

# Smoking Drinking and Drug Use Among Young People in England (SDD) Consultation

## User feedback questionnaire

## Personal Details

Please complete the following details:

1. Name:

2. Type of respondent or organisation: *please click the appropriate box*

Academic

Charity or voluntary organisation

Media

Member of the public

Private sector

Public sector - Department of Health

Public sector - Public Health England

Public sector - NHS England

Public sector - Other NHS organisation

Public sector - Local Authority

Public sector - other

Other

*If other please specify and explain in the organisation name section below:*

3. Organisation Name:

4. May we contact you please to discuss your responses if we would like clarification or to answer any questions you may have asked?

Yes  (please check you have entered your email address and / or phone no.)

No

5. Email address:

6. Telephone number:

### Your use of SDD information

7. What information from the SDD survey do you use? Tick all boxes that apply

Information on smoking

Information on drinking

Information on drug use

8. For what purpose(s) do you currently use the SDD outputs? Tick all that apply

Informing policy making

Policy monitoring and evaluation

To measure the Public Health Outcomes Framework desired outcomes

Comparing local indicators with national figures

Planning services

To examine trends and behaviours

Personal interest

Research and analysis – academic

Research and analysis – other

Other(s) (please specify)

Informing the public and media about the evidence base on tobacco use

Providing evidence of the need for policy intervention

## Survey Format

The HSCIC is reviewing the format and content of the SDD survey and has identified three options for future surveys. The reasons for the review and the options, together with some advantages and disadvantages, are outlined in the **SDD Consultation** document that accompanies this questionnaire. ***It is very important that you read this document and in particular the section 6 on Survey Options before completing the questions below.*** We would like users to identify their first and second choice.

9. Please consider each option outlined in **section 6 (Survey Options) of the SDD Consultation** document then indicate your preferred options below by identifying a first and second choice. Please tick one box to indicate your first choice and one box to indicate your second choice.

Option	First Choice	Second Choice
<p><b>Option 1</b></p> <p>A survey every other year with a core content covering smoking, drinking and drugs use and additional in-depth content with a focus on smoking and drinking but <u>not</u> on drugs.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Option 2</b></p> <p>A survey every other year with the same focus on smoking, drinking <i>and</i> drugs. Some of the more in-depth questions on smoking, drinking and drug use that have been included in the survey in previous years would have to be cut.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Option 3</b></p> <p>A survey every other year with an alternating focus. The core content would remain the same each year but the more in depth-questions on smoking and drinking and on drug use would only be covered once every <u>four</u> years.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please use the space below if you would like to explain why you have made a particular choice(s).

Action on Smoking and Health considers that the best option would be to continue this survey on an annual basis in its original format with respect to the smoking questions. The reasons for this are as follows:

**The survey is reliable and provides good evidence for developing and evaluating policy interventions:**

- Smoking still causes 80,000 deaths in England every year, with two thirds of adult smokers saying that they started before the age of 18, and 40% before they were 16. While other data sources such as the Integrated Household Survey and the Smoking Toolkit Study pick up the behaviour of those over 16, there are few reliable sources of information for this important group.
- Although levels are declining, eight percent of 15 year olds are still regular smokers, and 22% of 11-15 year olds had tried smoking at least once in 2013. We are not yet at the point where we no longer need to track behaviour of this group.
- People who start smoking younger are more likely to become highly addicted smokers, therefore it is very useful to track this age group.
- In the 1990s smoking levels were verified by measuring cotinine levels and found to be reliable.[1,2] Children are more willing to respond accurately in the classroom than if asked about smoking behaviour in the home, as for example is the case with the Health Survey for England.

[1] Goddard E & Higgins V. Smoking, drinking and drug use among young teenagers in 1998, ONS, 2000

[2] Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England in 2013. HSCIC, 2014. <http://www.hscic.gov.uk/catalogue/PUB14579>

**The SDD provides us with high quality, irreplaceable trend data for smoking attitudes and behaviour amongst children, not just for smoking but also for alcohol and drugs:**

- The Smoking Drinking and Drug Use survey provides England with an impressive data set on youth smoking going back to 1982. Because of this comprehensive and continuous dataset, we have been able to track the impact of tobacco control policies over time in the way few other jurisdictions have been able to, for this important age group. Examples of this include:
  - In the 1990s the survey picked up that youth smoking rates were starting to rise for the first time since the survey began.[3] This provided the information needed for Government to take action, and to measure the time taken for policy measures to take effect.
  - Analysis of the impact of raising the age of sale to 18 in 2007 using the SDD concluded that “increasing the age for the legal purchase of tobacco was associated with reduced regular smoking among youth in England and appeared to have a similar impact in different socio-economic groups”. [4] This provided evidence of effectiveness of increasing the age of sale in England and was also useful for other jurisdictions.
  - The British Lung Foundation was able to use the data in the SDD to calculate how many young people were exposed to smoking in cars. This was invaluable in helping develop the evidence base to support the need for legislation to prohibit smoking in cars with children.[5]

[3] Drug use, smoking and drinking among young people in England in 2005: headline figures. (Earliest available online, shows relevant figures) HSCIC, 2006  
<http://www.hscic.gov.uk/pubs/drugsmokedrinkyoungeng2005>

[4] Millett C et al. Increasing the age for the legal purchase of tobacco in England: impacts on socio-economic disparities in youth smoking. *Thorax* 2011; 66: 862-865

<http://thorax.bmj.com/content/66/10/862.full>

[5] British Lung Foundation. More than 430,000 children exposed to second-hand smoke in a car. November 2013.

- Because the survey monitors smoking, drinking and drug use, it allows for analysis over time of the relationship between these behaviours.

**Going forward it remains essential to have a continuous data set to help us evaluate the impact of current and future policy interventions:**

- The SDD was used to set Government ambitions for reducing smoking amongst young people in the Tobacco Control Plan for England. Choosing not to do the survey in 2015 means there will not be a continuous dataset to measure whether the ambitions have been reached. It will remain a Government priority to reduce youth smoking in future and we need to restart the SDD on an annual basis as was previously the case, in order to be able to properly measure future trends in smoking prevalence amongst young people.
- Continuity in the data is extremely important when mapping trends over time, the more data points you have, the more reliable the analysis. Currently we have an unbroken time series running back to the 1980s. If there are changes to the survey it will make it much more difficult, if not impossible to evaluate properly the impact of new legislation coming through now, and in the years to come. In particular:
  - Point of sale display legislation
  - Regulations in the Tobacco Products Directive
  - Standardised packaging
  - Smoking in cars with children
  - Age of sale of electronic cigarettes
  - Prohibition of proxy purchasing of tobacco and electronic cigarettes
- The government is keen to reduce regulation on business in response to the concerns of business (the red tape challenge). It is essential to be able to evaluate the impact of tobacco regulation on young people over time in order to be able to show that regulation is proportionate.
- In order to inform enforcement priorities we need to know where young people are getting their tobacco products from. This has evolved over time with the increase in the age of sale to 18. This is especially important in light of the upcoming legislation on proxy purchasing of both cigarettes and e-cigarettes.
- The increase in popularity of e-cigarettes, with the concerns that this has brought about a possible gateway effect into smoking for young people, makes it imperative we track youth behaviour closely so that any emerging problems can be dealt with promptly.

**Response to the consultation**

By far the best option is to continue the survey in its present form. If the survey is to be reduced to every other year, we would prefer option 1, as the survey has a proven track record in effectively measuring smoking prevalence and being useful in policy development and evaluation.

## Survey Content

Under Option 2 in question 9 above, the more in-depth content of the questionnaire would have to be reduced. We are therefore consulting users on what topic areas they think are most useful and which they think are least useful should the survey review process identify Option 2 as the preferred option.

NB: The lists in questions 10 –12 are not exhaustive as some basic questions will be retained.

10. The table below lists a number of different question areas around **smoking**. Please indicate the three you think are most useful and the three you think are least useful by ticking the appropriate boxes.

Question Area	Most Useful	Least Useful
Awareness and use of electronic cigarettes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Awareness and use waterpipe tobacco	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Attitudes to smoking, (e.g. is it OK to try smoking to see what it's like)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Perceptions of how many people their own age smoke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whether information on smoking is provided in school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to information on smoking from different sources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ?
Whether information provided by schools on smoking, drinking and drugs is considered sufficient	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ?
Family attitudes/perceived attitudes to young person smoking/starting to smoke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dependence on smoking (e.g. whether they would like to give up, perceptions of how difficult it might be, have they tried to)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Length of time as regular smoker	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Type of cigarettes smoked	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Where young people get cigarettes from	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Buying cigarettes from a shop (how easy/difficult this is, visibility, attempts to buy, quantity bought, frequency bought, refusals, asking others to buy cigarettes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Others buying cigarettes from a shop for young person (incl who and how often)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Smoking amongst family and friends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Exposure to others' smoke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Perceptions of why young people their age smoke	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whether people they live with smoke and whether they do this inside the home.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ?

11. The table below lists a number of different question areas around **drinking**. Please indicate the three you think are most useful and the three you think are least useful by ticking the appropriate boxes.

Question Area	Most Useful	Least Useful
Frequency of being drunk in last 4 weeks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use of/quantity of energy drinks consumed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consuming alcohol with energy drinks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attitudes to drinking alcohol (e.g. is it OK to get drunk once a week)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Perceptions of how many people their own age drink	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whether information on drinking is provided in school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to information on drinking alcohol from different sources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whether information provided by schools on drinking is considered sufficient	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family attitudes to child starting drinking alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buying alcohol (where buy, ability to buy, other people buying it)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other access to alcohol (given alcohol by family/friends/others, stealing/taking alcohol)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parental/guardian attitudes to drinking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Where young people drink alcohol and with whom	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Whether young people had tried to get drunk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Experience of adverse consequences of drinking (e.g. vomiting, fights, losing money etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pubs, bars, pubs and drinking behaviour (e.g. frequency of visits, who with, whether bought and drank alcohol)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Perceptions of why young people their age drink	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whether people they live with drink and whether they do this inside the home	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. The table below lists a number of different question areas around taking **drugs**. Please indicate the three you think are most useful and the three you think are least useful by ticking the appropriate boxes.

Question Area	Most Useful	Least Useful
Method of taking drug (relevant to Methamphetamine, Speed or other Amphetamines only)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attitudes to taking drugs (e.g. is it OK to try cocaine to see what it's like)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Perceptions of how many people their own age take drugs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whether information on taking drugs is provided in school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to information on taking drugs from different sources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Whether information provided by schools on drugs is considered sufficient	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outcomes from school lessons on drugs (e.g. helped young person think about risks, avoid drugs, find out more about drugs, what to do if offered)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Details of first occasion on which drugs were taken (i.e. type of drug(s) and who they got them from)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Details of most recent occasion of drug use (type of drug(s), how recent, where and from who the drugs were obtained, also whether drinking at time, who with)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ease of access to drugs/whether have bought drugs in a shop/internet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reason(s) for taking drugs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effects of drugs (how they make the young person feel)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dependence on drugs (desire to stop and perceived need for help/treatment)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family attitudes/perceived attitudes to young person taking drugs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Refusing drugs (if have refused and why)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. Is there any information on smoking drinking or drug use that the survey does not currently cover which you think should be included?

Yes

No

14. Please describe the information you think the survey should collect and what you/others would use this information for.

There is growing concern about electronic cigarette use so it is important that there is a review of the questions currently included on this issue to check they are adequate.

## Reporting and Analysis

As well as getting your views on the content of the survey, we are also keen to understand what you think of the outputs from the survey. The following section asks for your views on a variety of outputs.

15. Using the table below please rate how useful you find the **written report** on the survey, the **excel tables** and the **SDD dataset** from the UK Data Service.

	Written Report	Excel Tables	SDD dataset
<b>Very useful</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Quite useful</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Somewhat useful</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Not very useful</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Not used</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

16. Please provide any general comments or suggestions on how these outputs could be improved.

The SDD dataset needs to be released as soon as possible after completion of the survey, in order for researchers to be able to use the data for policy evaluation in a timely manner.

17. If the HSCIC was to choose more ways of disseminating the results, what should they be?

You can choose up to two options from the list below.

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Presentations at seminars                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Webinars                                      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Infographics                                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Videos  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Interactive online analysis tools             | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Interactive quizzes using the survey findings | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Lesson packs for use in schools               | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Something else (please specify)               | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

[Click here to enter text.](#)

## Comments

18. If you have additional comments or feedback about SDD or to expand on the answers you have provided please use the space below.

Thank you for completing this survey.

If you have any queries, please email: [enquiries@hscic.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@hscic.gov.uk)