

Announcement of methodological changes to Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among young people in England in 2010 [NS]

Following consultation with survey users, the design of the survey sample was changed in 2010. The rationale for this change was to improve the timing and availability of regional analyses (via more consistent sample sizes across regions) to allow closer monitoring of trends. For surveys between 2000 and 2009, the sample of schools was selected by school type and sex of intake, and selected across regions in proportion to the distribution of the population of 11 to 15 year olds. In 2010, the sample was selected by Strategic Health Authority (SHA); within each SHA an equal number of schools was sampled. For a detailed description of the sample design of the 2009 (and previous surveys) and 2010 survey, see Appendix A of each respective report.

It is expected that regional analyses will be available for 2010-11 combined, in the Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use among young people in England in 2011 report, to be published in summer 2012.

The impact of this change in methodology on national level figures has been fully investigated and is estimated to have had a negligible effect. The time series data are therefore comparable.

[NS] denotes that the publication has National Statistics status