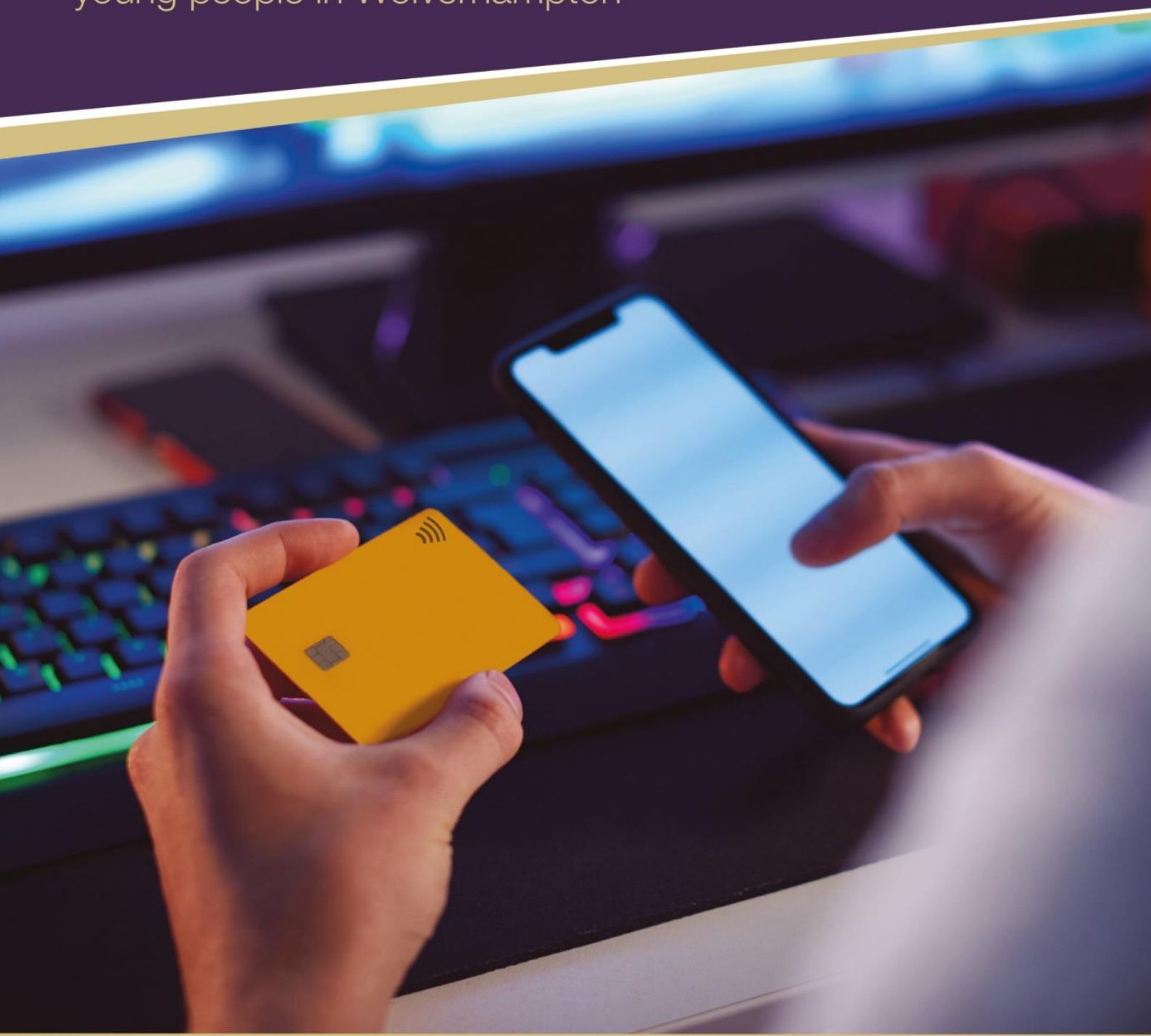


# Findings from the Health Related Behaviour Survey 2024 **Smoking, Substances and Gambling**

Supporting the health of  
young people in Wolverhampton



# Supporting the health of young people in Wolverhampton

## Findings from the Health Related Behaviour Survey 2024 – Smoking, Substances and Gambling

The Health Related Behaviour Survey (HRBS) has been running in Wolverhampton since 2006. The survey is carried out as a way of consulting with pupils and collecting robust information about young people's health and wellbeing. The HRBS is commissioned by the Starting, Developing and Living Well team within the City of Wolverhampton Council Public Health Department and carried out by the Schools Health Education Unit (SHEU) which has conducted the survey on behalf of the Council since its inception in 2006.

The survey is conducted with pupils in primary and secondary phase settings across Wolverhampton, who are asked to complete an anonymous on-line version of the survey appropriate for their age group. Schools are supported to collect the most reliable data with pupils in Years 2 (Key Stage 1 survey), 4 & 6 (Key Stage 2 survey), and 8 & 10 (Secondary Key Stage 3-4 survey) with other year groups taking part where appropriate. In 2024 survey schools could also opt for a Year 7 version and a Year 12 version of the secondary survey.

HRBS 2024 was completed by a total of 12611 pupils in 34 primary (KS1) settings, 48 primary (KS2) settings, 15 secondary (KS 3-4) settings, 4 schools completed the Year 12 survey and 5 special schools also took part.

### Navigating the report

This report is one of five that reflect local priorities. Each report is divided into the following sections:

#### Headline comparisons

Each report contains headline bullet points, comparing the 2024 data and the same questions for 2022 and earlier in many cases.

Key:  Positive finding  
 Negative finding  
 Neutral finding (where it is subjective as to whether the finding is positive or negative or is little different)

#### Trends

The survey questions have changed somewhat compared with previous years but where possible, trend charts have been included to provide useful insight for key priority areas.

#### Phase differences

A selection of questions used across the surveys has been presented to look for age-related differences in responses.

#### Mapping

The primary school data available has been divided into ward areas by postcode of the pupil.

The maps are colour coded:

Green = positive findings

Blue = neutral findings (where it is subjective as to whether the finding is positive or negative)

Red = negative findings

The darker the colour, the higher/lower the percentage proportions (see key on each map). Sadly there isn't enough secondary school data available for mapping purposes.

#### Inequalities ≠

A selection of questions for each of the primary and secondary questionnaires has been presented to look for different responses across potential vulnerable groups

#### Links between behaviours

Cross tabulations have been investigated for some of the key questions in the survey to look for links between behaviours. Each statement is a statistically significant finding; to save space, one from primary and one from secondary have been selected but full lists are available.

### THEMED REPORTS NUMBER 3 OF 5:

#### HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

#### RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUAL HEALTH

#### SMOKING, SUBSTANCES AND GAMBLING

#### EMOTIONAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

#### SAFETY (INCLUDING BULLYING)

## Headlines

About 20% of pupils still live with parents/carers who smoke. For those pupils who live in homes with smokers there are links with other health-risk behaviours.

### Key Stage 1 pupils

- 28% of Key Stage 1 pupils said that people smoke near them at home. This was at 22% in 2022 but seems to back to the 28% seen in 2018. It was at 33% in 2016.
- 20% of Key Stage 1 pupils said that people smoke near them in the car. This is higher than the 14% seen in 2022 and 17% seen in 2018.
- 17% of Key Stage 1 pupils said that they have tasted alcohol. This is higher than the 14% seen in 2022 but lower than the 20% seen in 2018 and the 26% seen in 2016.



### Key Stage 2 pupils

- 20% of Key Stage 2 pupils in 2024 said that their parents/carers smoke. This continues the downward trend observed since 2010 where 40% of pupils said that their parents/carers smoked.
- 23% of Key Stage 2 pupils in 2024 said that their parents/carers smoke e-cigarettes. This is higher than the 20% seen in 2022 and the 16% seen in 2018.
- 4% of Key Stage 2 pupils in 2024 said that their parents/carers smoke shisha. This compares with the 3% in 2022 and the 5% seen in 2018.
- 17% of Key Stage 2 pupils said that they are exposed to second-hand smoke at home. This is higher than the 16% seen in 2022 and the 13% seen in 2018.
- 7% of Key Stage 2 pupils (8% of Year 6) said that they have at least tried e-cigarettes. This is the same as the 7% seen in 2022 and 2018.
- 2% of Key Stage 2 pupils in 2024 and 2022 said that they have at least tried smoking. This has fallen from 3% in 2018 and 6% seen in 2010.
- For those reporting having ever drunk alcohol, the trend was downward from 25% seen when the question came into the survey in 2012 to 14% seen in 2018 and 2022 but has risen slightly to 15% in 2024.

### Secondary pupils

- 5% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2024 said that they have tried smoking in the past or smoke now. This continues a downward trend from the 26% seen in 2010.
- 11% of 16+ students said they have tried smoking in the past or smoke now 2024 compared with 17% in 2022.
- 20% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2024 said that their parents/carers smoke. This continues the downward trend observed since 2010 where 35% of pupils said that their parents/carers smoked.
- 30% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2024 said that they had been exposed to second hand smoke compared with the 33% who said this in 2022.
- 21% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2024 said that their parents/carers use e-cigarettes. This continues and upward trend from the 15% who said this in 2016.
- 19% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2024 said that they have used e-cigarettes at least once or twice. 17% said this in 2022 and 2018. All are lower than the 20% who said this in 2016.
- 9% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2024 said that they had been drunk.
- 42% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils in 2024 said their lessons on drug education (including alcohol) had been 'quite' or 'very useful'. This is lower than the 46% reported in 2022.
- 7% of Key Stage 3-4 secondary pupils said they have been offered cannabis in 2024 compared with 7% in 2022 and 9% in 2018.
- 2% of Year 10 pupils in 2024 said that they have used cannabis in the last month. This compared to 3% in 2022 and 5% in 2018.

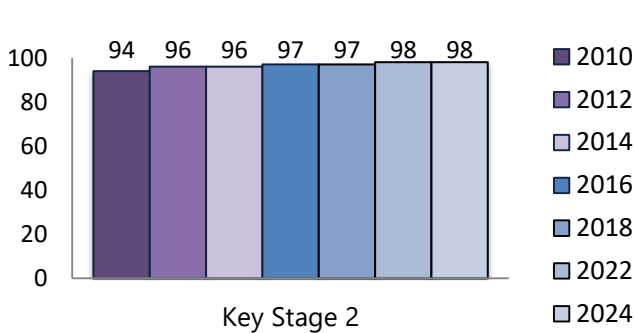


- 19% of 16+ students said they have been offered cannabis in 2024 compared with 26% in 2022.
- 12% of 16+ students said they are aware of a special drug and alcohol service to help young people in Wolverhampton 2024 compared with 18% in 2022.

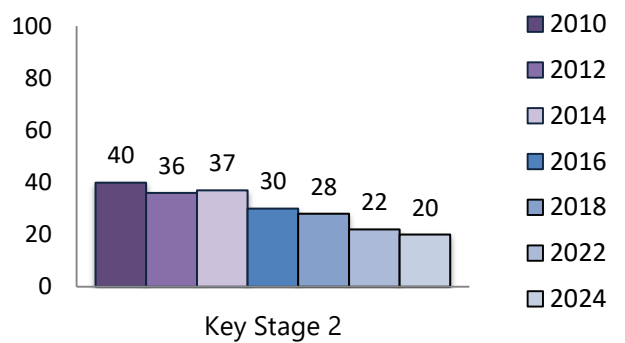
## Trends

- There would appear to be a clear downward trend for smoking in the primary pupils responses. They are less likely to say that they have a parent/carer who smokes and more likely to report never having smoked at all in 2024 compared with previous years.

**Primary Trends – Never smoked at all**

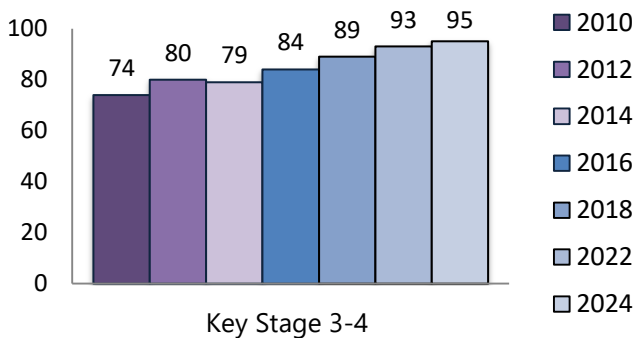


**Primary Trends – Parent/carer smokes (2022 onwards cigarettes, cigar or pipe tobacco)**

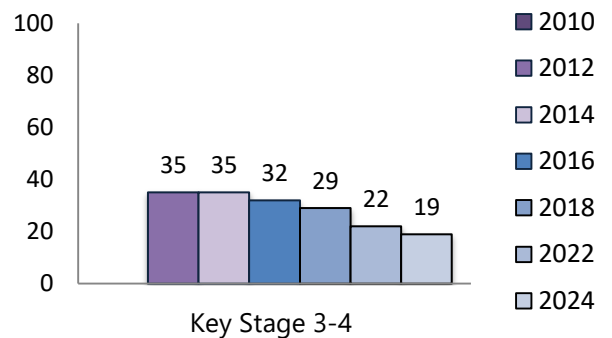


- There is a clear upward trend for Key Stage 3-4 secondary aged pupils who have never even tried smoking. 74% of pupils said this in 2010 and 93% said the same in 2022. They are also less likely to have a parent to carer who smokes in 2022 compared with previous years.

**Secondary Trends – Never smoked at all**

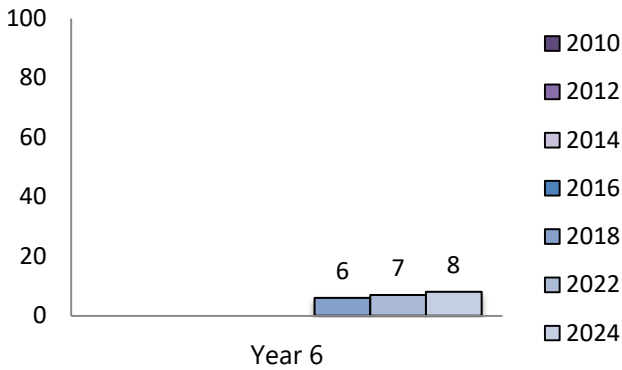


**Secondary Trends – Parent/carer smokes (2022 onwards cigarettes, cigar or pipe tobacco)**

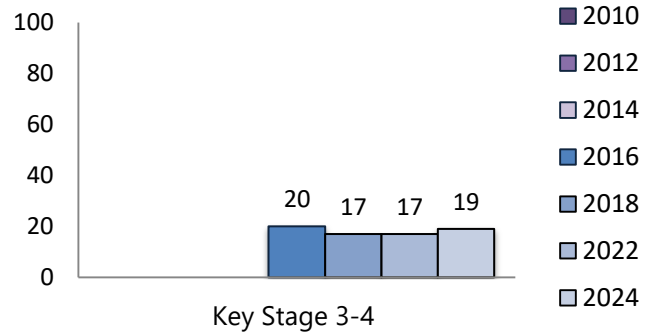


- There would appear to be a slight upward trend for vaping in the primary pupils' responses. The secondary trend seems less clear:

**Primary Trends – have vaped (Year 6)**

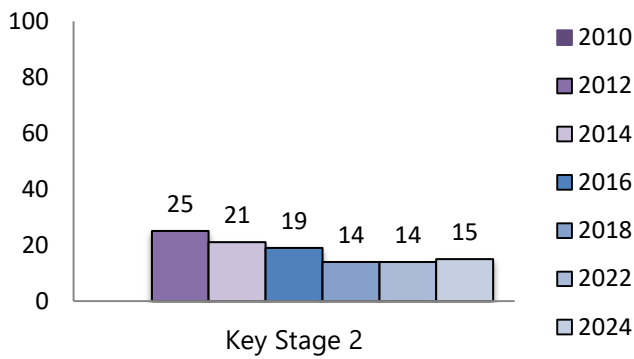


**Secondary Trends – have vaped**

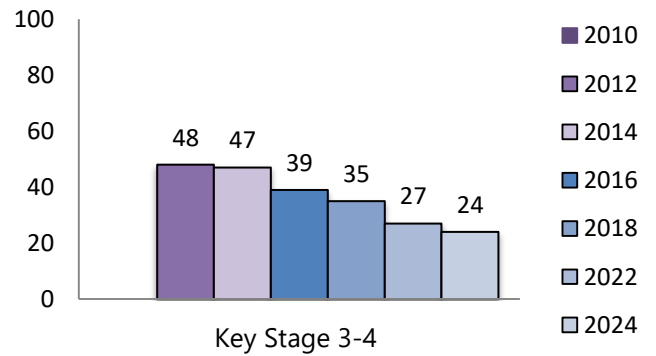


- There is a significant fall in the proportions of secondary pupils who have ever drunk alcohol.

**Primary Trends – Ever had alcohol**  
(N.B. Question not asked in 2010)

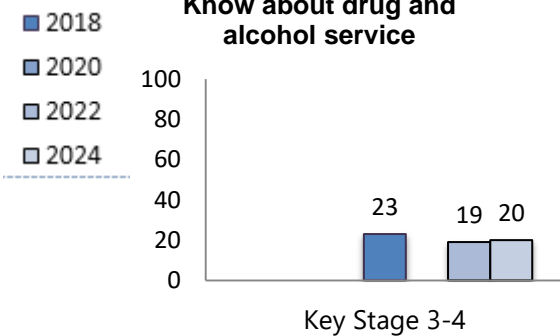


**Secondary Trends – Ever had alcohol**  
(2024 'At least a few times a year')

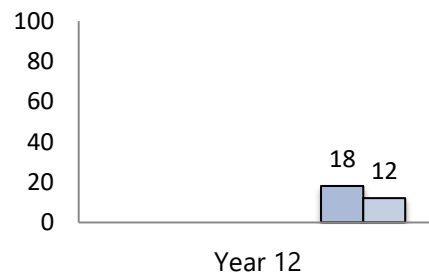


- There has been a slight recovery in the awareness of a special drug and alcohol service to help young people in Wolverhampton in 2024. For the Year 12 results, there appears to be a drop from the 18% in 2022 to 12% in 2024, but this may be due to the differences between the schools/colleges that surveyed, so caution must be taken with the interpretation of this fall.

**Know about drug and alcohol service**



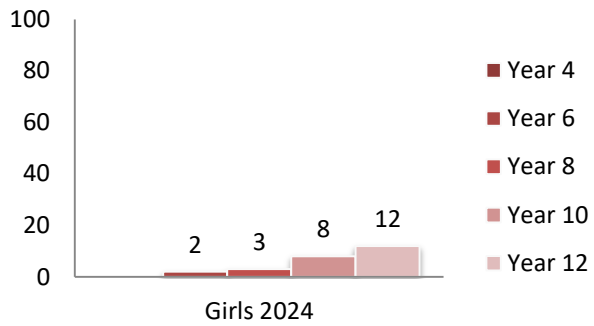
**Know about drug and alcohol service**



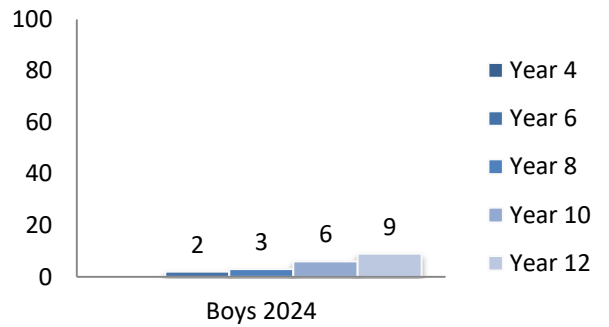
## Phase differences

- As would be expected, there is an increase in the proportions of pupils having smoked cigarettes between the primary and secondary phases.

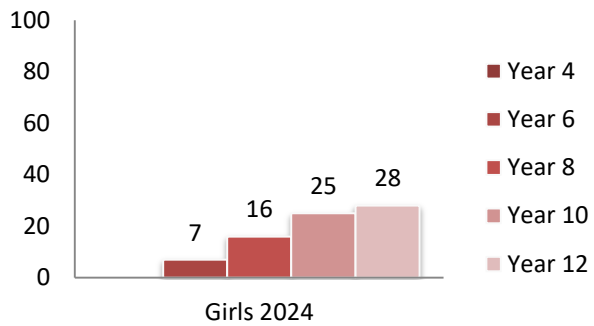
**Ever smoked cigarettes**



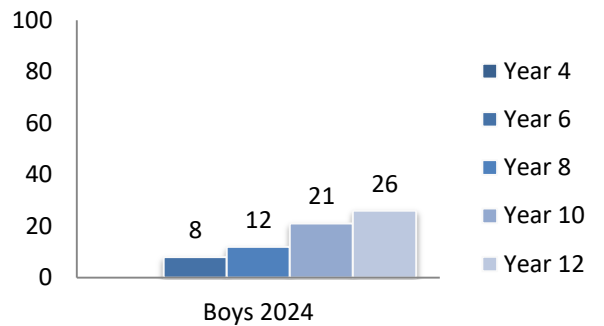
**Ever smoked cigarettes**



**Ever used an e-cigarette**



**Ever used an e-cigarette**





# Focus on Gambling

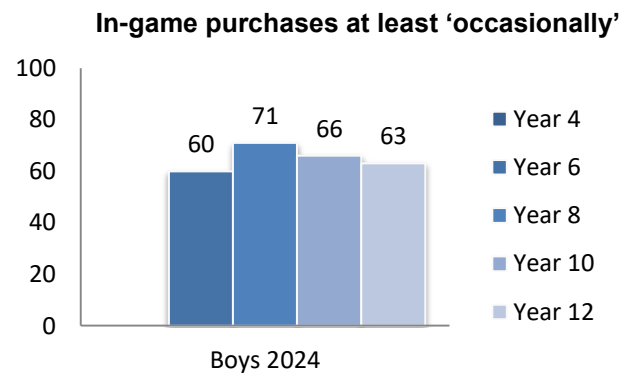
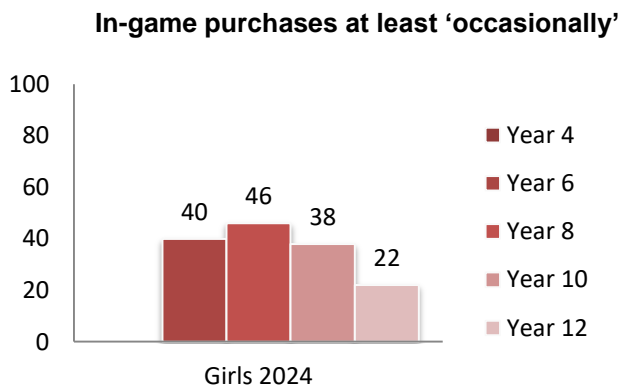
## Headlines

Questions on gambling were introduced into the survey in 2024.

- 52% of KS2 pupils made in game purchases (e.g. coins, Loot boxes, skins). 58% said they know where to get support if they are spending too much time or money on these activities.
- 54% of KS3-4 pupils made in game purchases (e.g. coins, Loot boxes, skins). More boys than girls said this.
- 27% KS3-4 pupils said they lied about the money they spent on gambling and 20% spent more than they can afford.
- 23% of 16+ students said they lied about the money they spent on gambling and 12% spent more money than they can afford.

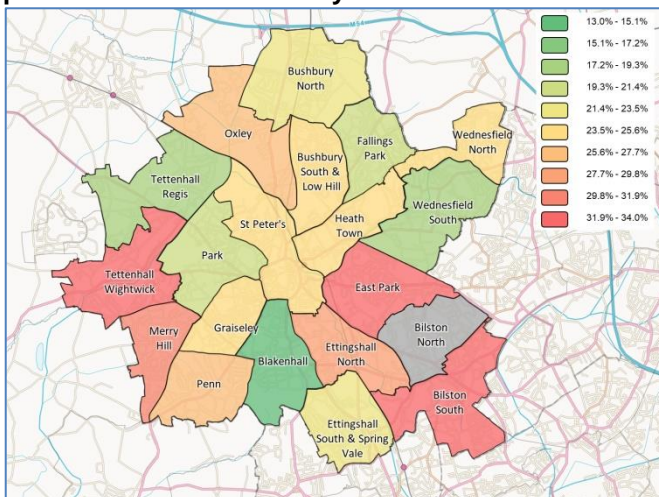
## Phase differences

- More boys than girls have made in-game/app purchases such as 'loot boxes' or 'skins'.

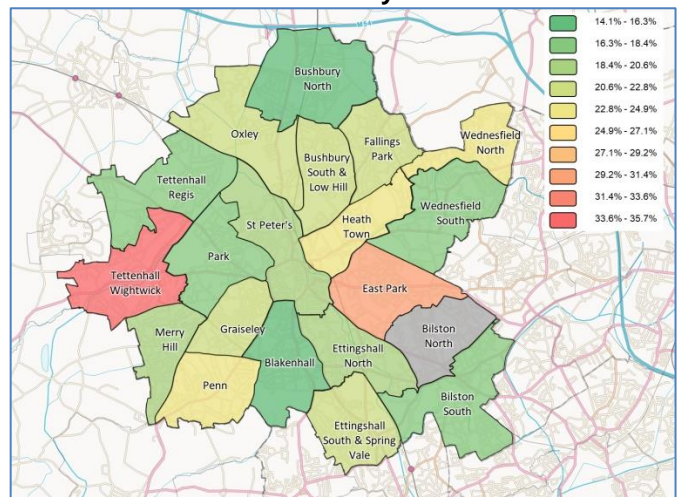


## Mapping - ward level mapping is only available for Key Stage 2

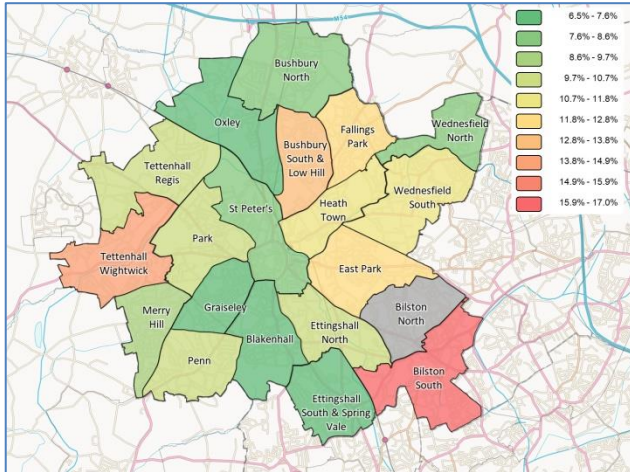
**2024 Year 6 pupils - Make in-game or app purchases at least monthly**



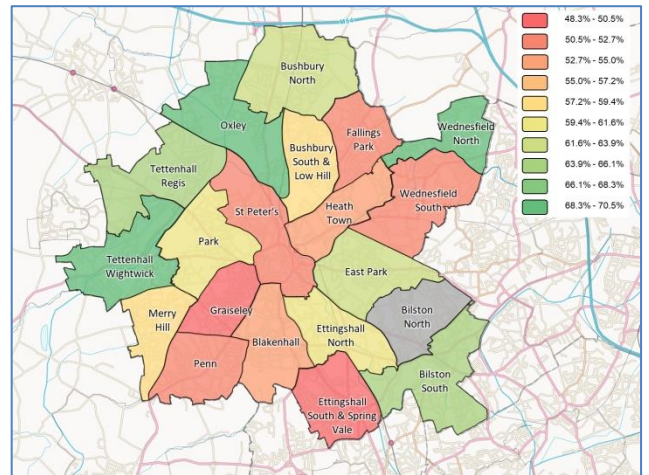
**2024 Year 6 pupils - Play arcade games at least monthly**



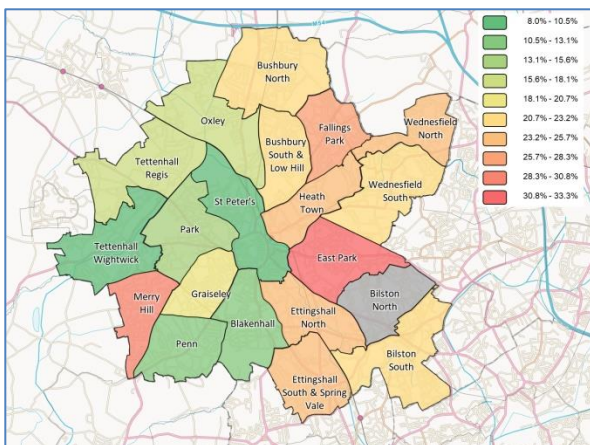
**2024 Year 6 pupils – Made a private bet for money at least monthly**



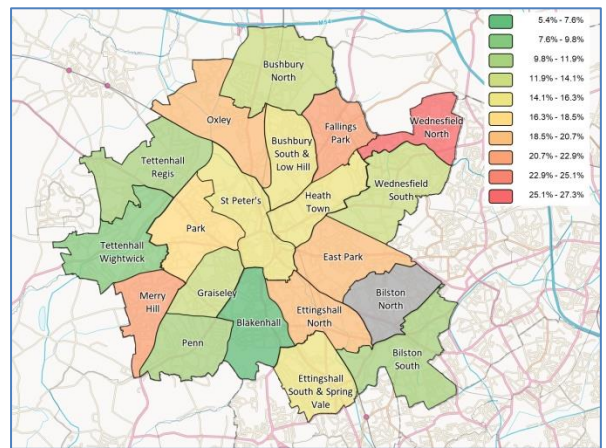
**2024 Year 6 pupils – Know where to get help if they are spending too much time/money on these activities**



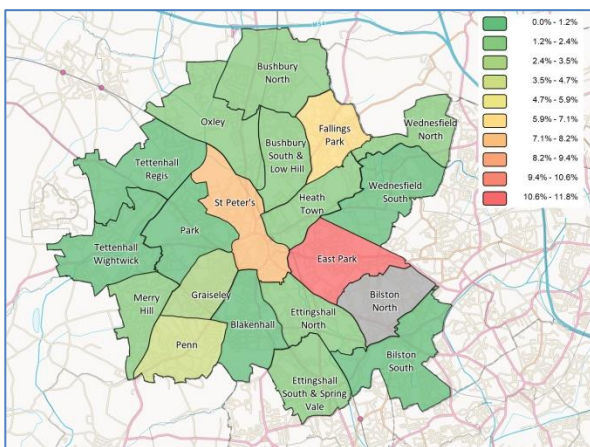
**Year 6 pupils – Parent/carer smokes**



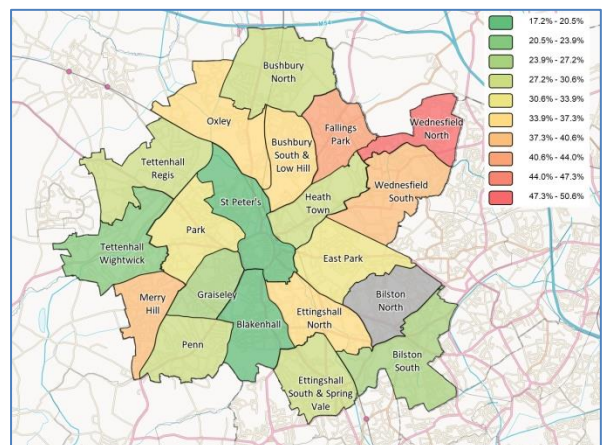
**Year 6 pupils – exposed to second hand smoke at home**



**Year 6 pupils – have at least tried smoking**

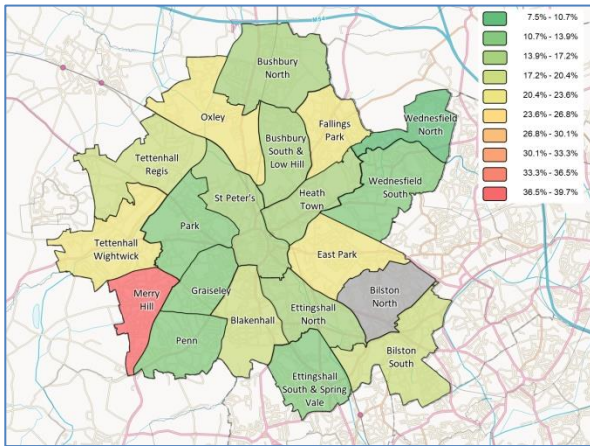


**Year 6 pupils – exposed to second hand smoke at any of the listed places**

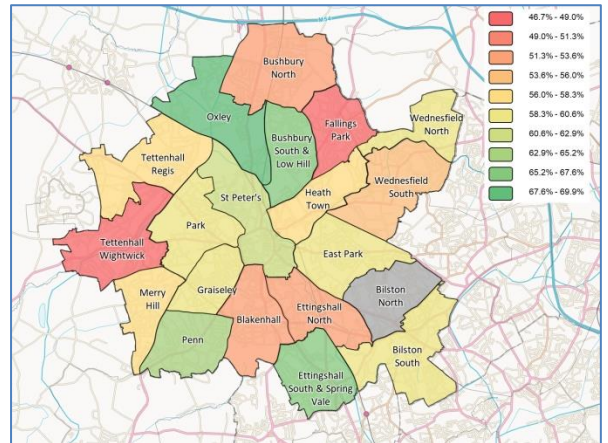




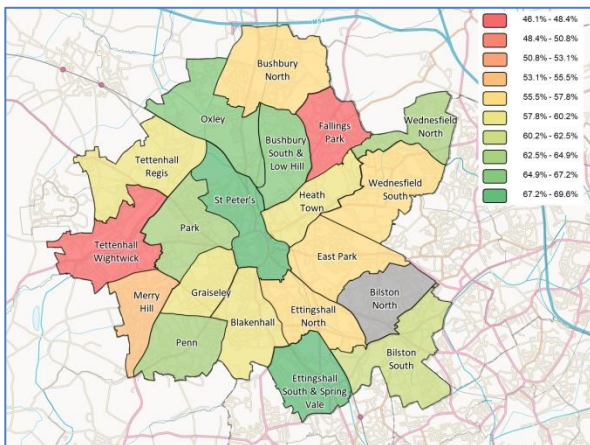
### Year 6 pupils – have ever drank alcohol



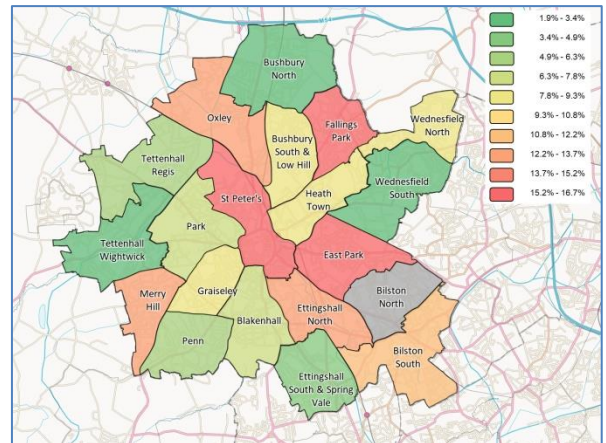
### Year 6 pupils – have had useful information from school about drugs and alcohol



### Year 6 pupils – have had useful information from school about smoking

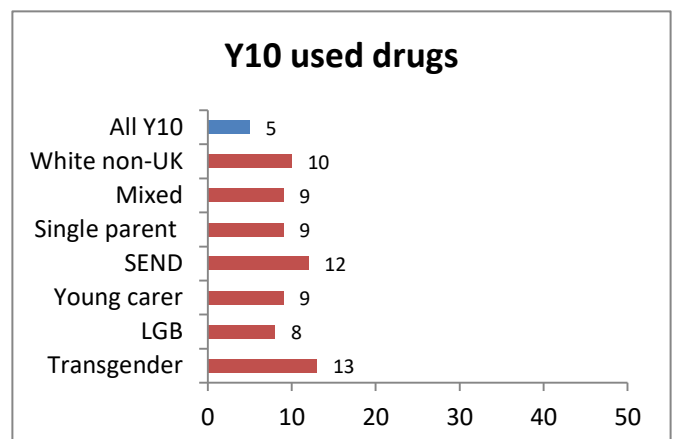
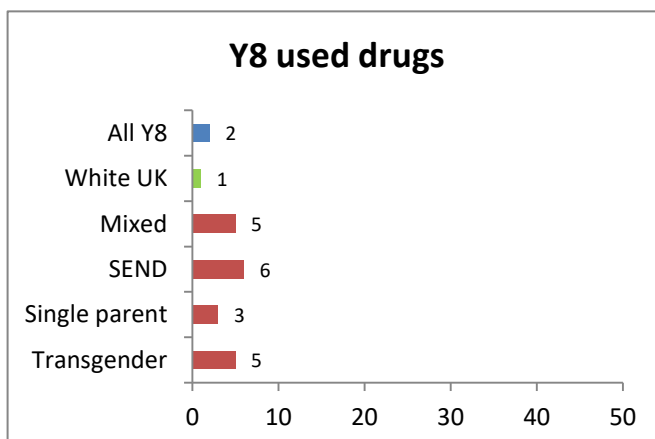
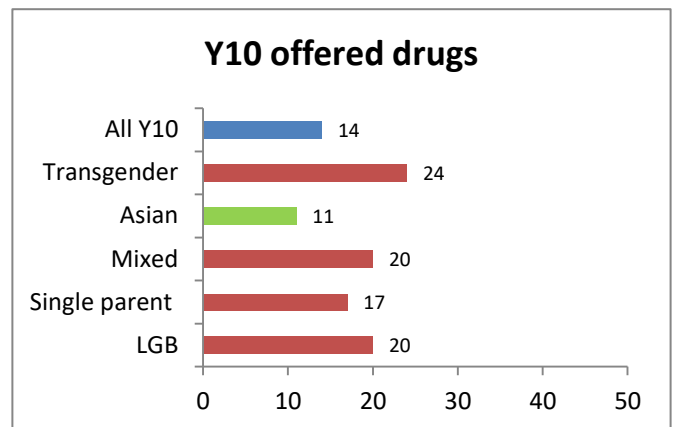
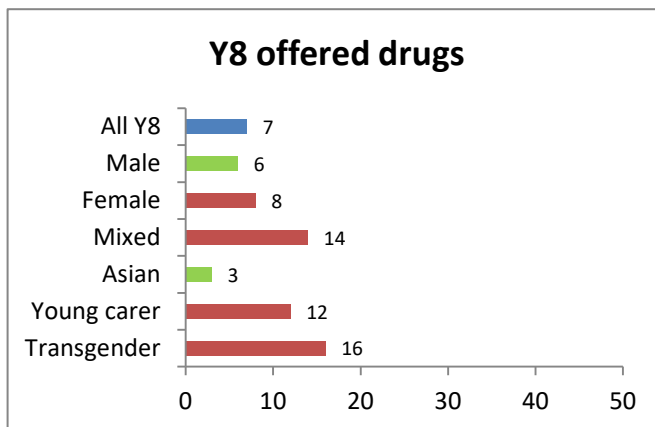
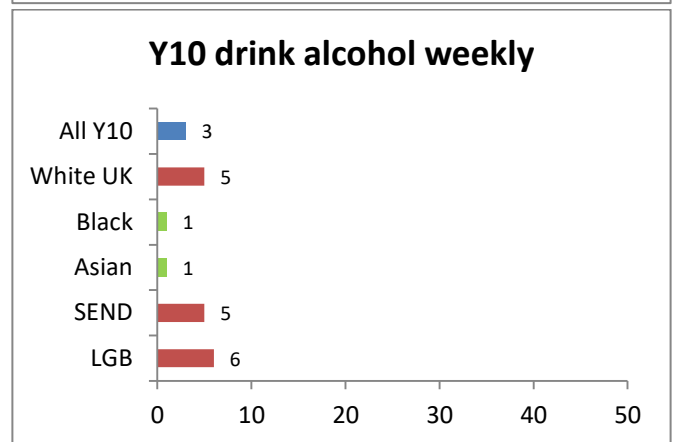
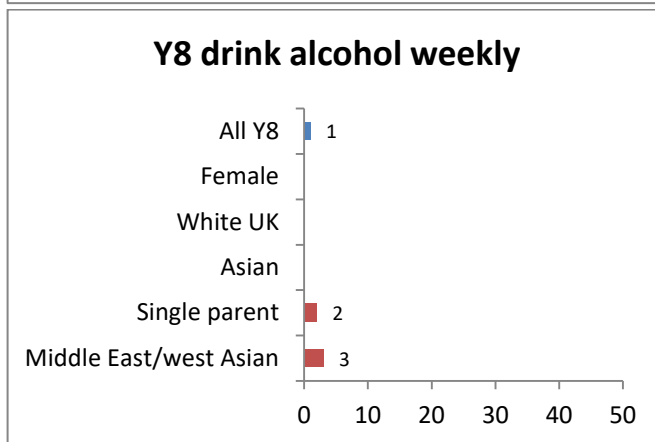
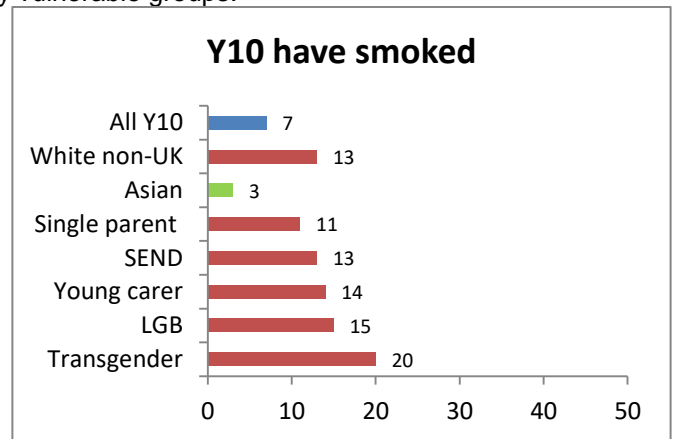
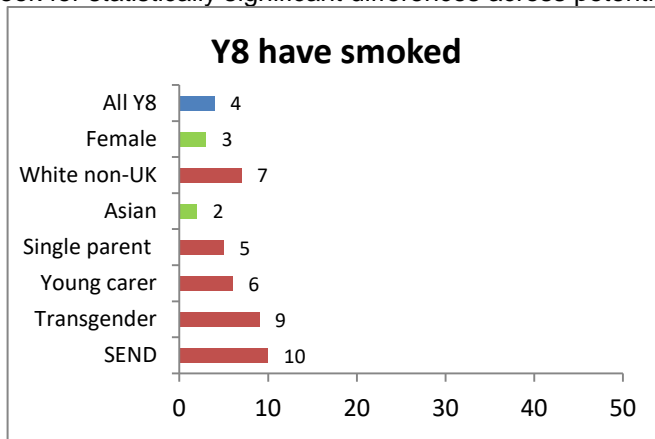


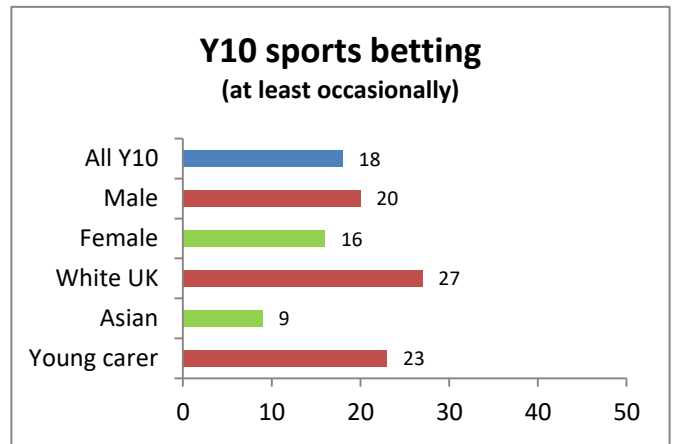
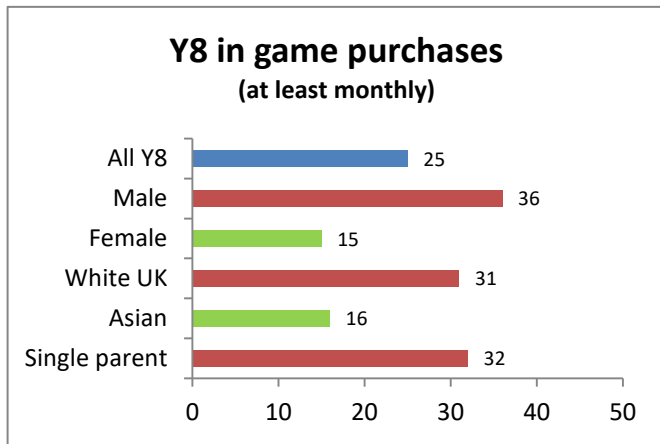
### Year 6 pupils – have at least tried vaping



## Inequalities ≠

A selection of questions for each of the primary and secondary questionnaires has been presented to look for statistically significant differences across potentially vulnerable groups:





## Links between behaviours

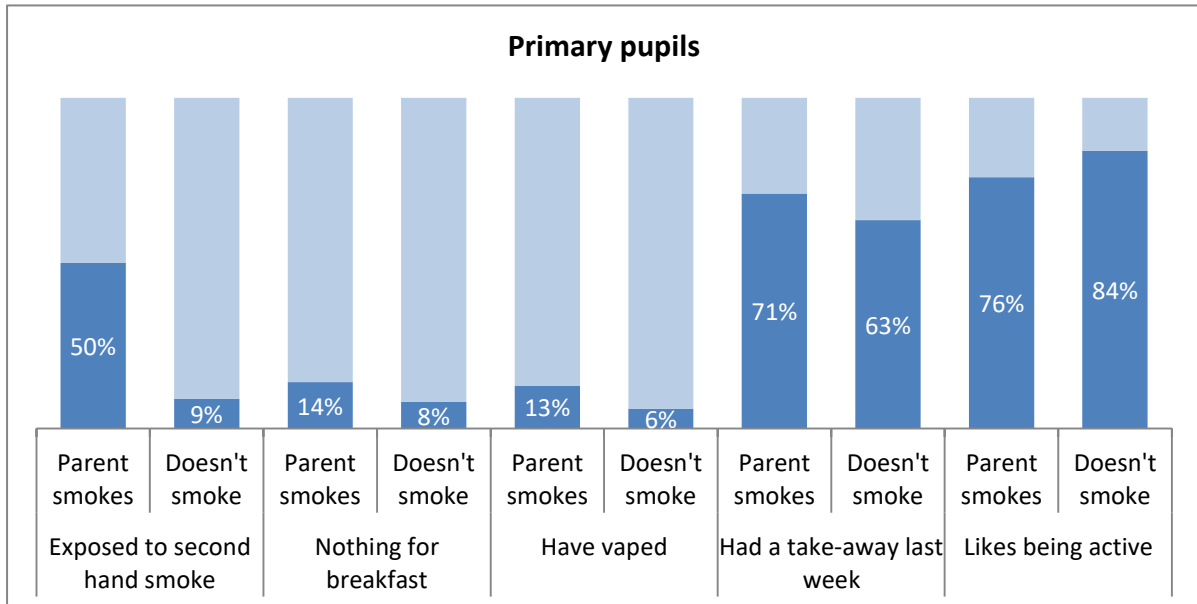
§ When compared with primary pupils who don't have a parent who smokes, primary pupils who said that **they have a parent who smokes** are:

Significantly more likely to:

- Have been exposed to second hand smoke
- Have nothing for breakfast
- Have vaped
- Had take-away food last week

Significantly less likely to:

- Say they like being active



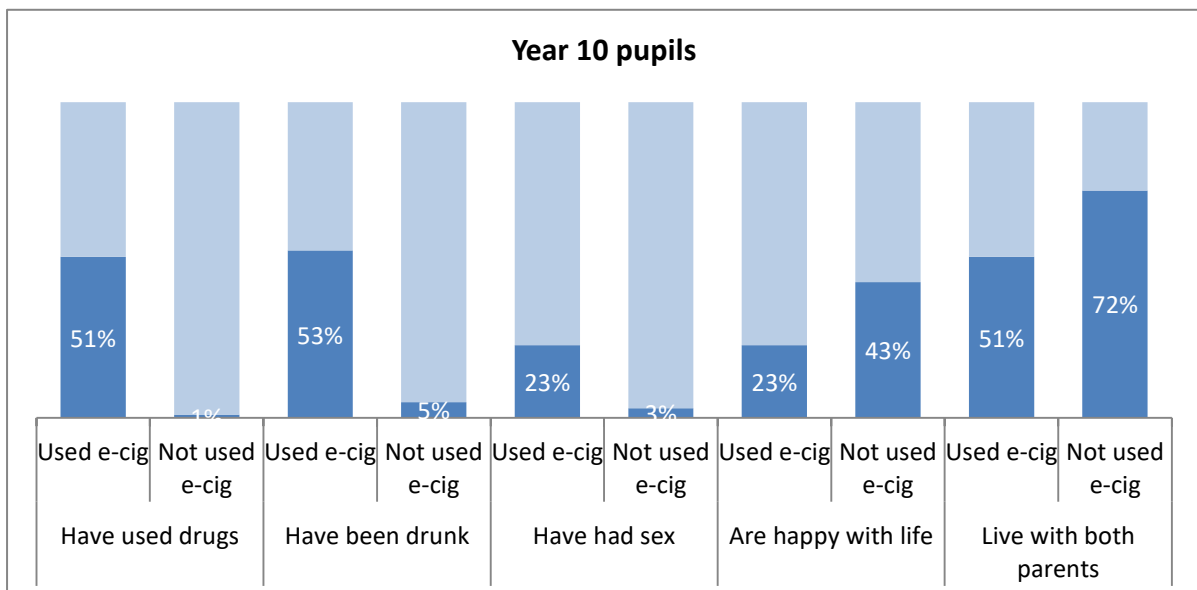
§ When compared with Year 10 pupils who said they have never used e-cigarettes, Year 10 pupils who said that **they have used e-cigarettes** are:

Significantly more likely to:

- Have used drugs
- Have been drunk
- Have had sex

Significantly less likely to:

- Be happy with life
- Live with both parents





## Section 6 Inequalities ≠

The table below shows percentages for selected criteria for the whole year group sample and selected sub-samples of young people who may be vulnerable.

The table shows significance testing; the tests were performed using actual numbers of respondents for each criterion, not the overall sample size shown.

No correction has been attempted for multiple comparisons, so we could expect 1 in 20 cells to show an apparently significant difference by chance alone. However, there are 96 cells, 34 of which show a significant result, 18 at  $p < 0.01$ ; this greatly exceeds expectations.

Significant differences are shown in green if desirable, orange if undesirable

99	99	$p < 0.05$ Green=Higher on a positive criterion or lower on a negative one
99	99	$p < 0.01$ Orange=Lower on a positive criterion or higher on a negative one

Year 6	All	Male	Female	White UK	White non-UK	Mixed	Black	Asian	Middle East/West Asian	English is not 1st language	Single-parent family	Young carer	Currently has FSM	Violence between adults at home last month
Sample	1,944	982	926	660	102	240	308	454	70	530	362	299	730	196
Offered drugs	4%	5%	2%	3%	8%	3%	6%	3%	4%	5%	4%	7%	4%	11%
Ever smoked cigarettes	2%	2%	2%	2%	5%	3%	2%	1%	6%	3%	2%	1%	3%	7%

Year 8	All	Male	Female	Transgender	White UK	White non-UK	Mixed	Black	Asian	Middle East/West Asian	English is not 1st language	Single-parent family	SEND	Young carer	Currently has FSM	Violence between adults at home last month
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1,668</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>840</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>391</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>108</b>
Drink ever spiked	1%	1%	0%	3%	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%	3%	1%	1%	2%	1%	0%	0%
Usually drink at least weekly	1%	1%	0%	2%	0%	3%	2%	0%	0%	3%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Offered drugs	7%	6%	8%	16%	6%	6%	14%	8%	3%	10%	7%	10%	14%	12%	8%	17%
Ever taken drugs	2%	2%	2%	5%	1%	2%	5%	2%	1%	3%	2%	3%	6%	2%	3%	6%
Ever smoked cigarettes	4%	3%	3%	9%	4%	7%	6%	1%	2%	5%	4%	5%	10%	6%	5%	9%

Year 10	All	Male	Female	Transgender	LGB	White UK	White non-UK	Mixed	Black	Asian	Middle East/West Asian	English is not 1st language	Single-parent family	SEND	Young carer	Currently has FSM	Violence between adults at home last month
<b>Sample</b>	<b>1,777</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>982</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>594</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>339</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>135</b>
Drink ever spiked	1%	1%	1%	4%	3%	1%	0%	2%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	5%	4%	1%	2%
Usually drink at least weekly	3%	3%	2%	1%	6%	5%	4%	3%	1%	1%	0%	2%	3%	5%	4%	2%	5%
Offered drugs	14%	13%	15%	24%	20%	15%	17%	20%	14%	11%	10%	10%	17%	18%	16%	14%	24%
Ever taken drugs	5%	5%	6%	13%	8%	6%	10%	9%	6%	2%	8%	5%	9%	12%	9%	6%	11%
Ever smoked cigarettes	7%	6%	8%	20%	15%	8%	13%	11%	7%	3%	8%	7%	11%	13%	14%	10%	14%

# The 2024 Sample

Teachers were briefed on how to collect the most reliable data by Schools Health Education Unit staff. The facility was offered to all schools to complete the survey online, using a customised website. Where technical issues made this impossible, a paper-based alternative was provided. The 2024 HRBS was completed by a total of 12,611 pupils in 34 primary (KS1) settings, 48 primary (KS2) settings, 15 secondary (KS3-4) settings, 4 schools completed the Year 12 survey and 5 special schools also took part.

Each of the schools has its own report comparing their results to the combined sample for schools and pupils in their age phase.

School Year	Year 2	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Total
Boys	728	879	225	982	594	776	504	747	64	120	5619
Girls	741	910	216	926	781	840	522	982	160	339	6417
Total	1490	1839	455	1944	1414	1668	1061	1777	235	481	12364*

\* 328 young people didn't select male or female. 247 students took part in a bespoke special school survey so their results are reported elsewhere

For more information contact SHEU on 01392 66 72 72 or visit [www.sheu.org.uk](http://www.sheu.org.uk)

## The Way Forward – over to you

These reports have been produced to disseminate the findings of the survey and promote further action and discussion in schools and other organisations. The results will be discussed by relevant forums and partnerships. We hope you will be able to use these results in your own thinking and discussions with young people.

### Acknowledgements

The work was facilitated by the Starting, Developing and Living Well team within the Public Health department. SHEU are grateful to the children and young people, teachers and schools for their time and contributions to this survey. As a result of their work we have excellent data to be used by all organisations that support the health and wellbeing of young people in Wolverhampton.

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