

Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among Young People in England in 2014

Users and Uses Statement

From our engagement with customers, we know that there are many users of the Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among young people in England (SDD) statistics. There are also many users of these statistics who we do not know about. We are continually aiming to improve our understanding of who our users are in order to enhance our knowledge on what the uses of the data are via recent consultations and feedback forms available online. Below is listed our current understanding of the known users and uses of these statistics. Also included are the methods we use to attempt to engage with the current unknown users.

Known Users and Uses

Department of Health (DH) and Department for Education (DfE) - frequently use these statistics to inform policy and planning. The Public Health Outcomes Framework was published in January 2012 which sets out the desired outcomes for public health and how these will be measured which includes an indicator for Smoking prevalence of 15 year olds.

Home Office - frequently use these statistics to inform policy and planning also. The Home Office published their Drugs Misuse, Findings from the 2013/14 British Crime Survey, England and Wales publication on the same day as SDD and can be found via this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/home-office/series/alcohol-and-drug-statistics>

Public Health Observatories - frequently use the data and accompanying datasets for secondary analysis.

Media - the data is used to underpin articles in newspapers, journals, etc. An example from last year's survey is available at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/health-28461530>

Public - all information is accessible for general public use for any particular purpose. For example, comparing local and national data.

Academia and Researchers - a number of academics cite the SDD data in their research papers and download the full dataset from the UK data archive.

NHS - frequently use the reports, tables and datasets for local analyses, benchmarking and to inform decision making.

Public Health Campaign Groups - data are used to inform policy and decision making and to examine trends and behaviours.

Ad-hoc Requests - the statistics are used by the Health and Social Care Centre (HSCIC) to answer Parliamentary Questions (PQs), Freedom of Information (FOI) requests, and ad-hoc queries. Ad-hoc requests are received from health professionals, research companies, public sector organisations, and from members of the public showing that the statistics are used widely and not solely within the profession.

Between January and March 2012, the HSCIC consulted on the Lifestyle Surveys publications. The consultation was conducted in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics and is available via the following link:

<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/sddconsultation>

The consultation aimed to engage with the users of the surveys to develop a more complete understanding of the use made of these data and to ensure the surveys are relevant and meaningful to the needs of users. It also aimed to seek the views of users on the content and format of the publications although all need to be considered against increasing resource pressures, following the Government's 2010 spending review.

The consultation closed on 27 March 2012. We received 25 responses to the consultation (not all respondents answered all the questions).

Throughout the year we receive comments from users of the statistics via an online feedback form (see 'Unknown Users').

Unknown Users

The report is free to access via the HSCIC website and therefore the majority of users will access the report without being known to the HSCIC. Therefore it is important to put mechanisms in place to try to understand how these additional users are using the statistics and also to gain feedback on how we can make the data more useful to them. On the webpage where the report is surfaced there is a link to a feedback webform which the HSCIC uses for all its reports. The specific questions asked on the form are:

How useful did you find the content in this publication?

How did you find out about this publication?

What type of organisation do you work for?

What did you use the report for? What information was the most useful? Were you happy with the data quality?

To help us improve our publications, what changes would you like to see (for instance content or timing)?

Would you like to take part in future consultations on our publications?

Any responses via this webform are passed to the team responsible for the report to consider.

We also capture information on the number of web hits the reports receive, although we are unable to capture who the users are from this.