



Schools Survey 2009

Prepared by Snap Surveys for
Epsom & Ewell Borough Council

CONTENTS

1	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	4
2	INTRODUCTION.....	5
2.1	Background.....	5
2.2	Analysis of results.....	5
2.3	Structure of this report.....	5
3	QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU.....	6
3.1	Introduction.....	6
3.2	Age, gender and ethnicity.....	6
3.3	School.....	6
4	QUESTIONS ABOUT LEISURE ACTIVITIES.....	7
4.1	Introduction.....	7
4.2	Activities in the Borough.....	7
4.3	Satisfaction with facilities in the Borough.....	8
4.4	Access to facilities.....	9
4.5	Improvements in activities for young people.....	9
4.6	Surrey Vinvolved and YELL.....	10
4.7	Epsom & Ewell communication.....	10
5	QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR SAFETY.....	12
5.1	Introduction.....	12
5.2	Places you feel unsafe.....	12
5.3	Alcohol.....	13
5.4	Problems in your area.....	14
6	QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR HEALTH.....	16
6.1	Introduction.....	16
6.2	Sex and relationships.....	16
6.3	Free condoms.....	17

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to highlight the findings of the Schools Survey. The survey was designed to collect information from young people on personal safety, health, and leisure facilities and opportunities in the borough. The survey was carried out in three secondary schools in Epsom and Ewell and Nescot College during the month of April 2009.

All secondary schools in the Borough were invited to take part, however this year only Blenheim School, Rosebery School and Glyn Technology School participated. The majority of respondents came from either Rosebery School or Glyn. 561 surveys were received 53% of respondents were male and 47% female. Students completed the survey via an electronic link.

Key findings from this survey:

- 93% of young people said that they knew about the Rainbow Leisure Centre and 69% rated the Rainbow Leisure Centre as good.
- 63% of respondents said that they knew about the Surrey Youth Games.
- Only 8% of respondents said they knew about the Yo Yo drop in centre in Epsom, and only 7% of young people said that they knew about the Edge Youth Centre in West Ewell.
- When asked what opportunities the respondents wanted more access to, 52% said music, 47% said football, 39% said basketball and 39% said street dance opportunities.
- 89% of respondents said that they had not heard of Surrey Vinvolved or YELL.
- When respondents were asked what their preferred method of communication was, 65% said email, 58% said facebook, 47% said newsletters, 45% said leaflets and publications and 44% said via text messages.
- Over two thirds of the respondents said there are places in the Borough that they don't feel safe. When asked where they felt unsafe the most common responses were 61% in parks, 43% on public transport and 24% in Epsom Town Centre.
- Respondents named the following as the most common reason why they do not feel safe, 82% said large groups of people, 56% said vandalism, 53% responded with graffiti and 52% said poor lighting.
- 53% of respondents said that they had drunk alcohol in the last 12 months. When asked where respondents got their alcohol from, 54% responded by saying their parents.
- When asked to rate the most serious problems in their area 80% said smoking, 77% said anti-social behaviour, 76% said theft of personal property and 71% said theft of school property, 76% of respondents named bullying, 75% of respondents said speeding motorists and 74% said traffic levels, 69% of young people felt that alcohol misuse was a problem and 66% said that drug use was a problem.
- When asked about how respondents currently receive information on sexual health, 56% said from teachers, 48% said from friends and 47% said from parents or guardians. When asked how they would prefer to find out this information 39% said from a sexual health advisor, 38% said a teacher, 37% said a parent or guardian and 34% said from a friend.

2 INTRODUCTION

Epsom & Ewell conducted a survey among young people in the area and commissioned Snap Surveys to analyse the results. This report contains the research findings.

2.1 Background

The survey was designed to find out the views that affect young people in Epsom & Ewell.

The 2009 Schools Survey was carried out within five schools in Epsom & Ewell as well as Nescot College in April 2009.

Epsom & Ewell Borough Council is committed to consulting with young people via the schools within the Borough. The Leisure Developments Team together with the Consultation and Communications Team carried out a similar consultation last year.

The survey was developed by the Leisure Developments Team and the Consultation and Communications Team.

Questions on the following areas were included,

- About you
- Leisure activities
- Community Safety
- Health

Each school taking part in the consultation was asked to complete the questionnaire via an electronic link, the results were sent directly back to the Consultation and Communications Team.

The schools that took part in the survey were Glyn, Rosebery and Blenheim along with Nescot college. 561 completed surveys were received.

2.2 Analysis of results

Figures in this report are generally calculated as a proportion of respondents who answered each question and therefore excludes 'No Reply'. Percentages in a particular chart will not always add up to 100%. This may be due to rounding, or because each respondent is allowed to give more than one answer to the question.

2.3 Structure of this report

The main body of the report is divided into the following sections, which look at the survey results in detail:

- Questions about you
- Questions about leisure activities
- Questions about your safety
- Questions about your health

3 QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU

3.1 Introduction

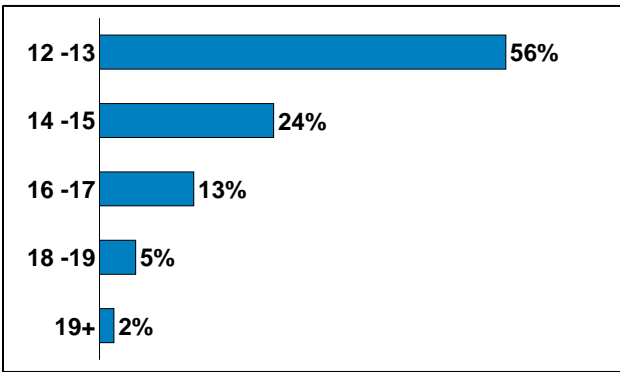
This section of the report profiles respondents by demographics (gender, age and ethnicity), and school.

3.2 Age, gender and ethnicity

53% of respondents were male and 47% were female.

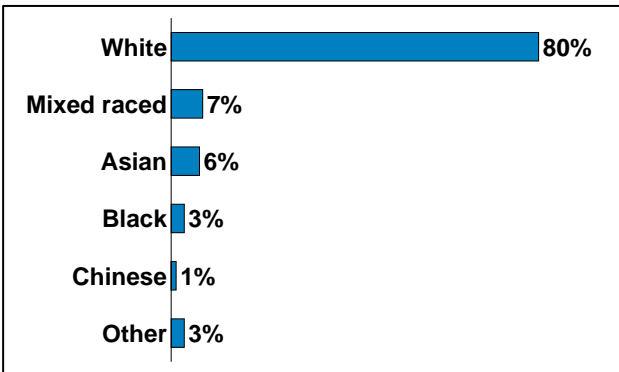
Over half of respondents (56%) were aged 12-13 and around a quarter (24%) were aged 14-15. The remaining 20% were aged 16 or over.

Age of respondent (Q21)



Base: All Respondents (554)

Ethnicity of respondent (Q23)



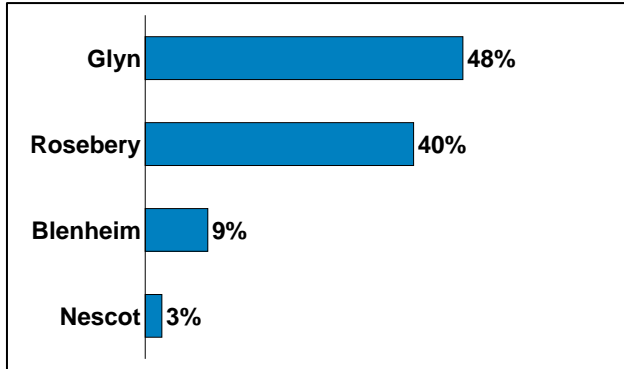
Base: All Respondents (551)

The majority of respondents described themselves as White (80%), with 7% saying they were Mixed race and 6% Asian.

3.3 School

Respondents were most likely to say that they went to Glyn (48%) or Rosebery schools (40%). Fewer pupils responded from Blenheim and Nescot schools (9% and 3% respectively).

School (Q24)



Base: All Respondents (553)

4 QUESTIONS ABOUT LEISURE ACTIVITIES

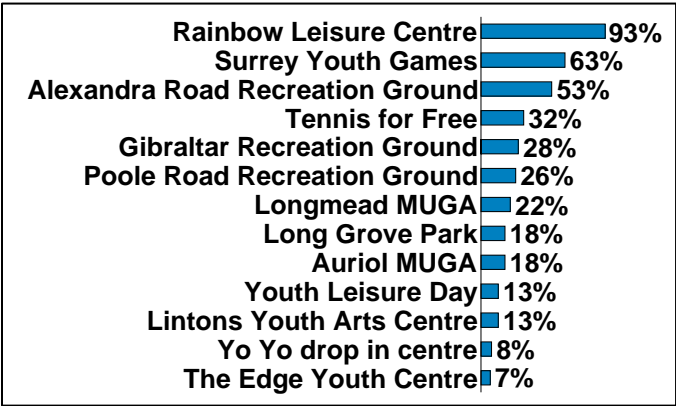
4.1 Introduction

This section looks at leisure activities in the Borough, specifically which facilities respondents use, and how they rate these facilities/activities. It also looks at the way Epsom and Ewell Borough Council communicates with young people.

4.2 Activities in the Borough

Respondents were asked which of a list of facilities/activities they were aware of in the Borough. Respondents were most likely to say that they were aware of the Rainbow Leisure Centre (93%), Surrey Youth Games (63%) and Alexandra Recreation Ground (53%). They were least likely to say that they were aware of the Yo Yo Drop in Centre (8%) and The Edge Youth Centre (7%).

Activities in the Borough (Q1)

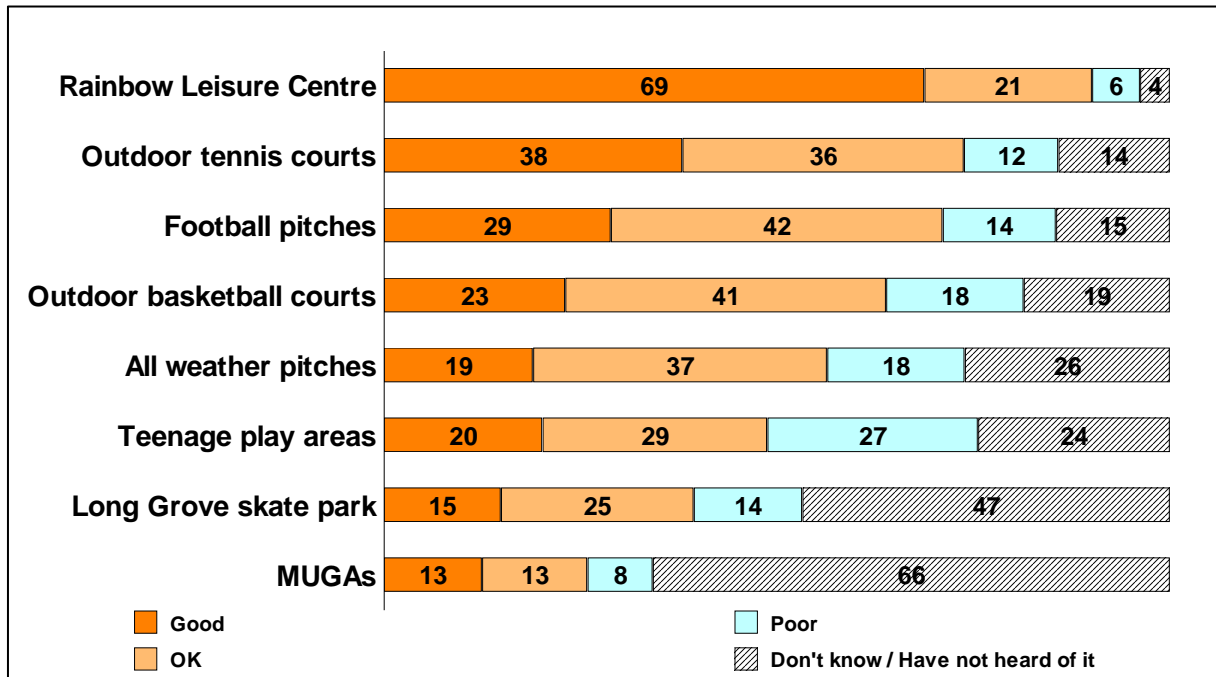


Base: All Respondents (542)

4.3 Satisfaction with facilities in the Borough

Respondents were asked to rate various facilities in the Epsom and Ewell borough, on a scale of good to poor. They were also asked to indicate if they hadn't heard of a particular facility/activity in the area or were unsure; two thirds (66%) of respondents said that they hadn't heard of MUGAs and 47% were unaware of Long Grove skate park.

Satisfaction with activities in the Borough (Q2)



Base: All Respondents (542-553)

Respondents were most likely to rate the following areas as good:

- Rainbow Leisure Centre (69%)
- Outdoor tennis courts (38%)
- Football pitches (29%)

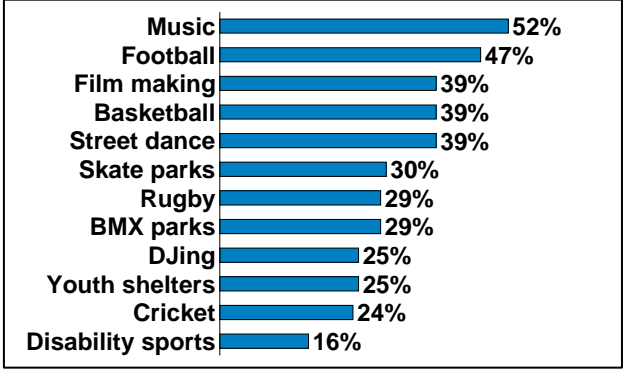
And most likely to rate the following as poor:

- Teenage play areas (27%)
- Outdoor basketball courts (18%)
- All weather pitches (18%)

4.4 Access to facilities

Respondents were asked which activities they would like more access to. The most common responses were; music (52%), football (47%), basketball, film making and street dance (all at 39%).

Access to facilities (Q3)



Base: All Respondents (518)

4.5 Improvements in activities for young people

Respondents were asked what improvement they would like to see in activities for young people in the Borough. An example of the responses are shown below.

“A place to go, like a cafe aimed at teens and young adults with inexpensive drinks and snacks so people have a place to meet their friends without being on street corners.”

“Better accessibility to sport pitches and equipment, more youth shelters, parks designed especially for teenagers and an alternative to spending an evening out on the streets-some kind of night club with time restrictions, no alcohol and strict age restrictions e.g. aged 14+.”

“Better football pitches”

“Bigger bmx parks”

“Dancing and Gymnastics”

“Facilities for internet access - place to relax with mates - some sort of coffee shop perhaps which isn’t as expensive as Starbucks”

“Grass cut more regularly in the parks”

“I think they need to be advertised more”

“I would like the activities to be pointed to a wider range of children, so that all ages and types of children have the same opportunity to have fun whilst learning how to play sports and so on.”

“I would like to see cheaper swimming centres”

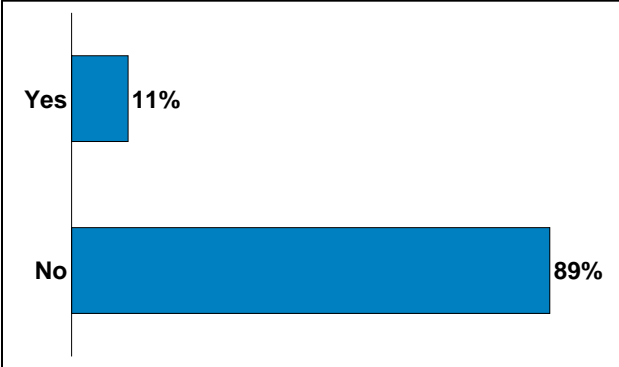
“I would like to see more free sports clubs so more children get the chance to play and keep healthy for free. I would also like to see that there are more dance classes so more people get the chance to have fun and enjoy and there should also be more kit for all the different types of sports so they have the right equipment.”

“More gigs for under 18s e.g. JLS”

4.6 Surrey Vinvolved and YELL

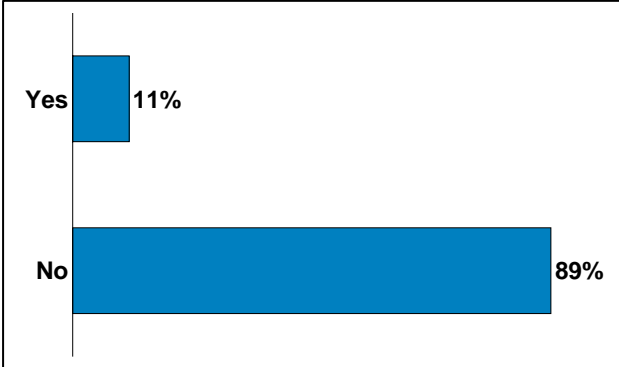
When asked whether they had heard of Surrey *Vinvolved* or YELL, the majority of students said no (89% for both).

Heard of Surrey *Vinvolved* (Q5)



Base: All Respondents (557)

Heard of YELL (Q6)



Base: All Respondents (556)

4.7 Epsom & Ewell communication

Respondents were asked to rate Epsom and Ewell’s communication methods on a scale of good to poor. They were also asked to state which communication methods they had not heard of. Respondents were most likely to say that they were unaware of Read Me Cos You Need Me (73%), Youth Insight (68%) and TXTS 4 U (64%).

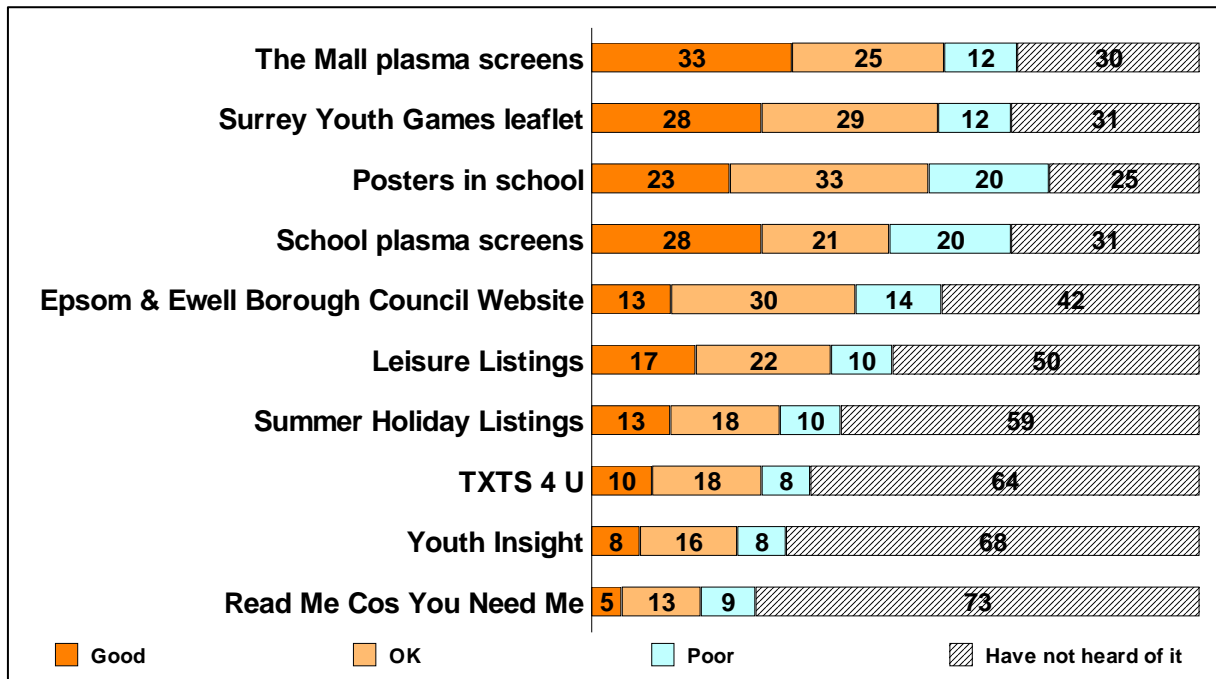
Respondents were most likely to rate the following communications as good:

- The Mall plasma screens (33%)
- Surrey Youth Games leaflet (28%)
- School plasma screens (28%)

They were most likely to rate the following as poor:

- Posters in school (20%)
- School plasma screens (20%)
- Epsom & Ewell Borough Council Website (14%)

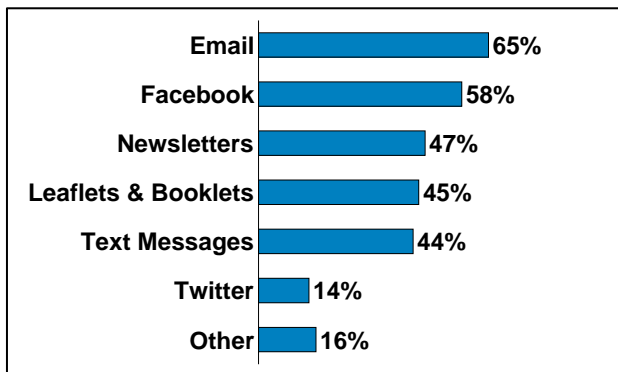
Satisfaction with communication (Q7)



Base: All Respondents (532-543)

When asked what other ways they would like Epsom and Ewell to communicate with them, respondents were most likely to say by email (65%) and Facebook (58%). Other common responses were Newsletters (47%), Leaflets and booklets (45%) and Text messages (44%).

Preferred method of contact (Q8)



Base: All Respondents (509)

5 QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR SAFETY

5.1 Introduction

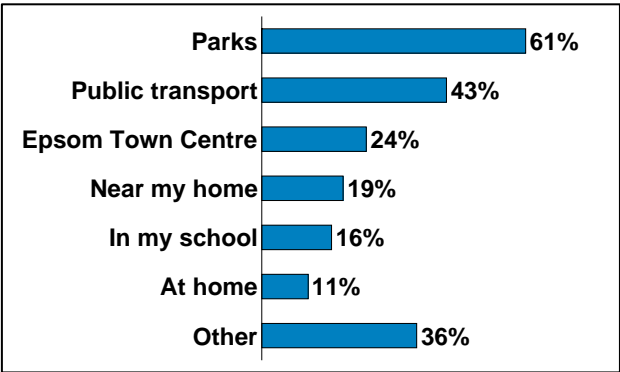
This section looks at how safe respondents feel in the Borough. It also asks questions about alcohol and about what respondents consider to be problems in the area.

5.2 Places you feel unsafe

Almost two thirds of respondents (63%) said that there are places in the Borough where they don't feel safe.

These respondents were then asked where they don't feel safe. The most common responses were parks, (61%) on public transport (43%) and Epsom town centre (24%), although 36% of respondents said that they felt unsafe in 'other' places. A full list of these can be found in the appendix, but common responses included alley ways and Longmead.

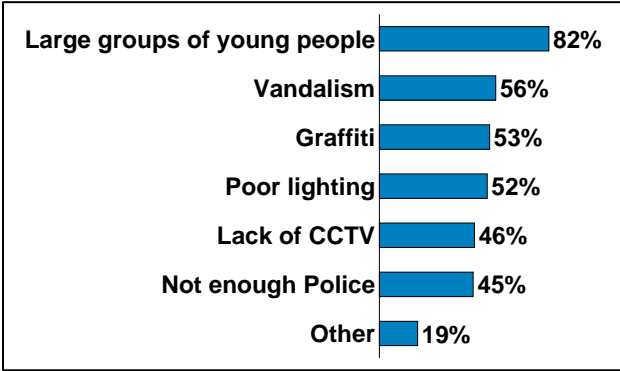
Places where respondents feel unsafe (Q10)



Base: All Respondents (333)

These respondents were also asked why they don't feel safe. They were most likely to say it was because of large groups of people (82%). Other common responses were vandalism (56%), graffiti (53%) and poor lighting (52%).

Reasons why respondents feel unsafe (Q11)

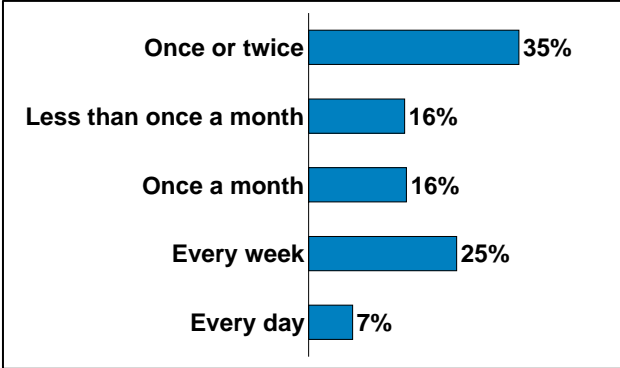


Base: All Respondents (340)

5.3 Alcohol

53% of respondents said that they had drunk alcohol in the past 12 months. These respondents were then asked how often they drank alcohol in the past 12 months. They were most likely to say once or twice (35%), or every week (25%). 7% of respondents said they drank alcohol every day in the last 12 months.

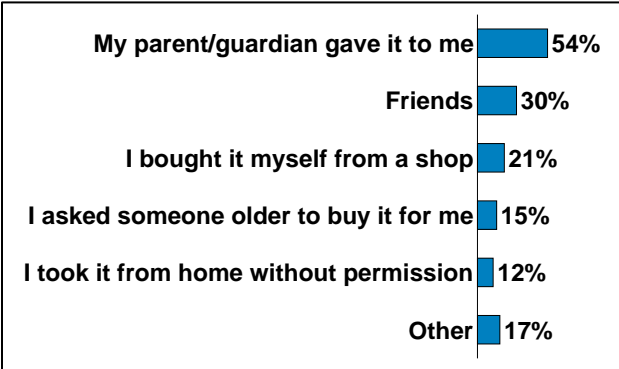
Frequency of Alcohol Consumption (Q13)



Base: Respondents who have consumed alcohol in the past 12 months (298)

These respondents were also asked where they got the alcohol from. The most common response was My parent/guardian gave it to me (54%), followed by Friends (30%) and I bought it myself (21%).

Where the Alcohol comes from (Q14)



Base: Respondents who have consumed alcohol in the past 12 months (287)

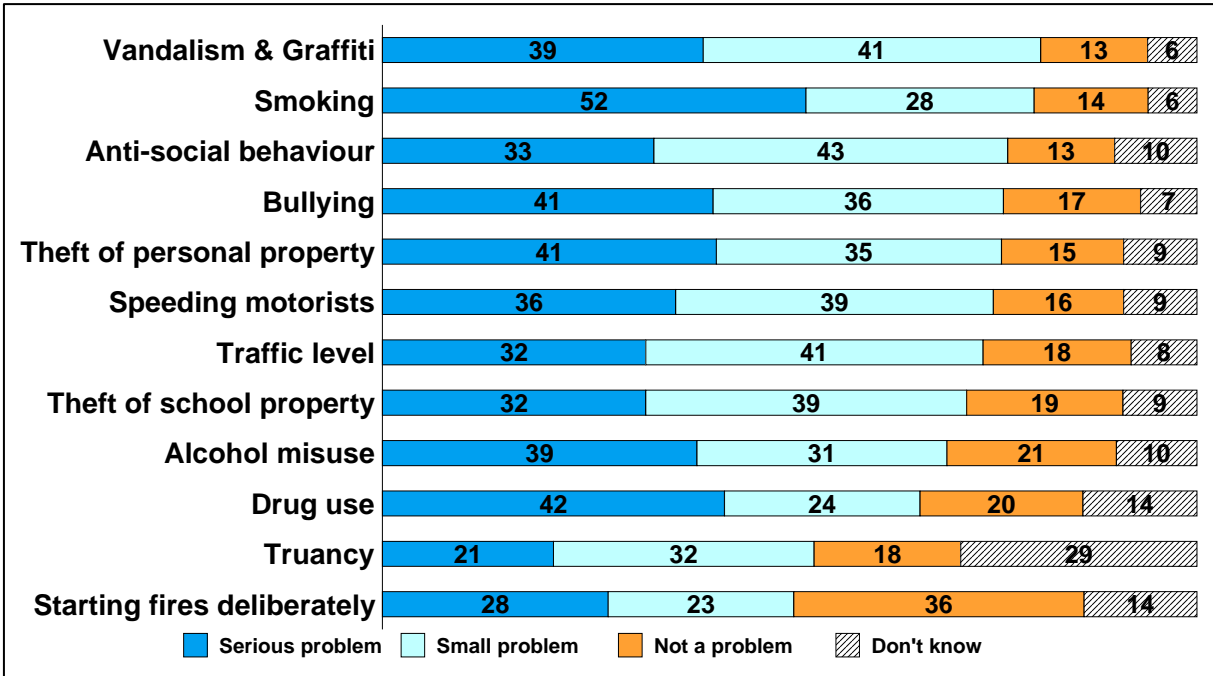
5.4 Problems in your area

Respondents were asked to rate how serious they felt a list of problems were in their area:

- 81% said vandalism and graffiti was a problem
- 80% said smoking was a problem
- 77% said Antisocial behaviour was a problem
- 76% said theft of personal property was a problem
- 76% said bullying was a problem
- 75% said speeding motorists was a problem
- 74% said traffic level was a problem
- 71% said theft of school property was a problem
- 69% said alcohol misuse was a problem
- 66% said drug use was a problem
- 53% said truancy was a problem
- 51% said starting fires deliberately was a problem

Respondents were most likely to say that they were unsure, when talking about truancy (29%), starting fires deliberately and drug use (both 14%).

Problems in the Area (Q15)



Base: All Respondents (536-548)

Respondents were asked which of the above they consider the most serious problem. A selection of responses are shown below.

"Alcohol misuse - because it is very unpleasant to be around someone who is drunk, they make the people around them feel very uncomfortable"

"Alcohol, smoking, drug use and traffic (speeding as well!!)"

"Anti-social behaviour as it makes people feel unsafe and scared."

"Anti-social behaviour such as big groups of people playing loud music on their phones down alley ways."

"Bullying and theft of personal property"

"Children smoking"

"Drug use it can cause you to do all the other things"

"Either vandalism/graffiti or smoking because I hate the smell and it makes me cough"

"Graffiti because graffiti is everywhere"

"I couldn't because they are all serious issues that affect everyone and they are all equally serious"

"I think it would be speeding motorists because I see quite a lot of people driving very fast and it is quite scary!!!"

6 QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR HEALTH

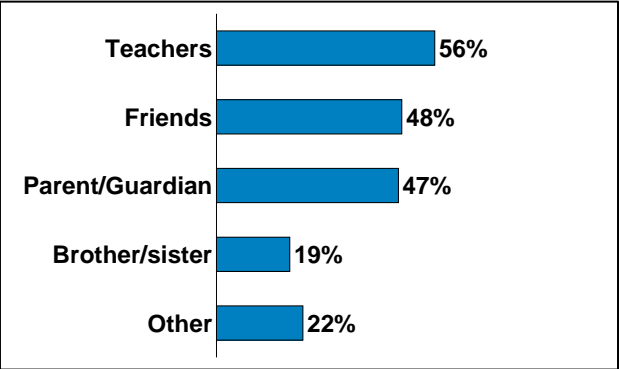
6.1 Introduction

This section looks at respondents health, including the provision of information about sex and relationships.

6.2 Sex and relationships

When asked who they find out information from about sex and relationships, respondents were most likely to say teachers (56%), friends (48%) or parent/guardian (47%).

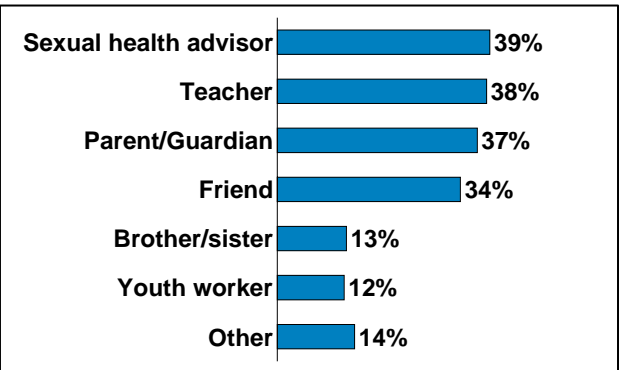
Information about Sex and Relationships (Q17)



Base: All Respondents (533)

Respondents were also asked who they would prefer to receive such information from; 39% said a sexual health advisor, 38% said a teacher, 37% said a parent or guardian and 34% said a friend.

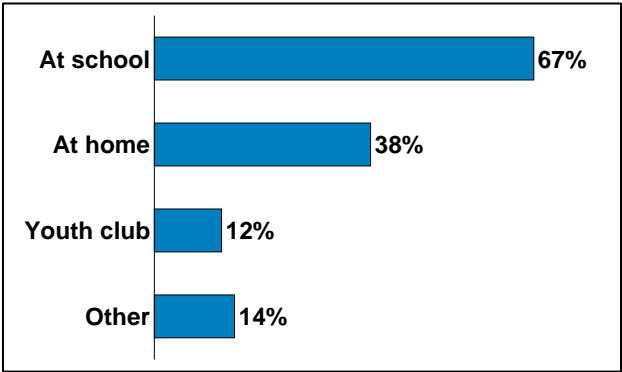
Prefer to receive information about Sex and Relationships from... (Q18)



Base: All Respondents (521)

Respondents were also asked where they would prefer to receive information about sex and relationships. The majority, (67%) said at school, while around a third (38%) said at home.

Prefer to receive information about Sex and Relationships at... (Q19)



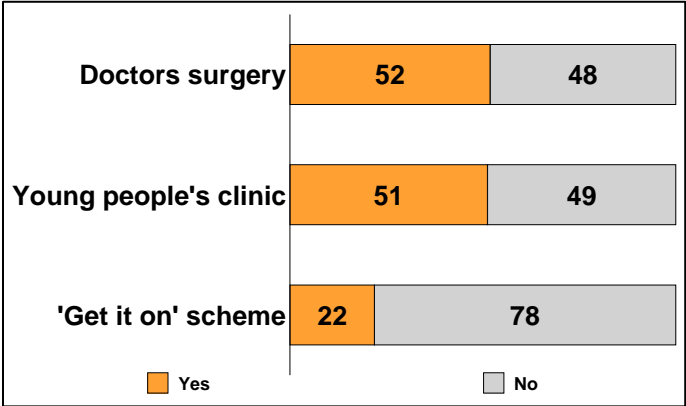
Base: All Respondents (537)

6.3 Free condoms

Respondents were asked whether they were aware that they could get free condoms from the doctors, young people’s clinic, and the ‘Get it on’ scheme.

Around half were aware they could get free condoms from the doctors (52%), or young people’s clinic (51%), while only 22% were aware they could do so at the ‘Get it on’ Scheme.

Awareness of free condoms at... (Q20)



Base: All Respondents (529-537)