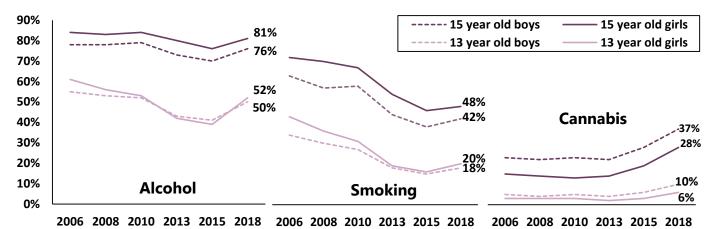


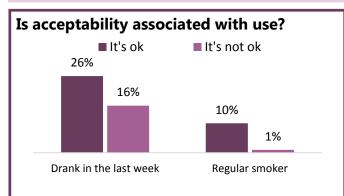
## SCOTTISH SCHOOLS ADOLESCENT LIFESTYLE AND SUBSTANCE USE **SURVEY (SALSUS) 2018**

## ATTITUDES TO SUBSTANCE USE FACTSHEET

% of pupils feeling who think it's OK to try smoking, drinking or taking drugs, over time:



- The proportion of pupils who think its OK to try **drinking** has shown a **marked** increase between 2015 and 2018. There has also been a small increase in the proportion who think it is OK to try **smoking**.
- Although it was much less common for pupils to say that it was OK for someone their age to try drugs, there has been an **increase** since 2015 in the proportion of 15 year olds who think it is OK to try cannabis, cocaine and glue sniffing.
- 15 year olds were more likely than 13 year olds to think it is OK for someone their age to try all substances, apart from sniffing glue.
- **Girls** were more likely to think it was OK to try smoking a cigarette, drinking alcohol, getting drunk and sniffing glue, whereas boys were more likely to think it was OK to try taking cannabis and cocaine.



There was a **strong correlation** between thinking it was OK to try something and actually trying it.

## Does learning about substance use make it less acceptable?

Generally, having had lessons on substance use at school was not associated with a drop in the proportion of pupils who felt it was OK to try them.

Smoking was the exception: those who had received lessons about smoking were 3% less likely to think smoking was OK than those who hadn't.

SALSUS collects information on smoking, drinking, drug use, mental wellbeing and other lifestyle factors from young people all over Scotland. It is part of an important and long established series of national surveys which allow comparisons to be made between over time, between different parts of Scotland and internationally. In 2018, 23,365 pupils in S2 (around age 13) and S4 (around age 15) participated. More information is available at: