

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR AGE GROUP? HOW DO WE COMPARE WITH OTHER TEENAGERS IN EUROPE?

PSHE 14-16 WORKSHEET 5

ANSWERS

1. In England, what percentage of 11 - 15 year-olds have tried alcohol?

b) 38%

62% of 11 - 15 year-olds haven't drunk alcohol in England. At age 11, more than 99% of girls and boys don't drink alcohol regularly and just 2% of 11-15 year-olds have been drunk three or more times in the past 4 weeks. (HSCIC 2014)

2. In the UK, how many 13 year-olds drink alcohol at least once a week?

a) less than 10%

At age 13, 98% of boys and girls don't drink weekly in England and Scotland (94% in Wales). (HBSC 2014)

3. Are young people in England drinking more or less than 10 years ago?

a) Less

In England 19% of 11-15 year-olds were drinking weekly in 2003 - In 2014 the figure fell to just 4% . Among 11-15 year-olds, 24% of girls and 26% of boys reported consuming alcohol in the past week in 2003. The figure for 2014 was 8% for both girls and boys. (HSCIC 2014)

4. Do you think that we drink more than other teenagers in Europe?

a) Yes

Teenagers who drink in the UK don't drink any more frequently than the average for countries across the EU, but the percentage of teenagers who have been drunk at least twice in England, Scotland and Wales is well above average for the EU. (HBSC 2013 /14)

5. What percentage of 15 year-olds drink once a week in the UK

c) 10 - 20%

At least 85% of 15 year-olds don't drink weekly or get drunk despite what the media might say. The HBSC study published in 2015 found that 12% of 15 year-olds girls in Wales and 14% of boys, reported drinking at least once a week. For Scotland 11% of girls and 16% of boys and for England 10% of girls and 12% of boys. The average across the European countries studied was 9% for girls and 16% for boys - 13% overall. (HBSC 2013/ 14)

6. Across Europe what proportion of 16 year-olds have been drunk over the last month?

c) 35%

Levels of drunkenness vary - In 2015, 54% of 16 year-olds had been drunk in the past 30 days Austria and 44% in Slovenia, 38% in Greece and 23% in Finland and less than 19% in Norway. The average level is 35%. (ESPAD 2015)

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7. On the last drinking occasion, which of the 3 countries below reported the highest consumption?

a) Denmark

In the most recent ESPAD study, average last-day alcohol consumption was 9.3 centilitres of pure alcohol for Denmark (the highest of the countries studied) 4.7 for Poland (4.7 centilitres of pure alcohol was the average for all the countries) and 0.7 for Romania.

8. Do you think...

a) Teenagers drink in different ways in different countries? **YES**

b) Girls are catching up with boys? **YES**

c) That more boys drink to get drunk than girls? **NO**

The HBSC survey found that across the European countries studied, the country average for the number of 15 year-olds who have been drunk on two or more occasions was 22%, with Denmark the highest at 38% and Iceland the lowest at 6%.

In the UK, more 15 year-old girls than boys had been drunk at least twice (31% of girls v 25% of boys in England, 34% of girls v 28% of boys in Wales and 33% of girls v 32% boys in Scotland). Girls drink spirits predominantly, whereas boys prefer beer and cider which is lower in alcohol. There are also more girls ending up in hospital than boys. Alcohol specific hospital admissions for under 18s have dropped in England in the 3 year period 2011/12-2013/14 to 13,725 - a fall of 41% from the period 2006/07 and 2008/09.

Sources:

ESPAD European school survey project on alcohol and other drugs (published 2016), a survey carried out every 4 years among 15 and 16 year-olds across the EU.

HBSC Health behaviour in school-aged children study: 2013/14 report (published 2015) following the behaviours of 11-15 year-olds across Europe.

HSCIC Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England 2014 (published 2015).

Public Health Local Area Profiles for England (LAPE), 2015.

Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey 2013 (SALSUS) (published 2014).