

DRUGS

SMOKING

1. Tobacco use kills around 120,000 people in the UK every year.
2. That's about 330 every day - as if a jumbo jet crashed daily and killed all its passengers.
3. It accounts for around 20% of all deaths each year in the UK.
4. About half of all regular cigarette smokers will eventually be killed by their habit.
5. Girls are more likely to be regular smokers than boys (12% compared with 9%).
6. 1% of 11 year olds smoke regularly, but almost one quarter (23%) of 15 year olds do.

DRINKING

1. NHS responses to alcohol-related health problems cost around £150 million per year.
2. Alcohol-related crime costs the government an estimated £50 million per year.
3. Alcohol misuse costs industry an estimated £2 billion per year.
4. One in four male hospital admissions is related in some way to alcohol.
5. Up to 28,000 deaths a year are alcohol-related.
6. 3,000 cases with alcohol specified on the death certificate
7. Alcohol is involved in 15% of traffic deaths, 26% of drownings and 39% of deaths in fires.
8. About 65% of suicide attempts are linked with excessive drinking.
9. In 2000, boys continued to be slightly more likely than girls to have drunk alcohol in the last week (25% compared with 23%).
10. As with cigarette smoking, there was a sharp increase in prevalence of drinking with age: in 2000 only 5% of all pupils aged 11 had drunk a drink in the last week, but 49% of 15 year olds had done so.
11. The average weekly consumption of alcohol among pupils who drank in the last 7 days has increased steadily from 5.3 units in 1990 (equivalent to almost 3 pints of normal strength beer) to 10.4 units in 2000.

DRUGS

1. Pupils who had used drugs in the last year increased from 11% in 1998 to 14% in 2000.
2. The break down of this was 15% of boys and 13% of girls.
3. In 2000, 3% of 11 year olds used drugs in the last year - and 29% of 15 year olds.
4. Cannabis was by far the most likely drug to have been used - 12% of pupils aged 11-15 had used cannabis in the last year. Use of cannabis in the last year was slightly higher among boys (13%) than girls (11%). (Only 1% had used heroin or cocaine)
5. Cannabis use increased sharply with age: 2% of 11 year olds had used the drug in the last year compared with 28% of 15 year olds.

SOURCES

- www.ask.co.uk, Basic Facts No. 2, Smoking & Disease, January 2001
- Alcohol Concern's Think Drink Week, September 1995. Updated May 1998.
- www.doh.gov.uk (Department of Health, 2000)