# Wiltshire Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey 2017: Risky Behaviours 

## Part of the JSNA <br> "

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## Background

The Wiltshire Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey aims to develop a better understanding of Wiltshire's children and young people's experiences of life, both inside and outside school. The survey helps schools to identify areas for improvement and address particular issues raised by their own pupils and to provide evidence to influence future services provided by Wiltshire Council and their partners that improve the health and wellbeing of our young people. It was commissioned by Wiltshire Council and carried out by Foster and Brown Research Limited.

All schools in Wiltshire were invited to take part in the voluntary survey, which was carried out from January to April 2017. The questionnaire was completed online by pupils in year groups 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 12. There were three versions of the questionnaire designed separately for primary, secondary and Year 12/Further Education (FE) college pupils, plus a version for children and young people with special educational needs. The questions covered a wide range of aspects of young people's lives, including healthy lifestyles, learning experiences, relationships, wellbeing, safety, aspirations and support requirements. The survey was carried out in 95 schools and colleges across Wiltshire and just under $10,000(9,951)$ pupils responded to the survey. The large number of children and young people involved means that we can have confidence that the responses are representative of Wiltshire's children and young people.

The survey was designed online and took advantage of the additional capabilities that online surveys bring, including accurate sliding response questions and presenting questions to a respondent based on their previous answers. A similar survey was also carried out in 2015. This allows us to begin to track how behaviours have changed over time.

Schools have been given access to their own data, which they can compare to a Wiltshire Local Authority average. This means that they can make informed decisions about how to support the health and wellbeing needs of their pupils, and also use the data to monitor the impact of interventions.

This report provides detailed findings surrounding risky behaviours from the survey. Where possible, comparisons have been made between the results of the Wiltshire survey and recent national reports that consider similar themes, providing a useful benchmark. A number of other topic reports based on the survey findings will be published in early 2018, describing emotional wellbeing, healthy lifestyles and feelings of safety

The report starts by providing a summary of the results. After which detail is given about the demographics of the respondents and then the questions directly relating to the risky behaviours of smoking, alcohol consumption, the recreational use of illegal and prescription drugs, and sexual activity, are presented graphically and with short descriptive text.

## Summary

The Wiltshire Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey has shown that a quarter of Year 12/FE respondents and $60 \%$ of secondary school respondents do not engage in the risky behaviours of frequent cigarette smoking, frequent alcohol consumption, the misuse of illegal or prescription drugs, or sexual activity. The survey has, however, highlighted some areas for concern in regard to these behaviours, which carry a risk to children and young people's health and wellbeing.

- $75 \%$ of Year 12/FE pupils and $30 \%$ of secondary school pupils reported engaging in at least one of the risky behaviours of frequent cigarette smoking, frequent alcohol consumption, the recreational use of illegal or prescription drugs, and/or sexual activity.
- $22 \%$ of Year 12/FE pupils, $4 \%$ of secondary school pupils and $1 \%$ of primary school pupils reported smoking cigarettes weekly or more often.
- Pupils in both Year 12/FE and secondary school who smoked cigarettes weekly or more often were very likely to also engage in other risky behaviours (97\% of Year 12/FE smokers and 93\% of secondary school smokers reported also engaging in at least one other risky behaviour).
- $64 \%$ of Year $12 /$ FE pupils, $21 \%$ of secondary school pupils and $3 \%$ of primary school pupils reported drinking alcohol monthly or more often.
- These results represent a small increase from the 2015 survey proportions of Year 12/FE and secondary school children drinking alcohol at least monthly (58\% in Year 12/FE, 19\% in secondary, $3 \%$ in primary).
- $28 \%$ of Year 12/FE pupils and $7 \%$ of secondary school pupils reported having tried illegal drugs.
- In Year 12/FE, young carers and LGBT pupils were significantly more likely than the average to have tried illegal drugs ( $47 \%$ and $43 \%$, respectively, compared to $28 \%$ overall).
- In secondary school, pupils who reported smoking cigarettes weekly or more often were substantially more likely than the average to have tried illegal drugs (70\% of smokers, compared to 7\% overall).
- $10 \%$ of Year 12/FE pupils and $3 \%$ of secondary school pupils reported taking illegal drugs monthly or more often.
- $12 \%$ of Year $12 /$ FE pupils and $11 \%$ of secondary school pupils reported having tried the recreational use of prescription drugs ("pharming").
- $24 \%$ of young carers in Year 12/FE had tried pharming.
- $46 \%$ of Year 12/FE pupils and 5\% of secondary school pupils reported having had sexual intercourse.
- Of these, $71 \%$ of the Year 12/FE group and 59\% of the secondary school group said that they had used contraception/precautions the last time they had sex.


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## Response demographics

There are a number of ways the results can be grouped using the following response demographics.
Nearly 10,000 respondents completed the survey, which is $15 \%$ percent of the Wiltshire population of 8 to 18 year olds. Table 1 provides a breakdown of these respondents by year group.

Table 1: Overall response

| School stage | Primary school |  |  |  | Secondary school |  |  | Year 12/FE | Total |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| School year | Year 4 | Year 5 | Year 6 | Total | Year 8 | Year 10 | Total | Year 12 |  |
| Number | 1518 | 1335 | 1523 | 4376 | 2251 | 1832 | 4083 | 1492 | 9951 |

Age and gender information was collected from the respondents. Figure 1 below shows this information alongside the population information from the 2015 survey.

Figure 1: Survey response population pyramid (2017 and 2015)


There were more responses from almost all ages in 2017 than in 2015. However, there were fewer responses from those aged 16 . The 2017 survey had a proportionally larger response than the 2015 survey from those aged 9 and $10.53 \%$ of the respondents in 2017 were female.

The vast majority of respondents in all school phases were White British. Of the ethnic minority groups no single category was large enough to be representative. When compared to the most recent ethnicity information from the 2011 Census, the survey has a lower proportion of respondents identifying as White British (93\% of 8-19 year olds were reported as White British in the 2011 Census, compared to $85 \%$ in the survey).

Table 2: Ethnicity

|  | Primary school |  | Secondary school |  | Year 12/FE |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| White British | 3639 | $83 \%$ | 3504 | $86 \%$ | 1333 | $89 \%$ |
| Refused/non <br> response | 288 | $7 \%$ | 81 | $2 \%$ | 19 | $1 \%$ |
| Other | 449 | $10 \%$ | 498 | $12 \%$ | 140 | $9 \%$ |

The vast majority of respondents lived with their parents (96\%). The percentage does drop with school phase, with $97 \%$ of primary school respondents living with their parents and $91 \%$ of Year 12/FE students living with their parents.

A decreasing trend could be seen in the percentage of children with military parents by the school phase, as seen in Table 3. 11\% of primary school children had military parents, $9 \%$ in secondary school and 6\% in Year 12/FE. This could be a sign that the carers have exited the armed forces as their child ages.

Table 3: Children of military carer(s)

|  | Primary school |  | Secondary school |  | Year 12/FE |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| With military carer | 456 | $11 \%$ | 362 | $9 \%$ | 94 | $6 \%$ |
| No military carer | 3869 | $89 \%$ | 3704 | $91 \%$ | 1391 | $94 \%$ |

Some respondents reported having a social worker (Table 4). The highest proportion of children with a social worker was in primary school (8\%).

Table 4: Social worker involved

|  | Primary school |  | Secondary school |  | Year 12/FE |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Have a social <br> worker | 350 | $8 \%$ | 236 | $6 \%$ | 94 | $6 \%$ |
| No social worker | 3994 | $92 \%$ | 3817 | $94 \%$ | 1393 | $94 \%$ |

Over 200 children reported being either adopted, fostered, in care, or a looked after child (AFL).

In the 2017 Wiltshire school census, $16 \%$ of pupils in primary school and $15 \%$ of secondary school pupils were classified as having a special education need (SEN). 12\% of primary school pupils, $11 \%$ of secondary school pupils and 16\% of Year 12/FE pupils from the survey reported having a disability or SEN classification (SEND).

Table 5: Special Educational Need and/or disability

|  | Primary school |  | Secondary school |  | Year 12/FE |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| SEND | 512 | $12 \%$ | 452 | $11 \%$ | 236 | $16 \%$ |
| Non-SEND | 3864 | $88 \%$ | 3631 | $89 \%$ | 1256 | $84 \%$ |

In the 2017 Wiltshire school census, $8 \%$ of pupils in primary school and $7 \%$ of secondary school pupils were offered free school meals. $10 \%$ of primary school pupils and $9 \%$ of secondary school pupils knew they were eligible for free school meals (FSM) in the survey sample.

Table 6: Free School Meals

|  | Primary school |  | Secondary school |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Eligible | 442 | $10 \%$ | 299 | $7 \%$ |
| Not eligible | 2961 | $69 \%$ | 3155 | $78 \%$ |
| Didn't know | 890 | $21 \%$ | 571 | $14 \%$ |

To help to understand and meet young carers' needs, respondents were asked whether they were young carers. The question was worded as 'do you take on a caring role or support a family member who is disabled, long term sick, experiences mental ill health or misuses drugs or alcohol?'. When compared to the most recent information from the 2011 Census a much larger proportion of respondents from the survey reported providing unpaid care. The 2011 Census reports that 1\% of 015 year olds and $4 \%$ of $16-24$ year olds provide unpaid care. In the survey $7 \%$ of primary school pupils, $8 \%$ of secondary school pupils and $5 \%$ of year $12 /$ FE students in the survey reported being a young carer.

Table 7: Young carers

|  | Primary school |  | Secondary school |  | Year 12/FE |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Yes | 284 | $7 \%$ | 332 | $8 \%$ | 75 | $5 \%$ |
| No | 4053 | $93 \%$ | 3588 | $92 \%$ | 1380 | $95 \%$ |

In this survey the secondary school and Year 12/FE respondents were asked about their sexual orientation and gender identification. Two categories were used to create a combined group of pupils who reported being lesbian, gay, bisexual and/or trans (LGBT). There were 265 LGBT respondents in the secondary school sample and 144 in the Year 12/FE sample. This represents $10 \%$ of the Year 12/FE respondents and $6 \%$ of the secondary school respondents.

## Results

Initial results for cigarette smoking and alcohol consumption are presented by the school levels of primary, secondary and Year 12/FE. As the proportions of primary school children engaging in these behaviours were low, primary school respondents are usually not included in the presentation of subsidiary results in these sections. Questions on drug use and sexual activity were not asked of primary school respondents, and these sections describe only the secondary and Year 12/FE results. For many of the questions, comparisons between genders and between different vulnerable groups are presented. Evidence from broader literature identifies certain vulnerable groups, the members of which may have poorer health outcomes than those not in these groups. The vulnerable groups included in this report are respondents with a carer in the military, young carers, those with a special education need or disability (SEND), those receiving free school meals (FSM), lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans pupils (LGBT), those who are adopted, fostered or looked after by the local authority (AFL), non-white British pupils, and children with a social worker. The questions have been broken down into five main sections. These are Cigarette Smoking, Alcohol, Illegal Drugs, Prescription Drug Misuse and Sexual Behaviour. There are additional sections on respondents engaging in multiple risky behaviours and on pupils' views about the education they have received on these topics.

Comparisons to the 2015 survey results have been made when possible. However, due to the improved sample size in 2017, amendments to question wording and changes in the schools sampled, these comparisons should be used with caution. Comparisons are also made to national data when available and appropriate.

Figure 2: Risky behaviours overview


## Smoking cigarettes

99\% of primary school children and 94\% of secondary school children reported that they do not smoke. However, only $76 \%$ of Year 12/FE students reported that they do not smoke.

These smoking levels are very close to the results obtained in the 2015 survey, which indicated 99\% of primary school children, $94 \%$ of secondary school children and $78 \%$ of Year 12/FE children did not smoke. Evidence from $2014 / 15$ suggests that, nationally, $8.2 \%$ of 15 year olds are smokers ${ }^{1}$. This is also close to the proportion seen in the local survey, in which $7.7 \%$ of 15 year olds reported smoking quite often (e.g. weekly) or on most days.

Figure 3: Question 3.01. Do you smoke cigarettes?


Figure 4 shows very little difference in smoking behaviours between the genders. These results are extremely close to those from the 2015 survey, with the only significant difference being a small increase in smoking among Year 12/FE boys (from 18\% smoking quite often or on most days in 2015, to $23 \%$ in 2017).

Figure 3a: Question 3.01. Do you smoke cigarettes? Gender.


[^0]There was considerable variation in smoking behaviour among different groups of pupils, particularly among the Year 12/FE respondents. 34\% of Year 12/FE pupils with a social worker, $32 \%$ of Year 12/FE young carers, $31 \%$ of adopted, fostered or looked after children, and $30 \%$ of LGBT pupils reported smoking quite often (e.g. weekly) or on most days, compared to $22 \%$ of the overall Year 12/FE respondents. Secondary school children with a social worker were also significantly more likely to report smoking quite often or on most days than the overall secondary school respondents ( $11 \%$, compared to $4 \%$ ).

National data are not categorised in the same way, prohibiting direct comparison. However, national evidence does show a strong link between living in a deprived area and smoking (Annual Population Survey, 2016).

Figure 3b: Question 3.01. Do you smoke cigarettes? Vulnerable groups.
Response: Quite often/Most days

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

Of those who reported smoking cigarettes quite often (e.g. weekly) or on most days, $76 \%$ of the Year 12/FE sample and $47 \%$ of the secondary school sample reported smoking 15 or more cigarettes a week. While the proportion of secondary school children smoking 15 or more cigarettes per week in 2017 is very close to that found in the 2015 survey, the Year 12/FE 2017 result (76\%) represents an increase from the 69\% who reported smoking 15 or more cigarettes per week in 2015.

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


Figure 4a shows that, of those who reported smoking quite often (e.g. weekly) or on most days, a larger proportion of males in both secondary school and Year 12/FE smoke 15 or more cigarettes a week than females. This pattern of boys smoking more cigarettes per week than girls is the same as in the 2015 survey.

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


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Figure 5 shows that $43 \%$ of the secondary school and $42 \%$ of the Year 12/FE pupils who smoke monthly or more frequently want to stop smoking. These proportions are similar to those in the 2015 survey (41\% in both settings).

Figure 5: Question 3.16. Do you want to stop smoking?

## Response: Yes.



Figure 5a shows that, while a slightly larger proportion of female than male smokers want to stop smoking in the secondary school setting, at Year 12/FE level a larger proportion of male than female smokers want to stop smoking. In the 2015 survey, a larger proportion of females than males in both settings wanted to stop smoking.

Figure 5a: Question 3.16. Do you want to stop smoking? Gender.

## Response: Yes.



Of those who smoke monthly or more frequently, $11 \%$ of those in a secondary school setting and $13 \%$ of those in a Year 12/FE setting reported that they wanted help to stop smoking (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Question 3.03. Do you want help to stop smoking?

## Response: Yes



A slightly higher proportion of boys than girls who smoke monthly or more frequently want help to stop smoking in the secondary school setting, while, in Year 12/FE, a larger proportion of female than male smokers want help to stop (Figure 6a).

Figure 6a: Question 3.03. Do you want help to stop smoking? Gender.

## Response: Yes.



All respondents were asked how frequently they have been seriously bullied. The Year 12/FE sample showed no meaningful difference between those who smoke and their reported frequency of being bullied (Figure 7). However, in the secondary school sample the proportion of respondents who reported smoking 15 or more cigarettes per week were more likely to have been bullied quite often or on most days (17\%) than the overall secondary school group (13\%).

Nationally, smoking prevalence was higher among young people who had been bullied as well as those who had bullied others in the last couple of months, compared with those who had not been involved in bullying. Young people who had bullied others were more likely to be regular smokers (13\%) than those who had not bullied others (5\%). Those who had been bullied were nearly twice as likely to be a regular smoker (7\%), compared with those who had not been bullied (4\%; Health and Social Care Information Centre, 2015).

Figure 7: Question 3.14 and Question 6.07. Heavy smokers (15+ cigarettes per week), and how frequently they are being bullied.


Frequent smoking correlates extremely highly with other risky behaviours. Only 6\% of those who smoke weekly or more often, in the combined secondary and Year 12/FE sample, only smoke. The remaining $94 \%$ also answered positively to questions about drinking alcohol monthly or more often (72\% of frequent smokers), having tried illegal drugs (66\%), the recreational use of prescription drugs (28\%), and sexual activity (62\%). The chart below shows these results separately for the secondary and Year 12/FE samples, and compares them with the overall Wiltshire proportions for these other risky behaviours. The single most notable result is in the secondary school sample, where $70 \%$ of the frequent smokers had tried illegal drugs, compared to $7 \%$ of the total Wiltshire secondary school respondents.

Figure 8: Question 3.01, Question 3.04, Question 3.09, Question 3.23 and Question 11.07. Most frequent smokers (weekly or more often) and other risky behaviours.

*Frequent alcohol = drinks alcohol monthly or more often. Pharming = the recreational use of prescription drugs. Sexually active = has had sex.

## Drinking Alcohol

The proportion of respondents who drink alcohol increases with the school setting due to the increasing age of respondents (Figure 9). 64\% of the Year 12/FE sample reportedly drank alcohol at least monthly, compared to $21 \%$ in secondary school and $3 \%$ in primary school. These results represent a small increase in the proportions of the Year 12/FE and secondary school children reporting drinking alcohol at least monthly in the 2015 survey ( $58 \%$ in Year 12/FE, 19\% in secondary, $3 \%$ in primary). Evidence from 2014 indicates that, nationally, $62 \%$ of 11-15 year olds have never drunk alcohol ${ }^{2}$. In the 2017 Wiltshire survey, $51 \%$ of 11-15 year old respondents reported that they 'never' drink alcohol.

Figure 9: Question 3.04. Do you drink alcohol?


No meaningful differences in alcohol consumption can be seen between genders at the primary and secondary school levels, while, in the Year 12/FE setting, a slightly larger proportion of boys than girls reported drinking alcohol quite often or on most days (Figure 9a). In the 2015 survey, there was no significant difference between the genders in any of the school settings. National evidence indicates no differences in alcohol consumption between genders ${ }^{3}$.

Figure 9a: Question 3.04. Do you drink alcohol? Gender.


[^1]There was considerable variation in alcohol consumption among different groups of pupils, across all school stages. In both primary and secondary school, all the groups detailed in Figure 9b reported drinking alcohol quite often (e.g. weekly) or on most days, more often than the Wiltshire average, with the exception of the children of military carers in secondary school. Among the Year 12/FE pupils, however, these results were more varied, with the children of military carers and LGBT children significantly above the Wiltshire average, and young carers and non White British children significantly below.

There is no national information broken down in the same way as this. However, a national survey of 15 year olds found that rates of drinking varied by deprivation, with young people in the least deprived areas more likely to have ever drunk alcohol than those in the most deprived areas (Health and Social Care Information Centre, 2015).

Figure 9b: Question 3.04. Do you drink alcohol? Vulnerable groups.

## Response: Quite often / Most days


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

Negligible numbers of primary school children reported ever having been drunk, and these responses are therefore not included in the following charts. However, $30 \%$ of Year 12/FE respondents reported being drunk weekly or on most days and a further $34 \%$ have been drunk monthly (Figure 10). While the former proportion is similar to that found in the 2015 survey, the latter (34\%) represents a decrease from the $40 \%$ of Year 12/FE respondents who reported having been drunk monthly in 2015. Secondary school respondents reported being drunk less frequently than the Year 12/FE respondents, and there has been a decrease in the proportion of secondary school pupils who reported being drunk weekly or on most days, from $19 \%$ in 2015 , to $13 \%$ in the 2017 survey.

Figure 10: Question 3.06. Have you ever been drunk?


A smaller proportion of boys in secondary school reported being drunk monthly, weekly or on most days than girls (Figure 18). No meaningful difference exists between the genders in the Year 12/FE sample. These are the same patterns as in the 2015 survey. A national survey of $11-15$ year olds found a very slightly larger proportion of girls (10\%) than boys (7\%) had been drunk in the last 4 weeks ${ }^{4}$.

Figure 10a: Question 3.06. Have you ever been drunk? Gender.
 twice)

[^2]A majority of respondents from all the school settings usually get their alcohol from home with their parents' permission (Figure 11). The second most common way for the secondary school respondents to obtain alcohol is through friends (11\%). 15\% of Year 12/FE pupils mainly get their alcohol at a pub or club.

Figure 11: Question 3.15. Where do you normally get alcohol from?


Of those who get drunk frequently (e.g. weekly or more often - Figure 10) in the Year 12/FE sample, this pattern changes, and $27 \%$ get their alcohol from a pub or club (Figure 11a). A further 17\% get their alcohol from the home with their parents' permission. These patterns of acquiring alcohol are the same as in the 2015 survey.

Figure 11a: Question 3.06 and Question 3.15. Where do you normally get alcohol from? Frequently drunk.

$43 \%$ of those who reported consuming alcohol frequently (monthly or more often) in the secondary sample, and $69 \%$ of those in the Year 12/FE sample, also reported engaging in other risky behaviours. Pupils who consume alcohol monthly or more often were more likely than the averages to engage in all other risky behaviours. The chart below shows the proportions of those who frequently consume alcohol who also engage in other risky behaviours, compared to the overall Wiltshire samples.

Figure 12: Question 3.04, Question 3.01, Question 3.09, Question 3.23 and Question 11.07. Frequent alcohol (monthly or more often) and other risky behaviours.

*Frequent smoker = weekly or more often. Pharming = the recreational use of prescription drugs. Sexually active = has had sex.

## Illegal drugs

1 in 5 secondary school pupils and nearly 1 in 2 Year 12/FE pupils report having been offered illegal drugs (Figure 13). These are approximately the same proportions as in the 2015 survey (18\% secondary; 46\% Year 12/FE). Questions on drug use were not asked of primary school pupils.

Figure 13: Question 3.08. Have you ever been offered illegal drugs?

## Response: Yes.



In secondary school a slightly higher percentage of boys had been offered illegal drugs than girls (Figure 13a). The size of this difference decreases in the Year 12/FE population. The 2015 survey also found that males were slightly more likely than females to have been offered illegal drugs, in both school settings.

Figure 13a: Question 3.08. Have you ever been offered illegal drugs? Gender.

## Response: Yes.



7\% of secondary school respondents reported having tried illegal drugs (Figure 14), while, in the Year 12/FE sample, $28 \%$ of respondents reported having tried illegal drugs. These figures are very similar to the results of the 2015 survey ( $7 \%$ secondary, $27 \%$ Year 12/FE). A national survey of $11-15$ year olds found that $15 \%$ had taken drugs ${ }^{5}$, which is considerably higher than the 2017 Wiltshire result for $11-15$ year olds (6\%).

Figure 14: Question 3.09. Have you ever tried illegal drugs?

## Response: Yes.



The secondary school respondents reported no substantial difference between the proportions of boys and girls who have tried illegal drugs (Figure 14a). In the Year 12/FE sample a larger proportion of males reported having tried illegal drugs ( $30 \%$ compared to $26 \%$ ). This pattern is the same as seen in the 2015 survey. A national survey of 11-15 year olds also found higher drug use among boys than girls ${ }^{6}$.

Figure 14a: Question 3.09. Have you ever tried illegal drugs? Gender.

## Response: Yes.



[^3]In the secondary school sample, there are larger percentages of respondents from all the vulnerable groups, except military children, who have tried illegal drugs than the Wiltshire average (Figure 14b). In the Year 12/FE sample a substantially larger proportion of young carers and LGBT children reported having tried illegal drugs (47\% and 43\%) than the Wiltshire average (28\%).

Figure 14b: Question 3.09. Have you ever tried illegal drugs? Vulnerable groups.

## Response: Yes.



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

Of those who answered yes to question 3.09 (have you ever tried illegal drugs?), $23 \%$ of secondary school children and $22 \%$ of Year 12/FE children reported taking illegal drugs frequently, either quite often (e.g. weekly) or on most days. This represents less than $2 \%$ of the overall secondary school sample, and $6 \%$ of the overall Year 12/FE sample.

Figure 15: Question 3.12. How often do you take illegal drugs? Those who have tried them.


The majority of reported illegal drug use was of cannabis, but 9\% of secondary school children who had tried illegal drugs, and 7\% of those who had tried illegal drugs in the Year 12/FE sample, reported frequent (e.g. weekly or more often) use of other illegal drugs. This represents less than $1 \%$ of the overall secondary school sample, and just under $2 \%$ of the overall Year 12/FE sample.

Figure 16: Question 3.10.21. How often do you take illegal drugs OTHER than cannabis? Those who have tried illegal drugs.


Pupils' levels of overall satisfaction with their lives were lower among those who reported having taken illegal drugs, with $50 \%$ of this Year 12/FE group describing themselves as 'satisfied' or 'quite satisfied' with their life, compared with $66 \%$ of the Year 12/FE group who had never tried illegal drugs. Among the secondary school respondents, $49 \%$ of those who had tried illegal drugs described themselves as satisfied with their life, compared with $67 \%$ of those who had not.

Figure 17: Question 6.13. Overall, are you basically satisfied with your life? Illegal drug use.

## Responses: Satisfied / Quite satisfied.


$83 \%$ of those in the secondary school sample who have tried illegal drugs, and $95 \%$ of those in the Year 12/FE sample, also reported engaging in other risky behaviours. The chart below shows the proportions of those who have tried illegal drugs who also engage in other risky behaviours, compared to the overall Wiltshire sample.

Figure 18: Question 3.09, Question 3.01, Question 3.04, Question 3.23 and Question 11.07 - Tried illegal drugs and other risky behaviours.

*Frequent smoker = weekly or more often. Frequent alcohol = monthly or more often. Pharming = the recreational use of prescription drugs. Sexually active = has had sex.

## Prescription drug misuse

Questions on drug use were not asked of primary school pupils. 16\% of respondents from both secondary school and Year 12/FE settings reported that they had been offered prescription drugs for recreational use (Figure 19). This is an increase on the proportions reporting this in the previous survey (12\% secondary, 11\% Year 12/FE).

Figure 19: Question 3.22. Have you ever been offered prescription drugs (medicine you can only get from a doctor) that are NOT your own, for fun or to feel good? This is sometimes called Pharming.

## Response: Yes.



While the variation between males and females was very small in the Year 12/FE sample, boys were more likely than girls to have been offered prescription drugs for recreational use in the secondary school setting (19\% boys, $13 \%$ girls).

Figure 19a: Question 3.22. Have you ever been offered prescription drugs (medicine you can only get from a doctor) that are NOT your own, for fun or to feel good? This is sometimes called Pharming. Gender.

## Response: Yes.



More than 1 in 10 of both the secondary school and Year 12/FE respondents had tried recreational prescription drugs (Figure 20). This is an increase on the proportions in the previous survey (7\% secondary; 8\% Year 12/FE).

Figure 20: Question 3.23. Have you ever tried prescription drugs (medicine you can only get from your doctor) that are NOT your own, for fun or to feel good? This is sometimes called Pharming.
Response: Yes.


Males were slightly more likely than girls, in both school settings, to have tried prescription drugs for recreational use.

Figure 20a: Question 3.23. Have you ever tried prescription drugs (medicine you can only get from your doctor) that are NOT your own, for fun or to feel good? This is sometimes called Pharming. Gender.

## Response: Yes.



With the exception of adopted, fostered or looked after children (AFL), higher proportions of secondary school pupils in all the groups in Figure 20b reported having tried prescription drugs for recreational use, than the Wiltshire average. This was particularly notable among young carers and children with a social worker. In the Year 12/FE setting, only non White British children did not report higher proportions of usage than the average, and young carers and children with a social worker again described significantly higher proportions of usage than the average ( $24 \%$ and $18 \%$, to $12 \%$ Wiltshire average).

Figure 20b: Question 3.23. Have you ever tried prescription drugs (medicine you can only get from your doctor) that are NOT your own, for fun or to feel good? This is sometimes called Pharming. Vulnerable groups.


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

Of those who answered yes to question 3.23 (have you ever tried prescription drugs that are not your own for fun or to feel good?), $10 \%$ of secondary school children and $8 \%$ of Year 12/FE children reported using prescription drugs for recreation frequently, either quite often (e.g. weekly) or on most days. This represents $1 \%$ of the overall secondary school sample, and $1 \%$ of the overall Year 12/FE sample.

Figure 21: Question 3.27. How often do you take prescription drugs that are not your own, for fun or to feel good? Those who have tried them.

$44 \%$ of those in the secondary school sample who have tried the recreational use of prescription drugs, and $86 \%$ of those in the Year 12/FE sample, also reported engaging in other risky behaviours. The chart below shows the proportions of those who have tried pharming who also engage in other risky behaviours, compared to the overall Wiltshire sample.

Figure 22: Question 3.23, Question 3.01, Question 3.04, Question 3.09 and Question 11.07. Tried pharming (recreational use of prescription drugs) and other risky behaviours.

*Frequent smoker = weekly or more often. Frequent alcohol = monthly or more often. Sexually active = has had sex.

## Sexual behaviour

Questions on sexual activity and behaviour were included in the 2017 survey, for secondary and Year 12/FE respondents only, for the first time. 5\% of secondary school respondents and $46 \%$ of Year 12/FE respondents reported having had sexual intercourse.

Figure 23: Question 11.07. Have you ever had sex (sexual intercourse)?


The differences between girls and boys were minimal in both school settings, with a very slightly higher proportion of secondary school boys than girls having had sex, and a slightly higher proportion of Year 12/FE girls than boys.

Figure 23a: Question 11.07. Have you ever had sex (sexual intercourse)? Gender.

## Response: Yes.



Among those who reported having had sex, there were differences between the characteristics of the secondary school and Year 12/FE respondents. In the secondary school setting, both adopted, fostered, in care or looked after children, and pupils with special educational needs or disabilities, were more likely than the average to have had sex, but were less likely than the average in the Year 12/FE setting. Young carers and LGBT pupils, however, were in both school settings more likely than the averages to have had sexual intercourse.

Figure 23b: Question 11.07. Have you ever had sex (sexual intercourse)? Vulnerable groups.


* Year 12/FE students were not asked if they were in receipt of free school meals. The AFL group in both the secondary and Year 12/FE school phases represents a small sample size and caution should be used in interpreting its results.
$71 \%$ of the Year 12/FE respondents who have had sex, and $59 \%$ of the secondary school respondents who have had sex, reported that they used contraception or precautions the last time that they had sex. $30 \%$ of the secondary school group and $26 \%$ of the Year 12/FE group reported that they had not, while $11 \%$ of the secondary school group and $3 \%$ of the Year 12/FE group did not know.

Figure 24: Question 11.14. The last time you had sexual intercourse did you or your partner use any form of contraception or take any precautions? Sexually active respondents.


In both the secondary and Year 12/FE setting, a higher proportion of females than males reported having used contraception or precautions last time they had sex. The difference was more pronounced in the Year 12/FE sample than in the secondary.

Figure 24a: Question 11.14. The last time you had sexual intercourse did you or your partner use any form of contraception or take any precautions? Sexually active respondents. Gender.


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

Figure 25: Question 11.03. Do you know how and where to access contraception and sexual health advice and services?

## Response: Yes.



Year 12/FE females who have had sex were considerably more likely than their male counterparts to know how and where to access contraception and sexual health advice and services. There were minimal differences between boys' and girls' knowledge of this among the Year 12/FE pupils who have not had sex, and among the secondary school pupils.

Figure 25a: Question 11.03. Do you know how and where to access contraception and sexual health advice and services? Gender.

Response: Yes.


Pupils who have already had sex were similarly more likely than those who have not to know where to get hold of a condom, with over $90 \%$ of those who have had sex knowing this in both school settings, compared with $53 \%$ of secondary school pupils who have not had sex, and $69 \%$ of Year 12/FE respondents who have not had sex.

Figure 26: Question 11.12. Do you know where to get hold of a condom?

## Response: Yes.



The most significant difference between male and female knowledge of where to get condoms was between those in Year 12/FE who have not had sex, with $73 \%$ of these males knowing where to get a condom compared with $64 \%$ of the females.

Figure 26a: Question 11.12. Do you know where to get hold of a condom? Gender.
Response: Yes.


Asked about their levels of confidence in using a condom, 77\% of Year 12/FE pupils who have had sex and $75 \%$ of secondary school pupils who have had sex reported that they felt confident or extremely confident, compared with, respectively, $33 \%$ of Year 12/FE pupils and $21 \%$ of secondary school children who have not had sex.

Figure 27: Question 11.01. How confident are you about using a condom?

## Responses: Confident/Extremely confident



In both school settings, males were more likely to feel confident about using a condom than females.
Figure 27a: Question 11.01. How confident are you about using a condom? Gender.

## Responses: Confident/Extremely confident.



While males were generally more confident than females about using a condom, females in both school settings were more likely than their male counterparts to know how to get hold of emergency contraception.

Figure 28: Question 11.02. Do you know how to get hold of emergency contraception (e.g. the morning after pill) for yourself or for a friend or girlfriend? Gender.
Response: Yes.


Half of the Year 12/FE respondents who have had sex, and less than a quarter of those who have not, reported that they would be comfortable using sexual health and contraceptive services. These proportions were lower among secondary school children ( $44 \%$ and $16 \%$, respectively).

Figure 29: Question 11.13. How comfortable would you be using sexual health and contraceptive services?

Responses: Comfortable/Extremely comfortable.


Males generally were more likely to report that they would feel comfortable using sexual health and contraceptive services than females, except in the case of Year 12/FE pupils who have had sex, where slightly more females than males reported that they would feel comfortable ( $52 \%$ to $49 \%$ ).

Figure 29a: Question 11.13. How comfortable would you be using sexual health and contraceptive services? Gender.
Responses: Comfortable/Extremely comfortable.


Asked who they would go to for help or advice about contraception, emergency contraception, not getting pregnant or preventing STIs, secondary school children were most likely to report that they would go to a parent, step-parent or carer (44\%), while Year 12/FE children were more likely to go to a doctor, a nurse outside school or a psychologist (37\%) or to their friends (35\%).

Figure 30: Question 6.20. If you needed help and advice about contraception/emergency contraception/not getting pregnant or preventing STIs who would you go to for help?

$79 \%$ of the secondary school pupils who reported having had sex, and $81 \%$ of the Year 12/FE pupils, also reported engaging in other risky behaviours. The chart below shows the proportions of those who have had sex who also engage in other risky behaviours, compared to the overall Wiltshire sample.

Figure 31: Question 11.07, Question 3.01, Question 3.04, Question 3.09 and Question 3.23. Have had sexual intercourse and other risky behaviours.

*Frequent smoker = weekly or more often. Frequent alcohol = monthly or more often. Pharming = the recreational use of prescription drugs.

## Summary of multiple risky behaviours

$75 \%$ of Year 12/FE respondents, and $30 \%$ of secondary school respondents, reported having engaged in at least one of the risky behaviours of cigarette smoking weekly or more often, consuming alcohol monthly or more often, having tried illegal drugs, having tried prescription drugs for recreational purposes, and/or sexual activity.
$20 \%$ of the secondary school respondents had engaged in only one of the listed risky behaviours. The most frequent of these were the consumption of alcohol monthly or more often, and trying prescription drugs for recreational use, both of which correlated less highly with multiple risky behaviours than did the other risks. $57 \%$ of secondary school pupils who reported drinking alcohol monthly or more often, and $56 \%$ of those who had tried prescription drugs for recreational purposes, reported engaging in no other risky behaviours (see Figures 12 and 22). Weekly or more frequent cigarette smoking, by contrast, correlated very highly with other risky behaviours, as only $7 \%$ of secondary school respondents who reported this described engaging in no other risky behaviours (see Figure 8).

6\% of the overall secondary school sample reported engaging in two of the listed risky behaviours, and $4 \%$ in three or more.
$29 \%$ of Year 12/FE respondents reported engaging in only one of the listed risky behaviours. The most frequent of these was the consumption of alcohol monthly or more often, which correlated less highly with multiple risky behaviours than did the other risks. 31\% of Year 12/FE pupils who reported drinking alcohol monthly or more often reported engaging in no other risky behaviours (see Figure 12). Both weekly or more frequent cigarette smoking, and having tried illegal drugs, correlated very highly with multiple risky behaviours, with only $3 \%$ of Year 12/FE frequent smokers and $5 \%$ of those who have tried illegal drugs engaging in no other risky behaviours (see Figures 8 and 18).
$21 \%$ of the overall Year 12/FE sample reported engaging in two of the listed risky behaviours, and $25 \%$ in three or more.

Table 8: Multiple risky behaviours.

| Number of <br> reported risky <br> behaviours* | Number | \% of total sample | Number | \% of total sample |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2853 | $70 \%$ | 380 | $25 \%$ |  |
| 1 | 810 | $20 \%$ | 428 | $29 \%$ |  |
| 2 | 241 | 108 | $6 \%$ | 314 | $21 \%$ |
| 3 | 60 | $3 \%$ | 198 | $13 \%$ |  |
| 4 | 11 | $1 \%$ | 125 | $8 \%$ |  |
| 5 |  | $0 \%$ | 47 | $3 \%$ |  |

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


## Education

This section of the report describes how helpful the respondents have found it to learn about risky behaviours such as cigarette smoking, and the areas in which they would like more support and knowledge.
$47 \%$ of the Year 12/FE sample and $53 \%$ of the secondary school sample have found it quite helpful or very helpful to learn about smoking (Figure 32). The proportion of those in the secondary school sample who smoke monthly or more frequently and who found it quite helpful or very helpful to learn about smoking was significantly lower than in the overall secondary sample ( $38 \%$ to $53 \%$ ).

Figure 32: Question 4.20.03. How helpful have you found it to learn about the things listed below: Smoking.


Half of the secondary school respondents and 43\% of the Year 12/FE respondents reported finding it quite helpful or very helpful to learn about alcohol (Figure 33). This represents a reduction from the proportions who reported finding it quite or very helpful in the previous survey ( $59 \%$ in both school settings). Those who reported being frequently drunk (weekly or more often) were less likely, in both the secondary and Year 12/FE settings, to have reported finding it quite helpful or very helpful to learn about alcohol than the overall rate.

Figure 33: Question 4.20.02. How helpful have you found it to learn about the things listed below: Alcohol.

$55 \%$ of the secondary school respondents and $49 \%$ of the Year 12/FE respondents reported having found it helpful or quite helpful to learn about drugs. The proportions were lower among the respondents who reported having tried illegal drugs in both school settings.

Figure 34: Question 4.20.04. How helpful have you found it to learn about the things listed below:


Asked how helpful they had found it to learn about sex and relationships, 50\% of the secondary and $47 \%$ of the Year 12/FE respondents reported finding it helpful or quite helpful. 33\% of the secondary school pupils who have had sex reported that they had found such learning unhelpful or not helpful enough, compared to $24 \%$ of the overall secondary sample.

Figure 35: Question 4.20.05. How helpful have you found it to learn about the things listed below: Sex and relationships.


Year 12/FE respondents who reported having had sexual intercourse were very close to the overall Year 12/FE sample in terms of the level of help they had found in learning about sexually transmitted infections, with $46 \%$ and $45 \%$, respectively, having found it helpful or quite helpful. Secondary school pupils who have had sex were slightly more likely than the overall secondary school rate to have found it helpful or quite helpful ( $46 \%$ to $42 \%$ ).

Figure 36: Question 4.20.08. How helpful have you found it to learn about the things listed below: Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including chlamydia and HIV.


Similarly, there was minimal variation in the Year $12 /$ FE sample between those who reported having had sex and the overall rate in terms of the level of help the pupils had found in learning about contraception, while the secondary school respondents who have had sex were slightly more likely than the overall secondary sample to have found such education either quite helpful/very helpful (50\% to $45 \%$ ) or unhelpful/not helpful enough ( $29 \%$ to $25 \%$ ).

Figure 37: Question 4.20.11. How helpful have you found it to learn about the things listed below: Contraception, including emergency contraception.


When asked if there was anything pupils wanted to know more about, around $13 \%$ of primary school respondents felt they wanted to know more about smoking and alcohol, while $17 \%$ felt they needed more support or knowledge about drugs. Many other learning development areas had a higher proportion of primary school respondents than smoking, drugs and alcohol.

Figure 38: Question 6.14. Are there any areas in your life that you feel you need more support or knowledge in? Primary.


Among secondary and Year 12/FE respondents, key concerns were money management and coping with feelings. Around $13 \%$ of secondary school children and $4 \%$ of Year 12/FE children felt they needed more support or information about alcohol, drugs and smoking.

Figure 38a: Question 6.14. Are there any areas in your life that you feel you need more support or knowledge in? Secondary and Year 12/FE.


The proportions of both secondary school and Year 12/FE respondents who felt they needed more support and knowledge about drugs, alcohol and smoking were uniformly higher among those who had tried or frequently engaged in the risky behaviour in question. This was particularly notable among secondary school pupils who smoke cigarettes weekly or more often, with a quarter of these pupils feeling they needed more support and knowledge about smoking, compared to $12 \%$ of the overall secondary sample.

Figure 38b: Question 6.14, Question 3.09, Question 3.04, Question 3.01: Are there any areas in your life that you feel you need more support or knowledge in? Drugs, alcohol and smoking.


[^4]
## Next steps

The data from this report will help schools to identify areas for improvement and address particular issues that were raised by their own pupils, and will provide evidence to influence future services provided by Wiltshire Council and partners in order to improve the health and wellbeing of our children and young people.

If you wish to discuss the data in this report or the other Wiltshire Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey reports please contact the Public Health team at Wiltshire Council.

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[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ What About YOUth (WAY) survey, 2014/15

[^1]:    ${ }^{2}$ https://digital.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB17879
    ${ }^{3}$ https://digital.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB17879

[^2]:    ${ }^{4}$ https://digital.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB17879

[^3]:    ${ }^{5}$ https://digital.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB17879
    ${ }^{6}$ https://digital.nhs.uk/catalogue/PUB17879

[^4]:    * Frequent drinkers = consume alcohol weekly or more often. Frequent smokers = smoke cigarettes weekly or more often.

