiate** in that time period. This included 4.1% who had taken **methadone** in the *last month* and 2.8% who had taken **heroin**
- Less than 1% of those using any illicit drug in the *last month* had used **glues, solvents, gas or aerosols** (0.5%) or **anabolic steroids** (0.7%) in the *last month*.

²² The unweighted base size for those who had ever used anabolic steroids was 51 and is subject to large confidence intervals so the percentages reported should be used with caution.

Figure 3.2 Proportion of adults aged 16 or over who had used at least one illicit drug in the last month

SCJS 2008-09

Adults aged 16 or over who had used at least one illicit drug in the last month (base: 384)



Further analysis also examined use of individual drugs and composite drug groups in the last month as a proportion of those using the respective individual drug or drug from the composite group in the last year.²³ Overall, almost three in five (58.4%) of those who reported taking any illicit drug in the last year also reported taking one or more illicit drug in the last month:

- Over half, 56.9% of those who reported taking **Cannabis** in the last year also reported use in the last month
- Around half (49.8%) of those who had used any **stimulant** drug in the last year reported taking these drugs in the last month. This included reported use of **cocaine**, with just under half (45.7%) of those using in the last year also having used it in the last month, and more than four in ten (41.1%) of those using **ecstasy** in the last year reporting using it in the last month. Around a third of those who had used **poppers** (35.5%) or who had used **amphetamines** (35.1%) in the last year had used them in the last month

²³ The base size for the composite drug group Opiates was 38 which means it is not possible to provide further information on Opiate use in the last month among those who had used them in the last year. Similarly it was not possible to report on all individual drugs for the same reason. This is because the SCJS 2008-09 adopts the accepted practice in large scale social surveys of only reporting on results based on 50 or more respondents.

- More than four in ten (42.6%) of those who had used any **psychedelic** drugs in the *last year* reported having used at least one of these in the *last month*²⁴
- More than half (54.4%) of those who had used any of the drugs classified as **downers or tranquilisers** in the *last year* reported having used at least one of these in the *last month*, including 55.8% of those who reported using **valium** in the *last year* who also used it in the *last month*.

3.5 Experience of drug use in last month

Self-reported use of illicit drugs in the *last month* provides information on drugs taken in the most recent time period covered by the SCJS 2008-09. This section looks at the single illicit drug reported as being used most often in the month prior to interview,²⁵ the frequency with which that drug was used and adults' perception of their dependency on that drug. The ease of obtaining the drug used *most often in the last month* and use of additional drugs or alcohol alongside the most frequently used drug (polydrug use) is also examined.

The single drug reported as being used *most often in the last month* extended across a range of drugs with cannabis identified as the predominant drug:

- Around seven in ten of those who had used any drugs in the *last month* reported **cannabis** as the drug they had taken most often in that period (70.5%)
- Over two in ten (21.4%) of those using drugs during the *last month* identified a **stimulant** as their most frequently used drug
 - One in ten (10.3%) reported **cocaine** as their most frequently used drug in the last month, the highest proportion after cannabis. Other stimulants reported as being most used in the last month included **amphetamines** (3.6%), **poppers** (3.6%), **ecstasy** (3.3%) and **crack** (0.7%). No adults reported crystal meth as the drug they used *most often in the last month*
- Fewer adults (4.1%) used a drug from the composite group of **downers / tranquilisers** as the drug they had used *most often in the last month*
 - Among that group, a higher percentage identified **valium** (3.6%) than **temazepam** (0.4%) as the drug they took *most often in the last month*

²⁴ The unweighted base size for those who had used at least one psychedelic drug in the last year was 56 and is subject to large confidence intervals so the percentages reported should be used with caution.

²⁵ Where only one drug was used in the last month this was included in the analysis that follows.

- **Opiates** were used *most often in the last month* by 2.8% of those who had used any illicit drug in that period including **methadone** (1.7%) and **heroin** (1.1%)
- **Psychedelics** were reported as the illicit drug used *most often in the last month* by just 0.3% of users of any illicit drug in that period including **magic mushrooms** (0.2%) and **ketamine** (0.1%). No adults reported LSD as being the drug they used *most often in the last month*
- Less than one per cent of those using any illicit drug in the *last month* had used **anabolic steroids** (0.5%) or **glues, solvents, gas or aerosols** (0.1%) most often in the *last month*
- Among Class of drugs, 17.2% of users of any illicit drug in the last month reported a **Class A** drug as the drug they had used *most often in the last month*, 74.1% reported a **Class B** drug and 4.7% a **Class C** drug.

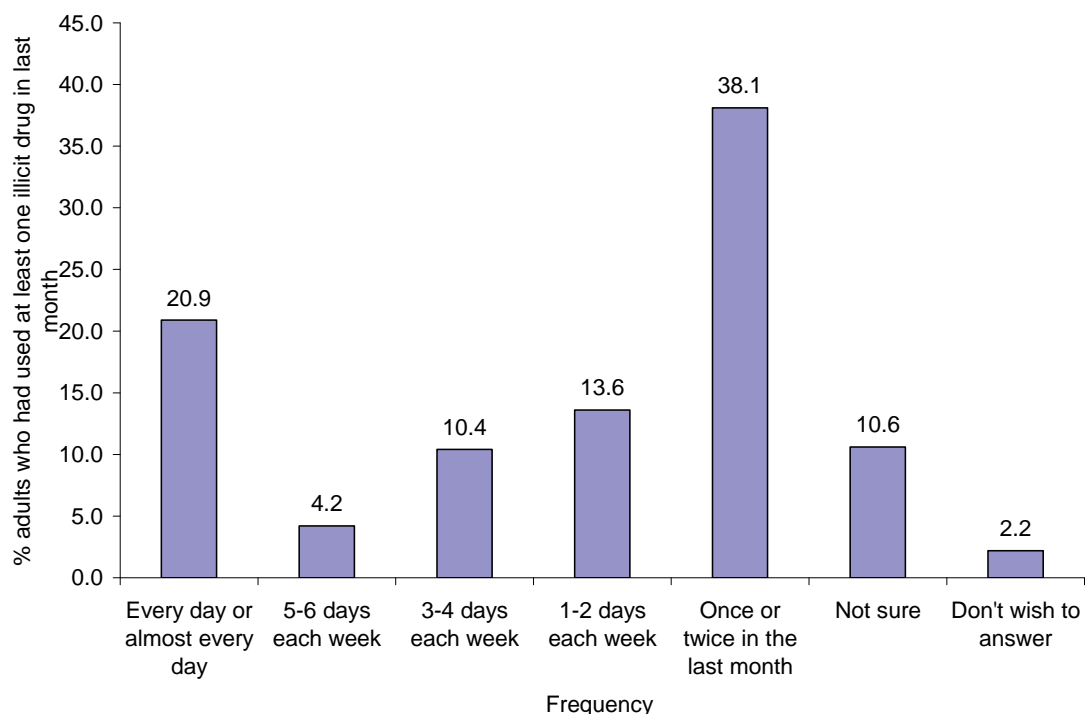
3.5.1 Drug used most often in last month – frequency of use

Half (49.1%) of those who had used drugs in the *last month* had used their most frequently used drug on at least a weekly basis, including a fifth (20.9%) who had done so every day or almost every day. Almost two in five (38.1%) had taken the drug they used most often only once or twice in the previous month (figure 3.3.).

Figure 3.3 Drug used most often in the *last month* - frequency of use

SCJS 2008-09

Base: Adults aged 16 or over who had used at least one illicit drug in *last month* (384)



These findings were broadly consistent among the main demographic, socio-economic and experiential sub-groups. There was variation by area deprivation. Those using drugs in the *last month* living in the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland were significantly more likely to have taken their most frequently used drug every day or almost every day (34.7% compared with 16.3% in the rest of Scotland).

3.5.2 Drug dependency

Two questions relating to dependency on the drug used most often were asked of those who had taken any illicit drug in the *last month*.²⁶

First, those who had used at least one illicit drug in the *last month* were asked whether, in the *last month*, they had felt dependent on the drug they used most often in that period. More than one in five (21.9%) reported they had felt

²⁶ In the discussion that follows it should be noted that the two questions were asked only of the drug the respondent had used most often in the last month. It is possible that a respondent may have felt dependent or tried to cut down on another drug they had used in the last month. If this was the case, the percentages reported in this section would increase had data been collected on this.

dependent on the drug they used *most often in the last month* while almost four in five (77.7%) had not.²⁷

- One in eight (12.6%) of those who had used at least one illicit drug in the *last month* said they felt dependent on or needed to take **cannabis** in that period
- Overall, 4.3% of those who had used at least one illicit drug in the *last month* reported feeling dependent on any **stimulant** drug in that period. This included 1.9% reporting that they felt dependent on **cocaine**, 1.1% on **amphetamine**, 1.1% on **ecstasy** and 0.3% on **crack** in the *last month*. No adults among those who had used at least one illicit drug in the *last month* reported feeling dependent on **poppers** in that period
- Overall, 2.3% of those who had used at least one illicit drug in the *last month* reported feeling dependent on any **downer / tranquiliser** in that period, including 1.5% saying they felt dependent on **temazepam** and 0.7% on **valium** in the last month
- 2.2% of those who had used at least one illicit drug in the *last month* reported feeling dependent on any **opiate** in that period including 1.4% saying they felt dependent on **methadone** and 0.9% on **heroin** in the last month
- No adults among those who had used at least one illicit drug in the *last month* reported feeling dependent on any **psychedelic** drugs in that period
- 0.3% of those who had used at least one illicit drug in the *last month* reported feeling dependent on **anabolic steroids**. No adults who had used at least one illicit drug in the *last month* said they felt dependent on **glues, solvents, gas or aerosols** in that period.

Those who had used at least one illicit drug in the *last month* were also asked whether in the *last month* they had tried to cut down on the drug they used most often in that period, but found they could not. Over one in four (27.1%) said they had tried to cut down on their use of the drug they used *most often in the last month*, but found they could not, while almost three in four (72.1%) said they had not.

- Almost one in five (17.9%) of those using at least one illicit drug in the *last month* reported that they had tried to, but could not, cut down on their **cannabis** intake in the last month

²⁷ As the percentages shown are based on all those using illicit drugs in the last month, the relative size of results for individual drugs reflect the relative size of drug use overall, including the dominance of cannabis.

- Over one in twenty (6.1%) of those taking drugs in the *last month* had tried to cut down on any **stimulant** drug including nearly one in twenty (4.4%) who had tried to, but could not cut down on their **cocaine** use, 0.8% their **amphetamine** use, 0.6% their **ecstasy** use and 0.3% their use of **crack**. No adults among those who had used at least one illicit drug in the *last month* reported feeling dependent on **poppers** in that period
- Of those using at least one illicit drug in the *last month*, 1.9% said they had tried but failed to cut down on **downers / tranquilisers** including 1.2% who had tried and failed to cut down on **temazepam** and 0.7% on **valium** in the last month
- Among those who had used at least one illicit drug in the *last month* 1.2% said they had tried to cut down on their use of any **opiate** but had not been able to. This included 0.7% who had tried, but could not cut down on **heroin** and 0.4% on **methadone**
- No adults among those who had used at least one illicit drug in the *last month* said they had tried to cut down, but could not, on their use of any **psychedelic** drugs in that period
- No adults among those who had used at least one illicit drug in the *last month* said they had tried to cut down on their use of **anabolic steroids** or **glues, solvents, gas or aerosols** and were not able to in that period.

As well as analysing the two questions separately, the percentage saying yes to either question, and to both was also investigated. This showed that almost four in ten (39.5%) of those who had taken at least one illicit drug in the *last month* had, in that period, either felt dependent on the drug they *used most often in the last month* or had tried, but could not cut down on it. Almost one in ten (9.5%) of those who reported drug use in the *last month* had, in that period, felt dependent on the drug they used most often in the *last month* and had tried, but could not cut down on it.

3.5.3 Ease of obtaining drugs in the last month

Those who reported taking drugs in the last month were asked how difficult it was for them to get hold of the drug they had used most often.

The majority of adults (87.6%) who had used drugs in the *last month* reported that it was easy to get hold of the drug they had used *most often in the last month*, including half (48.6%) who claimed it was very easy (figure 3.4).

Figure 3.4 displays how difficult it was for those using at least one illicit drug in the *last month* to obtain the drug they used most often in that period between the SCVS 2006 and the SCJS 2008-09.²⁸

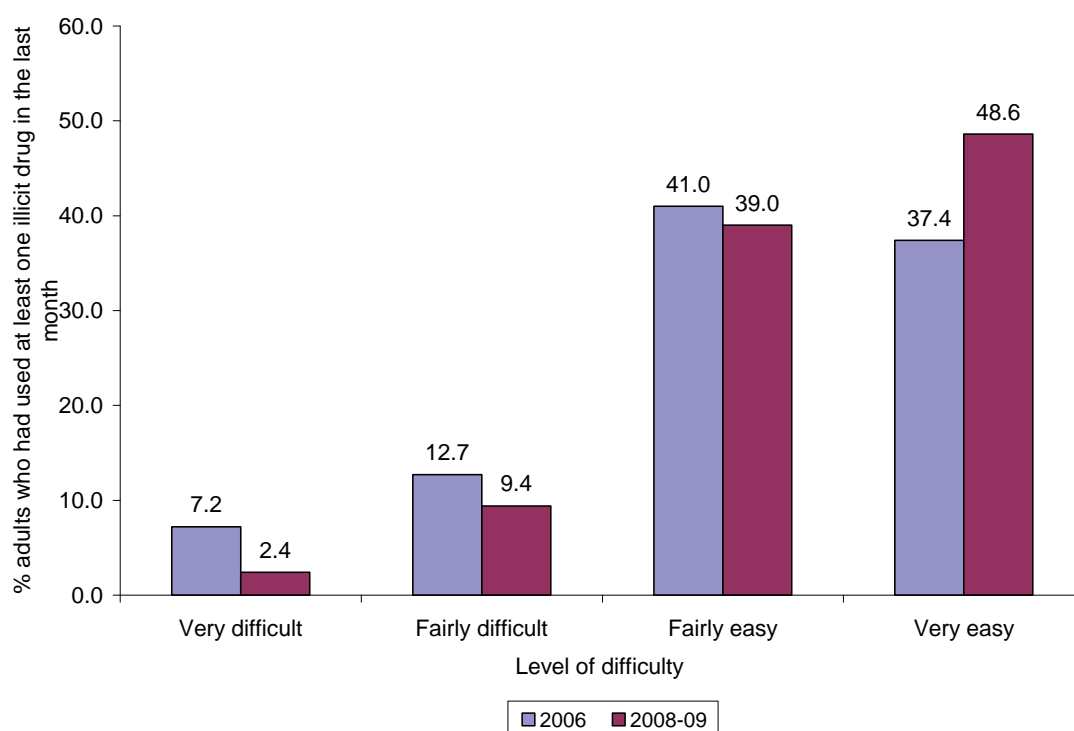
- In SCVS 2006, 78.4% of those using at least one illicit drug in the *last month* reported that it was fairly or very easy to get hold of the drug they reported using most often in that period, compared with 87.6% measured by the SCJS in 2008-09.
 - A significantly lower percentage in the SCVS 2006 (37.4%) indicated that it was very easy to obtain the drug they used *most often in the last month* compared with the SCJS 2008-09 (48.6%)
- In SCVS 2006, almost one in five (19.9%) of those using at least one drug in the *last month* said it was very or fairly difficult to get hold of the drug they used most often in that period, compared with 11.8% in the SCJS 2008-09.
 - A significantly higher percentage said it was very difficult to obtain the drug they used most often in the last month as measured by the SCVS 2006 (7.2%) compared with the SCJS 2008-09 (2.4%).

²⁸ As the 2006 and 2008-09 results are based on users, percentages have not been rebased on 16-59 year olds for this question.

Figure 3.4 Ease of getting hold of drug used most often in *last month*

SCJS 2008-09

Adults aged 16 or over who had used at least one illicit drug in *last month*
(base: 2006 - 223; 2008-09 - 384)



3.5.4 Poly drug use

Polydrug use is the use of more than one drug at the same time, often with the intention of enhancing or countering the effect of another drug. An example is using heroin and cocaine together, a combination known as “speedball”. Polydrug use is distinct from multiple drug use, where users may be taking more than one type of drug over a particular period (Brown and Bolling, 2007).

Polydrug use is a particular concern because of the increased risk to both mental and physical wellbeing, including the risk of overdose due to the interactions between drugs as well as the use of unfamiliar drugs (Hoare 2009). Greater understanding of polydrug use will provide important information for policy making, particularly with regard to prevention and treatment issues.

Adults aged 16 or over who had used at least one illicit drug in the *last month* and had used more than one illicit drug *at some point in their lives*, were asked if they had *ever* used another drug when they were under the influence of the drug they had used *most often in the last month*:

- Over one third (35.3%) reported some kind of polydrug use
 - Men who had used more than one drug *ever* and at least one drug in the *last month* were significantly more likely than women

to have purposefully mixed the drug they used *most often in the last month* with any other illicit drug (41.8% compared with 18.9% women)

- A third (33.0%) of 16-24 year olds who had used more than one drug *ever* and at least one drug in the *last month* said they had mixed the drug they took *most often in the last month* with any other drug, compared with 38.6% of 25-44 year olds.

Around seven in ten (70.6%) of those who had mixed the drug they used *most often in the last month* with any other drug, had mixed other drugs with **cannabis**, reflecting the predominance of cannabis as the drug used *most often in the last month* (section 3.5). More than a third (35.3%) of those who had used cannabis *most often in the last month* had mixed it with one or more other drugs.

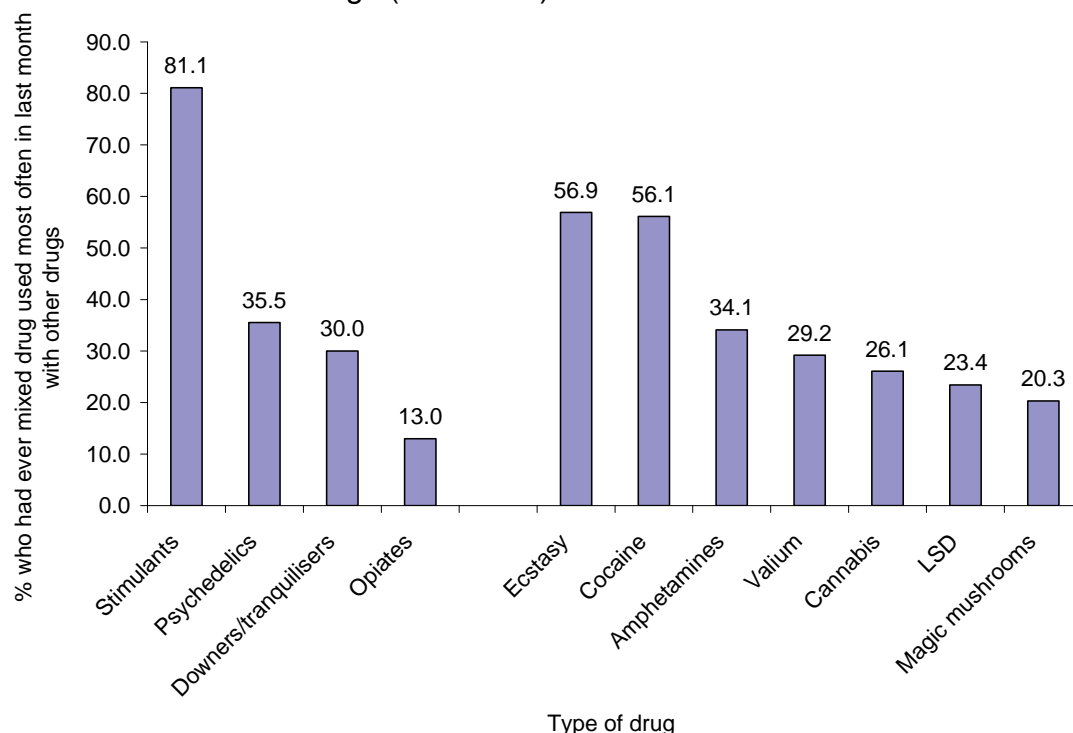
The drugs that polydrug users reported that they had mixed with the drug they took *most often in the last month* are shown in figure 3.5. This shows that:

- The types of drugs polydrug users were most likely to have *ever* mixed with the drug they used *most often in the last month* were **stimulants** (81.1%), in particular **ecstasy** (56.9%), **cocaine** (56.1%), or **amphetamines** (34.1%)
- Over a third of polydrug users (35.5%) had *ever* mixed their most frequently used drug with **psychedelics**, including **LSD** (23.4%) or **magic mushrooms** (20.3%)
- Three in ten (30.0%) had *ever* mixed their most frequently used drug with **downers / tranquilisers**, principally with **valium** (29.2%)
- Over a quarter (26.1%) of polydrug users had *ever* mixed their most frequently used drug with **cannabis**.

Figure 3.5 Drugs most likely to have ever been mixed with drug used most often in the last month

SCJS 2008-09

Adults aged 16 or over who had ever mixed the drug used *most often in the last month* with other drugs (base: 137)



3.5.5 Mixing alcohol with the drug used most often in the last month

The majority of adults who had used drugs in the *last month* also reported drinking alcohol *at some point in their lives* while under the influence of the drug they had used *most often in the last month* (85.3%). This compares with 35.3% who reported *ever* mixing the drug they had used *most often in the last month* with other drugs as seen in section 3.5.4 (figure 3.6).

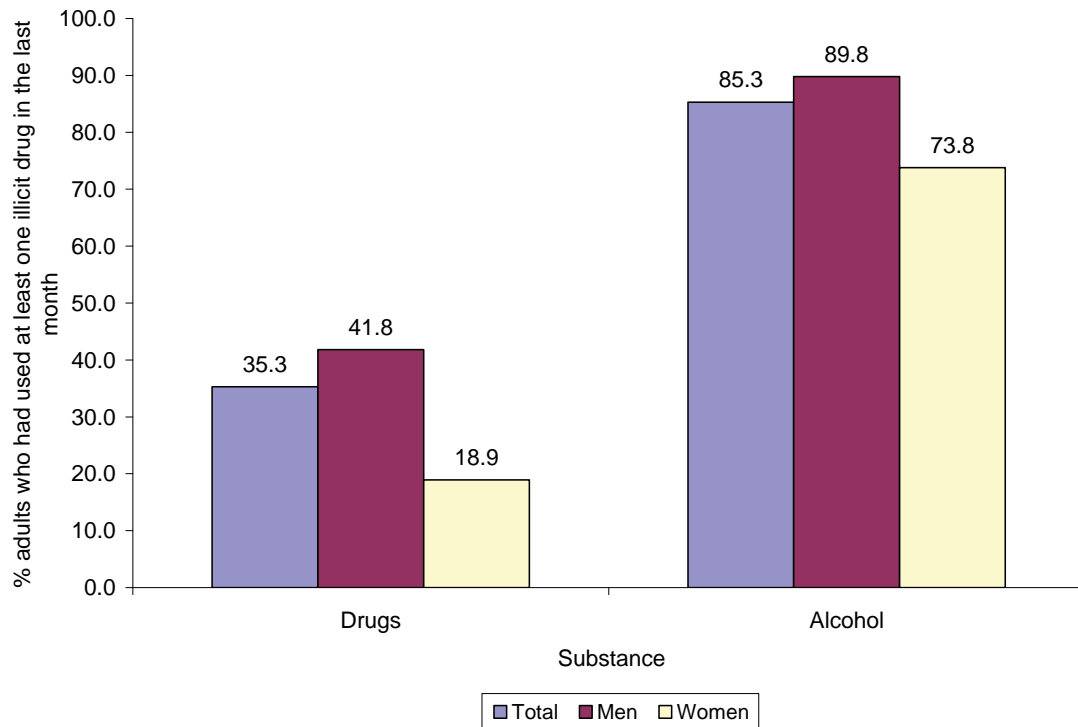
- Over seven in ten (72.2%) of those who had ever mixed the drug they used *most often in the last month* with alcohol, had mixed **cannabis** with alcohol, once again reflecting the predominance of cannabis as the drug used *most often in the last month* (section 3.5)
- Over one in ten (11.6%) reported that they had mixed **cocaine** and alcohol
- Men were more likely than women to have mixed the illicit drug they had used *most often in the last month* with alcohol (89.9% compared with 73.8% of women)

- There was no significant difference between 16-24 year olds (33.0%) and those aged 25-44 (38.6%) in the percentage mixing the drug they had used *most often in the last month* with alcohol.²⁹

Figure 3.6 Proportion ever mixing drug used most often in the last month with other drugs or alcohol

SCJS 2008-09

Adults aged 16 or over who had used at least one illicit drug in *last month* (base: 384)



3.6 Experience of drug use ever

Having examined drug use in the last year and in the last month, this chapter concludes by considering aspects of drug taking among those adults who reported using drugs *at some point in their lives*. This included the age at which the first drug was taken, the drug of first use and the method(s) of drug taking ever tried.

3.6.1 Age at which first drug was taken

All those who reported *ever* having used one or more illicit drugs were asked at what age they first took drugs (figure 3.7).

- Late teens (16-19 years) was the most common age for first trying drugs, with around half (48.7%) having first tried them at this age

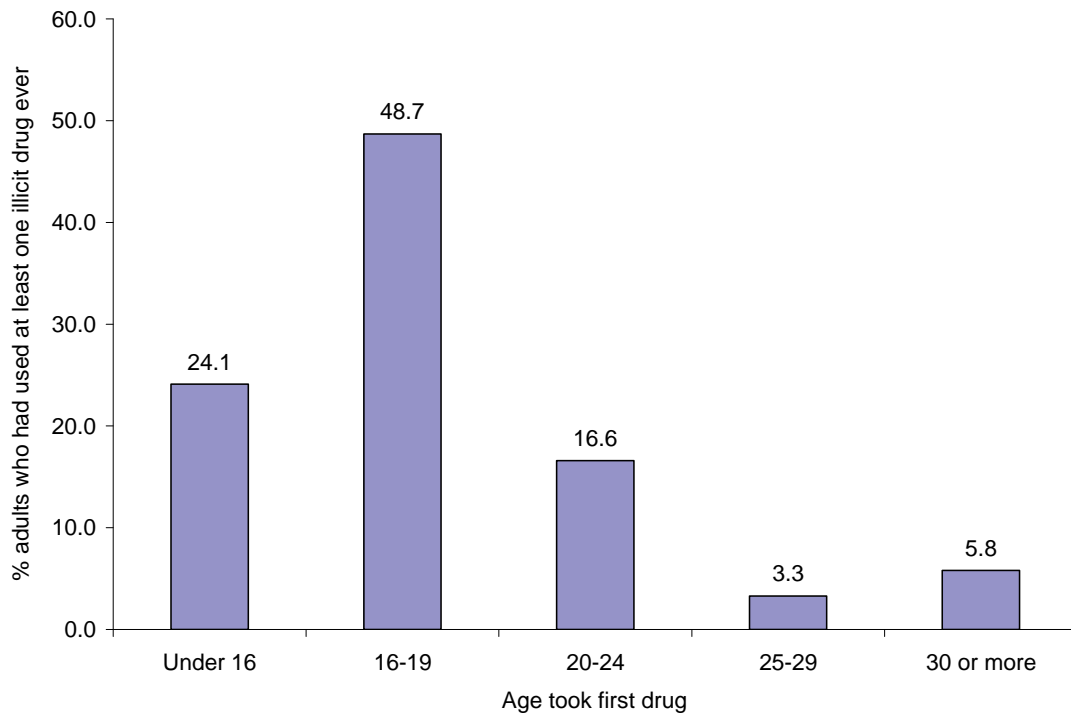
²⁹ Unweighted base sizes for those having taken any drug in the last month among the remaining two age groups, 45 – 59 and 60+, were 55 and 6 respondents respectively and are not reported here.

- Around a quarter (24.1%) of those who had ever used drugs first tried them when they were less than 16 years of age.

Figure 3.7 Age first drug ever taken

SCJS 2008-09

Adults aged 16 or over who had ever used at least one illicit drug (base: 2,614)



- Adults who had ever used drugs living in the **15% most deprived areas** of Scotland were more likely to have first tried any drug when they were between 10-15 years (31.7% compared with 21.5% in the rest of Scotland)
- **Victims of crime** as measured by the SCJS 2008-09 who had ever used drugs were also more likely to have first used drugs when they were aged 10-15 years (29.1% of victims of crime compared with 20.6% for non-victims).

3.6.2 First drug ever used

Adults aged 16 or over who had ever used one or more illicit drug were also asked to indicate the drug they first took. These are shown below in figure 3.8 which is ranked in order of the drugs most commonly used ever.

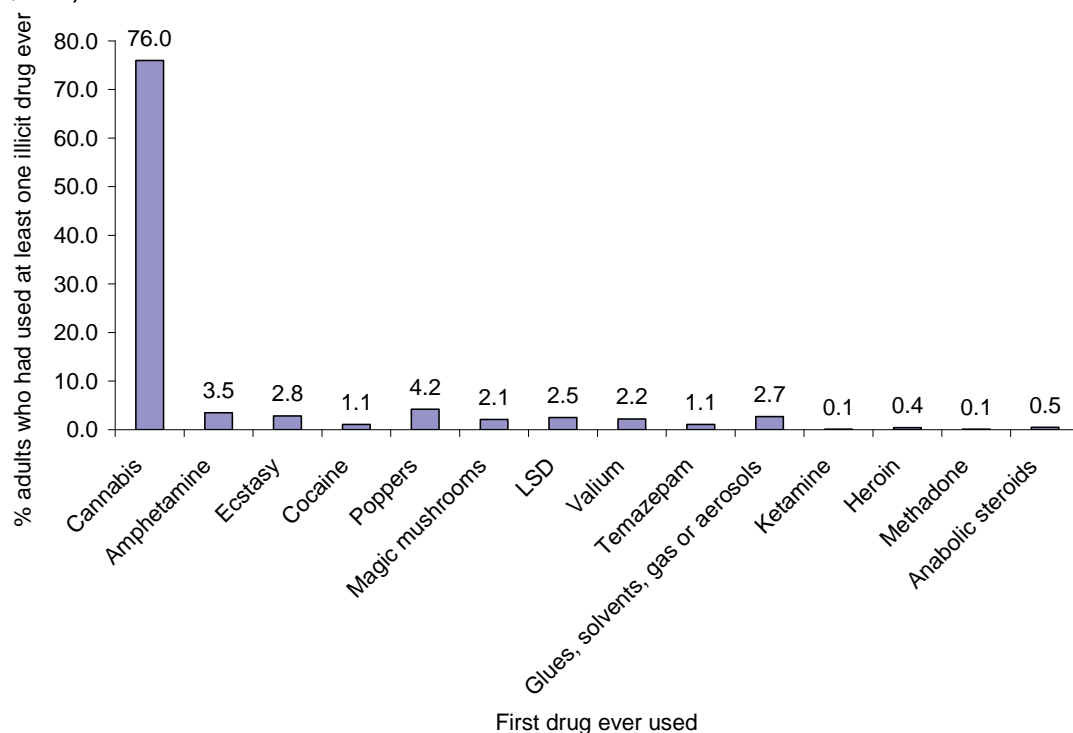
- **Cannabis** was the drug that adults were most likely to have tried first, by three quarters (76.0%) of those who had ever used any illicit drug
- Over one in ten (11.7%) of those who had ever taken any illicit drug reported first taking any **stimulant** with 4.2% mentioning **poppers**, the next most mentioned first-tried drug. Examining other stimulants, 3.5% first took **amphetamines**, 2.8% **ecstasy** and 1.1% **cocaine**

- Almost one in twenty (4.7%) of those using illicit drugs *at some point in their lives* had first used a **psychedelic** drug including **LSD** (2.5%), **magic mushrooms** (2.1%) and **ketamine** (0.1%)
- 3.3% of those who had *ever* taken any illicit drug reported first taking **downers / tranquilis ers** including 2.2% first taking **valium** and 1.1% first taking **temazepam**
- 2.7% of those who had *ever* taken any illicit drug had first taken **glues, solvents, gas or aerosols**.

Figure 3.8 First drug ever used

SCJS 2008-09

Adults aged 16 or over who had *ever* used at least one illicit drug (base: 2,614)



These findings were broadly consistent among the main demographic and socio-economic sub-groups for most drugs first taken. The exception was **valium**,³⁰ which overall was mentioned by 2.2% of adults as the first drug they took:

- This rose to 4.2% of females compared with 0.9% of males who had *ever* used any illicit drug saying **valium** was the first drug they took

³⁰ In the questionnaire, the question wording emphasised that drugs such as Valium given on prescription should not be included, although it is possible that prescription Valium is included in these results. It is not possible to establish this from the questions asked in the SCJS 2008-09.

- 20.6% of those aged 60 or over who had ever used illicit drugs said **valium** was the first drug they used compared with 4.2% of 45-59 year olds; 0.6% of 25-44 year olds and 0.3% of 16-24 year olds who had used drugs *at some point in their lives*.

There were no differences over time in the drug first used. In the SCVS 2006, over three quarters (76.0%) of adults who had ever used illicit drugs said the first drug they tried was **cannabis**, compared with 76.6% as measured by the SCJS in 2008-09.

3.6.3 Methods of taking drugs ever tried

Adults who had ever used any illicit drug were asked which methods of taking drugs they had ever tried.

- The majority (89.2%) of those who reported having ever used drugs said that they had taken them by smoking, sniffing or inhaling them.
- Two in five (38.6%) had also tried swallowing, eating or drinking them.
- Just 1.5% who had used drugs *at some point in their lives* reported that they had injected them.³¹

³¹ 44 respondents said they had ever injected drugs and as a result it is not possible to provide further information about their characteristics or drug use as the SCJS 2008-09 follows accepted practice in social surveys of not reporting variables with a base size below 50.

References

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Annex 1 2008-09 Data tables

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

	Ever used	Used in last year	Used in last month
	%% %		
Class A	11.7	3.4	1.8
Cocaine	6.6	2.7	1.2
Crack	0.7	0.2	0.1
Ecstasy	7.2	1.8	0.8
Heroin	0.9	0.2	0.1
Methadone	0.6	0.2	0.2
LSD	4.9	0.4	0.1
Magic mushrooms	5.5	0.3	0.2
Class B	23.6	6.4	3.6
Amphetamines	7.5	1.0	0.4
Crystal Meth	0.2	*	*
Cannabis	22.9	6.2	3.5
Class C	5.7	1.3	0.8
Anabolic steroids	0.5	0.1	*
Ketamine	1.2	0.2	0.1
Temazepam	2.5	0.4	0.1
Valium	4.2	1.1	0.6
Not classified			
Glues, solvents, gas or aerosols	2.3	0.1	*
Poppers	6.5	1.0	0.3
Any stimulants	12.6	3.9	1.9
Any opiates	1.1	0.3	0.2
Any psychedelics	7.7	0.7	0.3
Any downers / tranquilisers	5.0	1.2	0.6
Any drugs	25.6	7.6	4.4
Bases	10,962	10,962	10,962
Source: SCJS 2008-09			

1. The definition of time periods shown are:
 - a. *Ever*: at any time in an individual's life
 - b. In the *last year*: in the 12 months prior to interview
 - c. In the *last month*: in the month prior to interview
2. 'Any drugs' refers to any of the drugs listed separately above. 'Class' refers to the legal classification of drugs. Composite drug groups include:
 - a. Any stimulants: cocaine, crack, crystal meth, ecstasy, amphetamines and poppers;
 - b. Any opiates: heroin and methadone
 - c. Any psychedelics: LSD, magic mushrooms and ketamine
 - d. Any downers / tranquilisers: temazepam and valium

Table A1.2: Trends in the proportion of adults aged 16-59 who reported having ever used illicit drugs

	2006	2008
	%	%
Class A	17.3	15.7
Cocaine	8.9	9.1
Crack	1.0	0.9
Ecstasy	10.0	9.9
Heroin	1.2	1.2
Methadone	0.8	0.8
LSD	7.8	6.5
Magic mushrooms	7.3	7.4
Class B	n/a	31.4
Amphetamines	14.2	10.1
Crystal Meth	*	0.3
Cannabis	32.9	30.4
Class C	n/a	7.2
Anabolic steroids	*	0.6
Ketamine	1.2	1.7
Temazepam	3.0	3.3
Valium	4.8	5.3
Not classified		
Glues, solvents, gas or aerosols	3.3	3.2
Poppers	9.8	8.9
Any stimulants	n/a	17.1
Any opiates	n/a	1.4
Any psychedelics	n/a	10.4
Any downers / tranquilisers	n/a	6.3
Any drugs	36.6	33.5
Bases	3,158	7,467
Sources: SCJS 2008-09; SCVS 2006		

1. 'Any drugs' refers to any of the drugs listed separately above. 'Class' refers to the legal classification of drugs. Composite drug groups include:
 - a. Any stimulants: cocaine, crack, crystal meth, ecstasy, amphetamines and poppers
 - b. Any opiates: heroin and methadone
 - c. Any psychedelics: LSD, magic mushrooms and ketamine
 - d. Any downers / tranquilisers: temazepam and valium

Table A1.3: Trends in the proportion of adults aged 16-59 who reported having used illicit drugs in the *last year*

	2006	2008
	%	%
Class A	5.2	4.7
Cocaine	3.7	3.7
Crack	*	0.3
Ecstasy	3.2	2.5
Heroin	0.5	0.3
Methadone	*	0.3
LSD	0.6	0.5
Magic mushrooms	0.9	0.4
Class B	n/a	8.7
Amphetamines	2.2	1.4
Crystal Meth	*	*
Cannabis	11	8.4
Class C	n/a	1.7
Anabolic steroids	-	0.1
Ketamine	*	0.3
Temazepam	0.5	0.5
Valium	1.7	1.5
Not classified		
Glues, solvents, gas or aerosols	*	0.1
Poppers	2.0	1.3
Any stimulants	n/a	5.3
Any opiates	n/a	0.4
Any psychedelics	n/a	0.9
Any downers / tranquilisers	n/a	1.6
Any drugs	12.6	10.3
Bases	3,158	7,467
Sources: SCJS 2008-09; SCVS 2006		

1. 'Any drugs' refers to any of the drugs listed separately above. 'Class' refers to the legal classification of drugs. Composite drug groups include:
 - a. Any stimulants: cocaine, crack, crystal meth, ecstasy, amphetamines and poppers
 - b. Any opiates: heroin and methadone
 - c. Any psychedelics: LSD, magic mushrooms and ketamine
 - d. Any downers / tranquilisers: temazepam and valium

Table A1.4: Proportion of adults aged 16 or over who reported having ever used illicit drugs, used illicit drugs in the last year, and used illicit drugs in the last month by gender

	Ever used		Used in last year		Used in last month	
	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Class A	15.8	7.9	5.5	1.6	3.0	0.8
Cocaine	9.6	3.9	4.4	1.1	2.1	0.5
Crack	1.0	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.1	*
Ecstasy	10.0	4.7	3.0	0.8	1.2	0.3
Heroin	1.3	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.2	*
Methadone	0.8	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1
LSD	7.6	2.4	0.7	0.1	0.3	*
Magic mushrooms	8.6	2.7	0.6	0.1	0.3	-
Class B	29.4	18.3	9.5	3.5	5.5	1.9
Amphetamines	10.0	5.1	1.5	0.5	0.5	0.2
Crystal Meth	0.3	0.2	*	-	*	-
Cannabis	28.6	17.7	9.2	3.4	5.4	1.8
Class C	7.5	4.0	1.9	0.8	1.1	0.4
Anabolic steroids	0.8	0.2	0.2	*	0.1	*
Ketamine	2.0	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.2	*
Temazepam	3.6	1.5	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.1
Valium	5.4	3.1	1.6	0.7	0.9	0.4
Not classified						
Glues, solvents, gas or aerosols	3.5	1.3	0.2	0.1	*	*
Poppers	9.3	4.0	1.4	0.6	0.5	0.2
Any stimulants	16.3	9.2	5.9	2.1	3.1	0.9
Any opiates	1.4	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.4	0.1
Any psychedelics	11.6	4.2	1.2	0.2	0.6	0.1
Any downers / tranquilisers	6.5	3.6	1.7	0.8	0.9	0.4
Any drugs	31.3	20.4	11.1	4.3	6.7	2.4
Bases	4,804	6,158	4,804	6,158	4,804	6,158
Source: SCJS 2008-09						

1. The definition of time periods shown are:
 - a. *Ever*: at any time in an individual's life
 - b. In the *last year*: in the 12 months prior to interview
 - c. In the *last month*: in the month prior to interview
2. 'Any drugs' refers to any of the drugs listed separately above. 'Class' refers to the legal classification of drugs. Composite drug groups include:
 - a. Any stimulants: cocaine, crack, crystal meth, ecstasy, amphetamines and poppers
 - b. Any opiates: heroin and methadone
 - c. Any psychedelics: LSD, magic mushrooms and ketamine
 - d. Any downers / tranquilisers: temazepam and valium

Table A1.5: Proportion of adults aged 16 or over who reported having ever used illicit drugs by age group

	All adults	16-24	25-44	45-59	60+
	%	%	%	%	%
Class A	11.7	18.1	21.2	7.2	0.9
Cocaine	6.6	13.6	11.9	2.7	0.2
Crack	0.7	0.9	1.4	0.3	0.1
Ecstasy	7.2	13.8	14.0	2.2	0.3
Heroin	0.9	0.7	1.6	1.0	0.1
Methadone	0.6	0.6	1.2	0.3	0.1
LSD	4.9	3.4	10.4	3.4	0.5
Magic mushrooms	5.5	4.6	11.3	4.0	0.3
Class B	23.6	39.4	38.0	18.1	3.2
Amphetamines	7.5	9.3	15.2	4.0	0.4
Crystal Meth	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.1	*
Cannabis	22.9	38.7	36.5	17.7	3.2
Class C	5.7	8.3	9.7	3.2	1.6
Anabolic steroids	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.2
Ketamine	1.2	2.3	2.3	0.4	*
Temazepam	2.5	1.7	5.7	1.2	0.4
Valium	4.2	6.8	6.8	2.3	1.3
Not classified					
Glues, solvents, gas or aerosols	2.3	3.7	4.9	0.6	*
Poppers	6.5	13.3	12.3	2.0	0.1
Any stimulants	12.6	22.8	23.1	5.9	0.7
Any opiates	1.1	1.1	1.9	1.0	0.2
Any psychedelics	7.7	7.5	15.4	5.6	0.6
Any downers / tranquilisers	5.0	7.1	8.6	2.8	1.5
Any drugs	25.6	41.3	40.3	20.3	4.7
Bases	10,962	1,003	3,554	2,910	3,495
Source: SCJS 2008-09					

1. 'Any drugs' refers to any of the drugs listed separately above. 'Class' refers to the legal classification of drugs. Composite drug groups include:
 - a. Any stimulants: cocaine, crack, crystal meth, ecstasy, amphetamines and poppers
 - b. Any opiates: heroin and methadone
 - c. Any psychedelics: LSD, magic mushrooms and ketamine
 - d. Any downers / tranquilisers: temazepam and valium

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

	All adults	16-24	25-44	45-59	60+
	%	%	%	%	%
Class A	3.4	9.8	5.4	0.9	0.1
Cocaine	2.7	7.8	4.3	0.6	*
Crack	0.2	0.5	0.4	*	*
Ecstasy	1.8	6.1	2.6	0.4	*
Heroin	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1
Methadone	0.2	0.2	0.6	0.1	-
LSD	0.4	1.3	0.5	*	-
Magic mushrooms	0.3	0.9	0.5	0.1	-
Class B	6.4	20.9	8.2	2.4	0.3
Amphetamines	1.0	3.1	1.3	0.4	*
Crystal Meth	*	0.1	*	-	-
Cannabis	6.2	20.3	7.8	2.2	0.3
Class C	1.3	3.1	2.0	0.6	0.2
Anabolic steroids	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	*
Ketamine	0.2	0.7	0.3	*	-
Temazepam	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.2	*
Valium	1.1	2.9	1.7	0.4	0.2
Not classified					
Glues, solvents, gas or aerosols	0.1	0.6	*	*	-
Poppers	1.0	4.2	1.0	0.2	-
Any stimulants	3.9	11.9	5.7	1.1	0.1
Any opiates	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.1	0.1
Any psychedelics	0.7	2.1	1.0	0.2	-
Any downers / tranquilisers	1.2	2.9	1.8	0.5	0.2
Any drugs	7.6	23.5	10.1	2.8	0.5
Bases	10,962	1,003	3,554	2,910	3,495
Source: SCJS 2008-09					

1. 'Any drugs' refers to any of the drugs listed separately above. 'Class' refers to the legal classification of drugs. Composite drug groups include:
 - a. Any stimulants: cocaine, crack, crystal meth, ecstasy, amphetamines and poppers
 - b. Any opiates: heroin and methadone
 - c. Any psychedelics: LSD, magic mushrooms and ketamine
 - d. Any downers / tranquilisers: temazepam and valium

Table A1.7: Proportion of adults aged 16 or over who reported having used illicit drugs in the *last month* by age group

	All adults	16-24	25-44	45-59	60+
	%	%	%	%	%
Class A	1.8	5.6	2.7	0.4	0.1
Cocaine	1.2	4.2	1.8	0.2	*
Crack	0.1	*	0.1	-	*
Ecstasy	0.8	2.3	1.2	0.2	*
Heroin	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Methadone	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.1	-
LSD	0.1	0.4	0.2	-	-
Magic mushrooms	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.1	-
Class B	3.6	10.9	4.8	1.7	0.1
Amphetamines	0.4	1.1	0.5	0.1	*
Crystal Meth	*	0.1	-	-	-
Cannabis	3.5	10.6	4.7	1.6	0.1
Class C	0.8	1.8	1.2	0.3	0.1
Anabolic steroids	*	-	0.1	-	-
Ketamine	0.1	0.4	0.1	-	-
Temazepam	0.1	0.2	0.3	*	*
Valium	0.6	1.5	1.0	0.3	*
Not classified					
Glues, solvents, gas or aerosols	*	0.2	-	-	-
Poppers	0.3	1.2	0.4	0.2	-
Any stimulants	1.9	6.1	2.7	0.6	0.1
Any opiates	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.1	0.1
Any psychedelics	0.3	0.9	0.4	0.1	-
Any downers / tranquilisers	0.6	1.5	1.0	0.3	0.1
Any drugs	4.4	13.3	6.0	1.9	0.2
Bases	10,962	1,003	3,554	2,910	3,495
Source: SCJS 2008-09					

1. 'Any drugs' refers to any of the drugs listed separately above. 'Class' refers to the legal classification of drugs. Composite drug groups include:
 - a. Any stimulants: cocaine, crack, crystal meth, ecstasy, amphetamines and poppers
 - b. Any opiates: heroin and methadone
 - c. Any psychedelics: LSD, magic mushrooms and ketamine
 - d. Any downers / tranquilisers: temazepam and valium

Table A1.8: Proportion of men aged 16 or over who reported having ever used illicit drugs by age group

	All men	16-24	25-44	45-59	60+
	%	%	%	%	%
Class A	15.8	21.8	28.1	10.3	1.3
Cocaine	9.6	17.0	17.3	4.1	0.4
Crack	1.0	1.0	2.1	0.6	0.1
Ecstasy	10.0	16.1	19.5	3.2	0.4
Heroin	1.3	0.9	2.4	1.3	0.2
Methadone	0.8	0.7	1.6	0.5	-
LSD	7.6	6.1	15.5	5.2	0.8
Magic mushrooms	8.6	7.2	16.9	6.4	0.6
Class B	29.4	44.5	45.1	23.9	4.9
Amphetamines	10.0	11.0	19.9	5.9	0.4
Crystal Meth	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.2	-
Cannabis	28.6	44.1	43.3	23.3	4.9
Class C	7.5	10.7	13.9	2.9	4.9
Anabolic steroids	0.8	1.2	1.3	0.5	0.2
Ketamine	2.0	3.6	3.6	0.7	0.1
Temazepam	3.6	2.5	8.2	1.4	0.5
Valium	5.4	8.6	9.5	2.0	1.3
Not classified					
Glues, solvents, gas or aerosols	3.5	4.7	7.4	0.9	0.1
Poppers	9.3	16.5	17.3	3.3	0.1
Any stimulants	16.3	25.5	29.8	8.2	0.9
Any opiates	1.4	1.2	2.6	1.3	0.2
Any psychedelics	11.6	11.9	21.9	8.3	0.9
Any downers / tranquilisers	6.5	9.2	12.0	2.4	1.7
Any drugs	31.3	46.1	47.4	26.0	6.3
Bases	4,804	492	1,501	1,305	1,506
Source: SCJS 2008-09					

1. 'Any drugs' refers to any of the drugs listed separately above. 'Class' refers to the legal classification of drugs. Composite drug groups include:
 - a. Any stimulants: cocaine, crack, crystal meth, ecstasy, amphetamines and poppers
 - b. Any opiates: heroin and methadone
 - c. Any psychedelics: LSD, magic mushrooms and ketamine
 - d. Any downers / tranquilisers: temazepam and valium

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

	All men	16-24	25-44	45-59	60+
	%	%	%	%	%
Class A	5.5	12.5	9.0	1.8	0.2
Cocaine	4.4	10.4	7.3	1.3	0.1
Crack	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.1	0.1
Ecstasy	3.0	7.9	4.6	0.8	0.1
Heroin	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.3	0.2
Methadone	0.3	0.2	0.8	0.2	-
LSD	0.7	2.3	0.9	-	-
Magic mushrooms	0.6	1.4	0.9	0.2	-
Class B	9.5	2.8	12.1	3.7	0.6
Amphetamines	1.5	4.5	1.8	0.8	0.1
Crystal Meth	*	0.2	*	-	-
Cannabis	9.2	27.3	11.9	3.5	0.5
Class C	1.9	4.5	2.9	0.8	0.3
Anabolic steroids	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.2	-
Ketamine	0.4	1.2	0.6	*	-
Temazepam	0.5	0.6	1.1	0.2	0.1
Valium	1.6	4.2	2.2	0.5	0.2
Not classified					
Glues, solvents, gas or aerosols	0.2	0.9	0.1	-	-
Poppers	1.4	4.7	1.7	0.5	-
Any stimulants	5.9	14.0	9.4	2.1	0.1
Any opiates	0.5	0.3	1.0	0.3	0.2
Any psychedelics	1.2	3.5	1.9	0.2	-
Any downers / tranquilisers	1.7	4.2	2.5	0.5	0.3
Any drugs	11.1	30.4	15.1	4.5	0.8
Bases	4,804	492	1,501	1,305	1,506
Source: SCJS 2008-09					

1. 'Any drugs' refers to any of the drugs listed separately above. 'Class' refers to the legal classification of drugs. Composite drug groups include:
 - a. Any stimulants: cocaine, crack, crystal meth, ecstasy, amphetamines and poppers
 - b. Any opiates: heroin and methadone
 - c. Any psychedelics: LSD, magic mushrooms and ketamine
 - d. Any downers / tranquilisers: temazepam and valium

Table A1.10: Proportion of men aged 16 or over who reported having used illicit drugs in the *last month* by age group

	All men	16-24	25-44	45-59	60+
	%	%	%	%	%
Class A	3.0	7.7	4.7	0.8	0.2
Cocaine	2.1	5.9	3.2	0.3	0.1
Crack	0.1	-	0.3	-	0.1
Ecstasy	1.2	2.6	2.1	0.3	0.1
Heroin	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2
Methadone	0.3	0.2	0.6	0.2	-
LSD	0.3	0.8	0.4	-	-
Magic mushrooms	0.3	1.1	0.4	0.2	-
Class B	5.5	14.2	7.3	3.2	0.2
Amphetamines	0.5	1.3	0.7	0.3	0.1
Crystal Meth	*	0.2	-	-	-
Cannabis	5.4	14.2	7.2	3.0	0.1
Class C	1.1	2.7	1.6	0.4	0.2
Anabolic steroids	0.1	-	0.2	-	-
Ketamine	0.2	0.6	0.2	-	-
Temazepam	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1
Valium	0.9	2.2	1.2	0.4	0.1
Not classified					
Glues, solvents, gas or aerosols	*	0.2	-	-	-
Poppers	0.5	1.2	0.6	0.4	-
Any stimulants	3.1	7.7	4.6	1.2	0.1
Any opiates	0.4	0.3	0.8	0.2	0.2
Any psychedelics	0.6	1.7	0.7	0.2	-
Any downers / tranquilisers	0.9	2.2	1.3	0.4	0.2
Any drugs	6.7	17.3	8.8	3.5	0.4
Bases	4,804	492	1,501	1,305	1,506
Source: SCJS 2008-09					

1. 'Any drugs' refers to any of the drugs listed separately above. 'Class' refers to the legal classification of drugs. Composite drug groups include:
 - a. Any stimulants: cocaine, crack, crystal meth, ecstasy, amphetamines and poppers
 - b. Any opiates: heroin and methadone
 - c. Any psychedelics: LSD, magic mushrooms and ketamine
 - d. Any downers / tranquilisers: temazepam and valium

Table A1.11: Proportion of women aged 16 or over who reported having ever used illicit drugs by age group

	All women	16-24	25-44	45-59	60+
	%	%	%	%	%
Class A	7.9	14.2	14.6	4.3	0.7
Cocaine	3.9	10.0	6.9	1.4	0.1
Crack	0.4	0.7	0.8	0.1	0.1
Ecstasy	4.7	11.5	8.7	1.2	0.1
Heroin	0.6	0.6	1.0	0.7	*
Methadone	0.4	0.5	0.9	0.2	0.1
LSD	2.4	0.5	5.7	1.7	0.2
Magic mushrooms	2.7	1.9	6.0	1.8	0.2
Class B	18.3	34.0	31.1	12.6	1.9
Amphetamines	5.1	7.5	10.8	2.1	0.3
Crystal Meth	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.1	*
Cannabis	17.7	33.0	29.9	12.5	1.8
Class C	4.0	5.8	5.7	3.6	1.5
Anabolic steroids	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1
Ketamine	0.5	1.0	1.1	0.2	-
Temazepam	1.5	0.9	3.2	1.0	0.3
Valium	3.1	4.8	4.3	2.6	1.4
Not classified					
Glues, solvents, gas or aerosols	1.3	2.7	2.5	0.3	-
Poppers	4.0	10.0	7.5	0.7	*
Any stimulants	9.2	20.0	16.7	3.8	0.5
Any opiates	0.7	1.0	1.2	0.7	0.2
Any psychedelics	4.2	3.0	9.3	3.0	0.4
Any downers / tranquilisers	3.6	5.0	5.3	3.2	1.4
Any drugs	20.4	36.3	33.4	14.8	3.5
Bases	6,158	511	2,053	1,605	1,989
Source: SCJS 2008-09					

1. 'Any drugs' refers to any of the drugs listed separately above. 'Class' refers to the legal classification of drugs. Composite drug groups include:
 - a. Any stimulants: cocaine, crack, crystal meth, ecstasy, amphetamines and poppers
 - b. Any opiates: heroin and methadone
 - c. Any psychedelics: LSD, magic mushrooms and ketamine
 - d. Any downers / tranquilisers: temazepam and valium

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

	All women	16-24	25-44	45-59	60+
	%	%	%	%	%
Class A	1.6	7.0	2.0	0.1	-
Cocaine	1.1	5.1	1.4	-	-
Crack	0.1	0.4	0.1	-	-
Ecstasy	0.8	4.3	0.7	-	-
Heroin	0.1	0.2	0.2	-	-
Methadone	0.1	0.1	0.3	-	-
LSD	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.1	-
Magic mushrooms	0.1	0.3	0.1	-	-
Class B	3.5	13.4	4.4	1.0	0.1
Amphetamines	0.5	1.7	0.9	0.1	-
Crystal Meth	-	-	-	-	-
Cannabis	3.4	13.1	4.0	1.0	0.1
Class C	0.8	1.7	1.3	0.4	0.2
Anabolic steroids	*	-	*	-	*
Ketamine	0.1	0.2	0.1	-	-
Temazepam	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	*
Valium	0.7	1.5	1.2	0.3	0.2
Not classified					
Glues, solvents, gas or aerosols	0.1	0.3	-	0.1	-
Poppers	0.6	3.7	0.3	-	-
Any stimulants	2.1	9.7	2.2	0.1	-
Any opiates	0.1	0.2	0.3	-	-
Any psychedelics	0.2	0.6	0.2	0.1	-
Any downers / tranquilisers	0.8	1.5	1.2	0.4	0.2
Any drugs	4.3	16.4	5.3	1.2	0.3
Bases	6,158	511	2,053	1,605	1,989
Source: SCJS 2008-09					

1. 'Any drugs' refers to any of the drugs listed separately above. 'Class' refers to the legal classification of drugs. Composite drug groups include:
 - a. Any stimulants: cocaine, crack, crystal meth, ecstasy, amphetamines and poppers
 - b. Any opiates: heroin and methadone
 - c. Any psychedelics: LSD, magic mushrooms and ketamine
 - d. Any downers / tranquilisers: temazepam and valium

Table A1.13: Proportion of women aged 16 or over who reported having used illicit drugs in the *last month* by age group

	All women	16-24	25-44	45-59	60+
	%	%	%	%	%
Class A	0.8	3.4	0.9	-	-
Cocaine	0.5	2.4	0.5	-	-
Crack	*	*	-	-	-
Ecstasy	0.3	1.9	0.3	-	-
Heroin	*	0.1	0.1	-	-
Methadone	0.1	*	0.3	-	-
LSD	*	-	0.1	-	-
Magic mushrooms	-	-	-	-	-
Class B	1.9	7.4	2.5	0.2	0.1
Amphetamines	0.2	0.8	0.3	-	-
Crystal Meth	-	-	-	-	-
Cannabis	1.8	7.0	2.3	0.2	0.1
Class C	0.4	0.9	0.8	0.2	-
Anabolic steroids	*	-	*	-	-
Ketamine	*	0.2	*	-	-
Temazepam	0.1	0.1	0.1	-	-
Valium	0.4	0.8	0.7	0.2	-
Not classified					
Glues, solvents, gas or aerosols	*	0.1	-	-	-
Poppers	0.2	1.3	0.1	-	-
Any stimulants	0.9	4.5	0.9	-	-
Any opiates	0.1	0.1	0.3	-	-
Any psychedelics	0.1	0.2	0.1	-	-
Any downers / tranquilisers	0.4	0.8	0.8	0.2	-
Any drugs	2.4	9.1	3.2	0.4	0.1
Bases	6,158	511	2,053	1,605	1,989
Source: SCJS 2008-09					

1. 'Any drugs' refers to any of the drugs listed separately above. 'Class' refers to the legal classification of drugs. Composite drug groups include:
 - a. Any stimulants: cocaine, crack, crystal meth, ecstasy, amphetamines and poppers
 - b. Any opiates: heroin and methadone
 - c. Any psychedelics: LSD, magic mushrooms and ketamine
 - d. Any downers / tranquilisers: temazepam and valium

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

	All male drug users	Under 16	16-19	20-24	25 or over
	%	%	%	%	%
Class A	9.4	8.8	10.2	7.4	9.4
Cocaine	1.3	0.7	1.3	0.7	4.1
Crack	*	-	-	-	-
Ecstasy	2.4	1.7	2.6	2.8	2.4
Heroin	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.7	0.2
Methadone	-	-	-	-	-
LSD	3.2	4.5	2.9	2.8	0.4
Magic mushrooms	2.2	1.6	3.1	0.3	2.3
Class B	79.7	73.2	84.9	85.2	70.2
Amphetamines	3.2	2.7	2.4	6.2	4.9
Crystal Meth	-	-	-	-	-
Cannabis	76.4	70.5	82.5	79.0	65.3
Class C	2.6	1.9	0.3	2.9	13.9
Anabolic steroids	0.5	-	0.1	0.9	3.6
Ketamine	0.1	-	-	0.4	-
Temazepam	1.1	1.9	0.2	1.0	2.3
Valium	0.9	-	-	0.7	8.0
Not classified					
Glues, solvents, gas or aerosols	3.1	11.1	0.3	-	1.2
Poppers	4.5	5.1	4.3	4.5	5.3
Any stimulants	11.4	10.1	10.6	14.2	16.7
Any opiates	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.7	0.2
Any psychedelics	5.5	6.2	6.1	3.5	2.7
Any downers / tranquilisers	2.0	1.9	0.2	1.6	10.3
Bases	1,393	321	681	230	144
Source: SCJS 2008-09					

1. 'Class' refers to the legal classification of drugs. Composite drug groups include:
 - a. Any stimulants: cocaine, crack, crystal meth, ecstasy, amphetamines and poppers
 - b. Any opiates: heroin and methadone
 - c. Any psychedelics: LSD, magic mushrooms and ketamine
 - d. Any downers / tranquilisers: temazepam and valium

Table A1.15: Type of drug first taken and age at which first taken among women who reported ever using illicit drugs

	All female drug users	Under 16	16-19	20-24	25 or over
	%	%	%	%	%
Class A	8.4	11.0	8.3	5.9	5.0
Cocaine	1.0	-	0.3	3.9	1.6
Crack	0.1	-	-	-	-
Ecstasy	3.3	5.5	3.5	1.1	2.3
Heroin	0.3	0.6	0.2	-	-
Methadone	0.2	-	-	-	-
LSD	1.5	1.4	2.3	0.2	-
Magic mushrooms	2.1	3.6	2.1	0.6	1.1
Class B	79.2	69.8	86.2	88.5	60.7
Amphetamines	3.8	2.8	5.0	3.5	1.7
Crystal Meth	0.1	-	-	-	-
Cannabis	75.3	67.1	81.1	85	59.1
Class C	5.8	2.0	1.8	3.7	33.5
Anabolic steroids	0.5	0.1	0.3	1.0	1.1
Ketamine	0.1	-	-	-	-
Temazepam	1.0	1.1	0.3	0.6	4.1
Valium	4.2	0.8	1.2	2.1	28.3
Not classified					
Glues, solvents, gas or aerosols	2.2	10.1	0.1	-	-
Poppers	3.7	7.0	3.7	1.9	0.8
Any stimulants	12.0	15.2	12.4	10.5	6.4
Any opiates	0.4	0.6	0.2	-	-
Any psychedelics	3.7	5.0	4.4	0.8	1.1
Any downers / tranquilisers	5.2	1.9	1.4	2.7	32.4
Bases	1,221	255	566	230	154
Source: SCJS 2008-09					

1. 'Class' refers to the legal classification of drugs. Composite drug groups include:
 - a. Any stimulants: cocaine, crack, crystal meth, ecstasy, amphetamines and poppers
 - b. Any opiates: heroin and methadone
 - c. Any psychedelics: LSD, magic mushrooms and ketamine
 - d. Any downers / tranquilisers: temazepam and valium

Table A1.16: Proportion of men aged 16 or over who reported having been offered drugs in the *last year* by age group

	All men	16-24	25-44	45-59	60+
	%	%	%	%	%
Class A	12.8	35.2	18.1	4.2	0.9
Cocaine	9.8	26.2	14.4	3.1	0.4
Crack	1.6	3.6	2.5	0.6	0.2
Ecstasy	8.8	25.3	12.2	2.6	0.2
Heroin	1.9	3.5	3.2	1.0	0.3
Methadone	0.7	1.3	1.1	0.3	0.1
LSD	2.5	8.1	3.1	0.8	*
Magic mushrooms	1.6	6.3	1.5	0.5	-
Class B	15.0	41.5	19.9	6.4	0.8
Amphetamines	4.3	10.1	6.5	2.0	0.1
Crystal Meth	0.6	1.5	0.8	0.5	-
Cannabis	14.4	40.8	18.7	6.0	0.8
Class C	4.9	14.5	6.4	1.5	0.6
Anabolic steroids	1.1	3.8	1.2	0.2	0.1
Ketamine	1.6	5.6	2.0	0.2	*
Temazepam	1.5	2.5	2.5	0.9	*
Valium	3.4	8.6	4.8	1.2	0.4
Not classified					
Glues, solvents, gas or aerosols	0.5	1.3	0.8	0.1	0.1
Poppers	2.9	11.6	2.8	0.6	*
Any stimulants	13.1	36.0	18.5	4.5	0.6
Any opiates	2.1	4.0	3.4	1.0	0.3
Any psychedelics	3.9	13.4	4.6	1.1	0.1
Any downers / tranquilisers	3.8	9.5	5.5	1.3	0.5
Any drugs	17.9	46.2	24.5	7.9	2.1
Bases	4,804	492	1,501	1,305	1,506
Source: SCJS 2008-09					

1. 'Any drugs' refers to any of the drugs listed separately above. 'Class' refers to the legal classification of drugs. Composite drug groups include:

- a. Any stimulants: cocaine, crack, crystal meth, ecstasy, amphetamines and poppers
- b. Any opiates: heroin and methadone
- c. Any psychedelics: LSD, magic mushrooms and ketamine
- d. Any downers / tranquilisers: temazepam and valium

Table A1.17: Proportion of women aged 16 or over who reported having been offered drugs in the *last year* by age group

	All women	16-24	25-44	45-59	60+
	%	%	%	%	%
Class A	6.2	25.6	7.9	0.7	0.1
Cocaine	4.4	18.5	5.5	0.5	-
Crack	0.6	2.8	0.6	*	-
Ecstasy	4.0	19.7	4.0	0.2	-
Heroin	0.6	2.0	1.0	0.2	-
Methadone	0.3	1.1	0.5	-	*
LSD	1.2	6.4	0.9	*	0.1
Magic mushrooms	0.5	1.4	0.8	0.1	*
Class B	7.4	27.4	9.0	2.4	0.7
Amphetamines	2.1	6.8	2.7	0.8	0.4
Crystal Meth	0.1	0.5	0.2	-	-
Cannabis	6.6	25.6	7.9	2.1	0.3
Class C	2.2	9.0	2.4	0.6	0.2
Anabolic steroids	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1
Ketamine	0.5	2.3	0.3	0.1	-
Temazepam	0.8	2.9	1.3	0.2	-
Valium	1.6	6.6	1.9	0.2	0.1
Not classified					
Glues, solvents, gas or aerosols	0.4	2.1	0.2	0.1	*
Poppers	1.4	8.0	0.9	*	0.1
Any stimulants	6.8	27.6	8.0	1.2	0.5
Any opiates	0.7	2.2	1.1	0.2	*
Any psychedelics	1.6	7.9	1.4	0.2	0.1
Any downers / tranquilisers	1.9	8.0	2.2	0.4	0.1
Any drugs	9.9	36.3	12.0	3.3	0.9
Bases	6,158	511	2,053	1,605	1,989
Source: SCJS 2008-09					

1. 'Any drugs' refers to any of the drugs listed separately above. 'Class' refers to the legal classification of drugs. Composite drug groups include:
 - a. Any stimulants: cocaine, crack, crystal meth, ecstasy, amphetamines and poppers
 - b. Any opiates: heroin and methadone
 - c. Any psychedelics: LSD, magic mushrooms and ketamine
 - d. Any downers / tranquilisers: temazepam and valium

Table A1.18: Polydrug use among those using illicit drugs in *last month* who had used more than one illicit drug *at some point in their lives*

	Mixing	drug	Mixing drug	Base:
		taken most	taken most	
		often in last	often in last	
		month with	month with	
		other drugs	alcohol	
Total	%	35.3	85.3	384
Gender				
Male	%	41.8	89.8	258
Female	%	18.5	73.8	126
Victim status				
Victim of crime	%	33.7	86.2	159
Non-Victim	%	36.6	84.5	225
Tenure				
Owner-occupier	%	30.9	85.3	115
Social renter	%	40.4	79.7	161
Private renter	%	30.3	94.0	77
Multiple deprivation				
15% most deprived areas	%	44.3	84.4	94
Rest of Scotland	%	32.3	85.6	290
Source: SCJS 2008-09				

1. Victim status indicates whether a respondent was the victim of a crime as measured by the SCJS in 2008-09 (for further details of crimes included see annex 3 of 2008/09 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey: First Findings;
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Research/by-topic/crime-and-justice/crime-and-justice-survey/publications>)
2. Tenure indicates the ways in which households occupy their accommodation and, where rented, the type of organisation from whom the property is rented:
 - a. Owner-occupier includes households who own outright and those buying with a mortgage or loan
 - b. Social renter includes households who live in housing rented from a local authority, housing association or co-operative
 - c. Private renter includes households who live in housing rented from an individual private landlord
3. Multiple deprivation is measured by the Scottish Index of multiple deprivation;
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/SIMD>

Annex 2: Self-completion questionnaire method

Crime and victimisation surveys have been carried out in Scotland since the early 1980s. The geographical coverage, sample size, method and reference period have varied across these surveys. The current survey was launched in April 2008 as the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS) and it represented a major shift in design, methodology and sample size from previous surveys. The two main changes introduced in the SCJS were an increase in the sample size and a move to continuous fieldwork with a different reference period from that used in previous sweeps.³²

The target sample size for the SCJS was substantially increased (to 16,000 from around 5,000 in most of the previous crime surveys). The move to a larger sample size was associated with continuous data collection and a change in the survey reference period. The SCJS reference period asked respondents about events that had taken place in the last full 12 months before the date of interview rather than the fixed reference period used previously.

The SCJS 2008-09 self-completion section of the questionnaire covered sensitive subject areas including partner abuse, stalking and harassment and sexual victimisation as well as illicit drug use (section A2.5). Information was collected in an ethical manner given the nature of the subjects covered. Coverage in the self-completion section in the SCJS 2008-09 was extended to all adults so that the experiences of older adults (i.e. those aged 60 years or over) were included for the first time.³³

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

Further information about the design of the SCJS is contained in annex 2 of 2008/09 Scottish Crime and Justice Survey: First Findings and in the accompanying technical report.³⁴

A2.1 The self-completion interview

Interviews in the SCJS 2008-09 were conducted in the respondent's home using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) and, for more

³² The accompanying technical report provides further details about these changes: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Research/by-topic/crime-and-justice/crime-and-justice-survey/publications>.

³³ Previously adults aged 60 years or older were excluded from this section.

³⁴ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Research/by-topic/crime-and-justice/crime-and-justice-survey/publications>.

sensitive questions in the self-completion section of the questionnaire such as those reported here, Computer Assisted Self-completion Interviewing (CASI). Interviews lasted 39 minutes on average in total, with the self-completion section taking just over 8 minutes on average to complete.

The results included in this report are based on interviews conducted by TNS-BMRB between 01 April 2008 and 31 March 2009. Respondents to the SCJS 2008-09 had the option of refusing to participate in the self-completion section which means this part of the questionnaire was not completed by all 16,003 respondents to the main survey. In the SCJS 2008-09, 10,974 respondents agreed to participate in the self-completion questionnaire, a response rate of 69%.

The majority of respondents who answered the questions (66%) used the touch sensitive tablet PC on their own without any help from the interviewer. A third of respondents (33%) asked the interviewer to enter their answers for them, and 14% of respondents entered their own answers but asked the interviewer for some degree of help.

A2.2 Non-response to the self-completion section

This section examines differential non-response to the self completion section of the questionnaire within key sub-groups.

Table A2.1 below shows the percentage of respondents to the SCJS 2008-09 who answered the self-completion section of the questionnaire (including those who did so with help) with those who did not answer it. It shows that:

- Equal proportions of males and females answered the self-completion section (69%)
- The proportions answering the self-completion section decreased as age increased (for example 76% of 16-24 year olds answered the self-completion section compared with 61% of those aged 60 or over)
- Among women, the proportion answering the self-completion section was particularly low among those aged 60 or older (41%)
- A higher proportion of victims of crime as identified in the main survey answered the self-completion section than average while the proportion of non-victims was closer to the average (75% of victims and 67% of non-victims compared with 69% for all respondents to the self-completion section)
- A lower proportion of those living in the 15% most deprived areas answered the self-completion section than average and a higher proportion of those living in the rest of Scotland answered it (58% and 71% respectively).

Table A2. 1: Percent ages of r espondents overall and in selected sub-groups who did and w ho did not ans wer the self-completion section of the SCJS 2008-09

Row percentages

	Self-completion	No Self-completion
Total Sample	69	31
Male	69	31
Female	69	31
16-24	76	24
25-44	73	27
45-59	71	29
60+	61	39
M 16-24	75	25
M 25-44	71	29
M 45-59	69	31
M 60+	64	36
F 16-24	77	23
F 25-44	74	26
F 45-59	73	27
F 60+	59	41
Victim	75	25
Non-victim	67	33
15% most deprived	58	42
Rest of Scotland	71	29

A2.3 Sample Profile

All sample surveys, are not necessarily representative of a cross-section of the population due to a variety of reasons including whether potential respondents were available for interview and their willingness to participate in the survey. In the SCJS 2008-09, the achieved sample under-represented younger adults and over-represented older adults. Weighting was applied to correct for differences in the level of response among groups of individuals on key attributes (section A2.8).

The differential response of younger and older respondents to the self-completion section of the questionnaire discussed in section A2.2 brought the unweighted sample profile for the self-completion questionnaire slightly closer to the adult population profile. Weighting was still required as differences in the level of response remained.

Table A2.2 shows the profile of the achieved sample of the self-completion section of the SCJS 2008-09 questionnaire before weighting was applied and the weighted sample profile.

Table A2. 2: Unweighted and weighted sample profiles by age and gender
SCJS 2008-09;

	Unweighted Sample %	Weighted Sample %
Men		
16-24	10.2	15.5
25-34	13.0	15.6
35-44	18.3	18.1
45-54	18.1	17.7
55-64	18.3	15.3
65+	22.0	17.8
Base	4,813	2,032,650
Women		
16-24	8.3	13.6
25-34	13.9	14.3
35-44	19.4	17.9
45-54	17.8	17.2
55-64	17.4	14.7
65+	23.1	22.3
Base	6,161	2,222,350
All Men	43.9	47.8
All Women	56.1	52.2
Base	10,974	4,255,000

1. The unweighted sample includes 13 respondents who said they had taken Semeron at some point in their lives and who were subsequently excluded from the data for the drugs questions (section A2.5).
2. The weighted sample targets were based on the General Registrar of Scotland (GROS) mid year population estimates for 2008.

A2.4 Questionnaire development

The questions on illicit drug use remained the same as those used in the Scottish Crime and Victimization Survey 2006. Two new questions were added, asking respondents who had used drugs in the last month whether, in the last month, they felt they needed or were dependant on the drug most often taken in the last month, and whether they had tried to cut down on this drug in the last month but had not done so.

A2.5 Questionnaire content

The SCJS 2008-09 questionnaire consisted of three elements:³⁵

³⁵ The SCJS 2008-09 questionnaire is available from the Scottish Government survey website in the technical report annexes that accompany the survey reports:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Research/by-topic/crime-and-justice/crime-and-justice-survey/publications>.

- The main questionnaire, which includes screener questions on incidents that may have happened to the respondent or their household and which filters respondents into or out of the victim form questionnaire
- A repeated victim form which collected details about the separate incidents a respondent may have experienced
- A self-completion questionnaire covering sensitive issues including illicit drug use (the focus of this report); partner abuse, stalking and harassment and sexual victimisation.

Respondents were asked whether they had ever used 16 illegal drugs (see chapter 1 for how these are classified in this report). Respondents were also asked if they had ever taken ‘semeron’, a fictitious drug. Respondents who said that have taken semeron were then excluded from the final data outputs and reporting for the drugs section of the questionnaire.³⁶ While under-reporting of illicit behaviour by respondents is by far the main concern on a survey such as this, it is also recognised that some people may report taking particular drugs when they have not actually done so for a number of reasons. There were only 12 cases of respondents reporting that they had taken semeron in the last year and these were excluded from the analysis.

Those respondents who had taken drugs *at some point in their lives* were then asked a series of follow-up questions, including:

- Whether they had taken the drug in the *last year*, and, for those that had, whether they had taken the drug in the *last month* and, if so, which drug they had taken most often and how hard it was to get hold of it
- What drug was the first ever taken, and at what age, and what methods of drug taking they had ever tried
- Whether they had ever mixed the drug they had used *most often in the last month* with either alcohol or other drugs, and in the case of the latter which drugs they had mixed with it
- Whether, in the *last month*, they had felt dependent on the drug taken *most often in the last month* and had tried to cut down but were not able to do so.

The questions were asked in a loop (i.e. “*Have you ever taken <drug name>?*”) rather than by selection from a single list of drugs. This approach has been shown to improve survey estimates of illegal drug-taking (Mayhew 1995).

³⁶ Although the data provided in the self-completion questionnaire on drug use by these respondents was removed from the data set, the remaining data they provided were retained in the rest of the data file, including the remainder of the self-completion section.

A2.6 Disclosure of sensitive information

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

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

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

A2.7 Weighting

The results obtained in the SCJS 2008-09 were weighted to correct for the unequal probability of selection for interview caused by the sample design and for differences in the level of response among groups of individuals.

In view of the reduced response to the self-completion section, some additional weighting was necessary for use when analysing this sub-sample. The self-completion weights were calculated in a similar way to the main individual and household weights but based only on respondents who had answered the self-completion section of the questionnaire.³⁷ The individual weight was applied to all of the questions included in this report as they all related to the experiences and opinions of individuals.³⁸

A2.8 Drugs classification

The classifications of drugs used in this report are detailed in chapter 1. However, there are two points of clarification which readers should note:

1. Amphetamines can be classified as either Class A (when prepared for injection) or Class B (in powdered form). Since questions used in the SCJS 2008-09 do not distinguish between the forms of the drug taken for the purposes of analysis, as agreed with Scottish Government, the report assumes that all amphetamine use is of the Class B type. This is consistent with the approach adopted by the Scottish Crime and Victimisation Survey 2006

³⁷ Further detail of the weighting used in the survey and an explanation of when to use the different weights is provided in the accompanying technical report.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Research/by-topic/crime-and-justice/crime-and-justice-survey/publications>.

³⁸ Data is available on the UK Data Archive's website at: <http://www.data-archive.ac.uk/>.

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2. The category “not classified” indicates that possession of these substances (poppers and glues, solvents, gas or aerosols) is not illegal but it is an offence to supply these substances if it is likely that the product is intended for abuse.

A NATIONAL STATISTICS PUBLICATION FOR SCOTLAND

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This report has been produced by researchers from the respected independent social research organisation TNS-BMRB working with Scottish Government Researchers in the Justice Analytical Services Department.

UK Statistics Authority - Assessment Report

Under the provisions of the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007, the UK Statistics Authority has a statutory function to assess sets of statistics against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, with a view to determining whether it is appropriate for the statistics to be designated, or retain their designation, as National Statistics. Designation as National Statistics means that statistics are deemed to be compliant with the Code of Practice.

The statistics published from the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey have been assessed by the UK Statistics Authority and have been confirmed as National Statistics. The Scottish Government will report back to the Authority by January 2010 on some specific enhancements it was to make, as identified by the Authority. The Assessment Report, which was published in September 2009, can be accessed via the following link:

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-12---scottish-crime-and-justice-survey--15-september-2009.pdf>.



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