

Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people

Part 2 tables - young people who smoke

England, 2018

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Introduction

Data tables showing selected outputs regarding young people who smoke from a survey of secondary school pupils in England in years 7 to 11 (mostly aged 11 to 15), which is currently run every other year.

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Contact Details

Author: Lifestyles Team, NHS Digital
Responsible Statistician: Stephanie Gebert
Public Enquiries:
Telephone: 0300 303 5678
Email: enquiries@digital.nhs.uk
Press enquiries should be made to: Media Relations Manager: Telephone: 0300 303 3888

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Notes and definitions for all tables

Notes:

Age and sex totals: Where age and sex breakdowns are shown, the row / column total includes pupils where the was undetermined or not known.

For time series tables, data prior to 2014 has been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Symbols used in tables:

- = zero or rounded to zero

: = not available

z = not applicable

u = estimate not shown due to a small sample base (less than 30)

[figures in brackets] have a small sample base (30 to less than 50)

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» age / sex

» non-

Table 2.1a
Usual sources of cigarettes for current smokers

2004 - 2018

Current smokers	Numbers / Percentages							
	2004	2006	2008	2010 ²	2012	2014	2016	2018
Usual sources of cigarettes¹	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Given by people	63	63	63	69	69	64	63	70
Given by friends	58	57	58	58	57	52	48	57
Given by brothers or sisters	13	12	10	10	8	7	6	8
Given by parents	7	7	6	7	6	5	4	6
Given by someone else ³	:	:	:	17	22	19	22	20
Bought from a shop	66	65	44	45	44	46	33	23
Newsagent/tobacconist/sweetshop	58	55	36	37	37	36	22	16
Supermarket	21	21	12	10	11	7	8	8
Garage shop	29	24	11	11	10	6	3	5
Other type of shop	12	13	8	7	9	9	7	7
Bought from people	37	35	45	41	41	35	32	43
Bought from friends or relatives	27	27	33	28	29	24	19	32
Bought from someone else	19	17	28	23	22	19	20	27
Bought from street markets	5	4	6	5	5	6	3	5
Bought from a vending machine	19	14	10	8	2	3	1	3
Bought from the internet	-	1	1	-	1	1	1	2
Found or taken	6	7	7	9	8	7	10	13
Other sources ⁴	7	6	11	8	6	7	1	2
Unweighted bases	1353	1125	755	593	506	281	290	267
Weighted bases	:	:	:	583	501	278	292	265

Footnotes

1. Percentages total more than 100 because pupils could give more than one answer.

2. Estimates since 2010 are based on weighted data (see appendix A for more details).

3. 'Given by someone else' was first included as a separate category in 2010. Until then, pupils who were given cigarettes by people other than friends or relatives may have chosen to

4. The category 'Other sources' includes those who bought cigarettes over the internet until 2000, those who bought them from street markets until 2002, and those who were given ci

Source

Survey of smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England

igarettes by someone othe

Table 2.1b
Usual sources of cigarettes for regular smokers
1982 - 2018
Regular smokers

Numbers / Percentages

Usual sources of cigarettes ¹	Year																	
	1982	1986	1990	1992	1993	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010 ²	2012	2014	2016	2018
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Given by friends	44	39	58	62	57	61	55	56	50	51	51	49	49	51	47	44	43	50
Given by brothers or sisters	9	12	19	16	16	18	16	20	12	13	16	15	13	14	11	11	4	10
Given by parents	10	7	5	7	8	7	7	11	6	10	10	9	9	11	10	8	7	12
Given by someone else ³	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	20	22	21	18	19
Bought from a shop ⁴	88	89	86	86	88	86	89	85	80	77	77	78	55	58	60	57	38	37
Bought from other people ⁵	6	11	18	21	21	23	26	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Bought from friends or relatives ⁵	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	31	27	27	32	30	37	35	33	28	21	41
Bought from someone else ⁶	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	17	19	21	22	21	34	30	25	25	28	32
Bought from street markets ⁶	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	6	4	7	6	8	8	5	8
Bought from a vending machine	13	19	37	27	35	31	32	30	22	22	24	17	12	11	2	3	1	3
Bought from the internet ⁷	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	-	-	1	1	-	1	2	1	2
Found or taken	1	2	3	4	6	6	6	6	6	7	7	7	7	10	10	8	8	15
Other sources ⁸	1	2	8	6	7	11	14	11	9	7	8	8	14	12	7	9	2	2
Unweighted bases	325	300	305	310	297	348	360	496	719	962	833	695	476	356	295	186	161	134
Weighted bases	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	182	157	128

Footnotes

- Percentages total more than 100 because pupils could give more than one answer.
- Estimates since 2010 are based on weighted data (see appendix A for more details).
- 'Given by someone else' was first included as a separate category in 2010. Until then, pupils who were given cigarettes by people other than friends or relatives may have chosen the 'other' category.
- Until 1986 there was only one category for shop. The current four categories have been asked about since 1990, but for comparability all the shop categories in this table have been collapsed into one. Different types of shop are shown in Table 2.5.
- Until 1996 there was only one category for 'Bought from other people'. This was split into 'Bought from friends or relatives' and 'Bought from someone else' in 1998.
- Bought from street markets' was first included as a separate category in 2004. Until then, pupils who bought cigarettes from street markets may have chosen the 'other' category.
- Bought from the internet' was first included as a separate category in 2002. Until then, pupils who bought cigarettes from the internet may have chosen the 'other' category.
- The category 'Other sources' includes those who bought cigarettes over the internet until 2000, those who bought them from street markets until 2002, and those who were given cigarettes by someone other than friends or family members until 2008. For this reason, estimates are not comparable across years covered by this table.

Source

Survey of smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England

Table 2.2
Usual sources of cigarettes, by sex

2018

	Numbers / Percentages		
	Sex		Total
	Boys	Girls	Total
	%	%	%
Usual sources of cigarettes¹			
Given by people	69	72	70
Given by friends	55	58	57
Given by brothers or sisters	11	6	8
Given by parents	7	5	6
Given by someone else	21	20	20
Bought from a shop	25	21	23
Newsagent/tobacconist/sweetshop	19	13	16
Supermarket	7	6	8
Garage shop	10	2	5
Other type of shop	9	6	7
Bought from people	38	48	43
Bought from friends or relatives	27	36	32
Bought from someone else	22	29	27
Bought from street markets	6	3	5
Bought from a vending machine	6	1	3
Bought from the internet	3	1	2
Found or taken	12	14	13
Other	4	1	2
Unweighted bases	106	151	267
Weighted bases	103	152	265

Footnotes

1. Percentages total more than 100 because pupils could give more than one answer.

Source

Survey of smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England

Table 2.3
Usual sources of cigarettes, by age

2018

Current smokers

Numbers / Percentages

	Age			Total (11-15) %
	11-13 years %	14 years %	15 years %	
Usual sources of cigarettes¹				
Given by people	76	70	69	70
Given by friends	61	58	55	57
Given by brothers or sisters	5	5	10	8
Given by parents	1	6	8	6
Given by someone else	28	22	18	20
Bought from a shop	15	24	24	23
Newsagent/tobacconist/sweetshop	12	16	16	16
Supermarket	5	6	9	8
Garage shop	3	4	6	5
Other type of shop	4	13	6	7
Bought from people	48	45	42	43
Bought from friends or relatives	38	37	29	32
Bought from someone else	27	27	26	27
Bought from street markets	2	4	5	5
Bought from a vending machine	1	2	4	3
Bought from the internet	1	2	2	2
Found or taken	26	14	10	13
Other	-	4	3	2
Unweighted bases	48	77	134	267
Weighted bases	46	57	156	265

Footnotes

1. Percentages total more than 100 because pupils could give more than one answer.

Source

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Table 2.4
Usual sources of cigarettes, by smoking status

2018

Current smokers

Numbers / Percentages

	Smoking status		Total
	Regular smoker	Occasional smoker	
Usual sources of cigarettes ¹	%	%	%
Given by people	64	76	70
Given by friends	50	64	57
Given by brothers or sisters	10	5	8
Given by parents	12	1	6
Given by someone else	19	21	20
Bought from a shop	37	10	23
Newsagent/tobacconist/sweetshop	26	7	16
Supermarket	14	1	8
Garage shop	8	1	5
Other type of shop	9	4	7
Bought from people	51	36	43
Bought from friends or relatives	41	23	32
Bought from someone else	32	22	27
Bought from street markets	8	1	5
Bought from a vending machine	3	3	3
Bought from the internet	2	1	2
Found or taken	15	12	13
Other	2	2	2
Unweighted bases	134	133	267
Weighted bases	128	138	265

Footnotes

1. Percentages total more than 100 because pupils could give more than one answer.

Source

Survey of smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England

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Table 2.5
Shops that were usual sources of cigarettes for regular smokers

1990 - 2018

Regular smokers

Numbers / Percentages

Usual sources of cigarettes (shops) ¹	Year															
	1990	1992	1993	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010 ²	2012	2014	2016	2018
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Newsagent, tobacconist, sweet shop	80	77	82	83	84	79	71	69	69	66	46	49	49	45	24	26
Garage shop ³	39	40	43	47	52	44	39	33	37	29	14	16	16	7	5	8
Supermarket	19	19	22	22	27	25	22	26	27	27	15	15	18	10	13	14
Other shops	15	22	22	21	19	21	14	14	16	16	9	9	14	13	7	9
Unweighted bases	305	310	297	348	360	496	719	962	833	695	476	356	295	186	161	134
Weighted bases	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	182	157	128

Footnotes

1. Pupils could give more than one answer.
2. Estimates since 2010 are based on weighted data (see appendix A for more details).
3. From 2012, the questionnaire has asked about buying from 'a petrol station or garage shop'.

Source

Survey of smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England

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Table 2.6
Proportion of smokers who found it difficult to buy cigarettes in a shop, by age

1996 - 2018

Current smokers

Numbers / F

Found it difficult to buy cigarettes in a shop	Year										
	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010 ¹	2012	2014	2016
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
11-13 years	40	54	47	48	48	44	34	47	[41]	[32]	[17]
14 years	16	20	24	22	24	26	42	39	32	23	21
15 years	9	8	9	13	15	18	39	35	31	24	32
Total (11-15)	18	22	21	23	24	24	39	37	32	25	28
Unweighted bases											
11-13 years	96	76	186	203	188	126	93	56	37	40	38
14 years	128	294	248	335	263	227	148	104	79	77	78
15 years	213	450	454	556	506	462	297	255	231	158	153
Total (11-15)	437	820	888	1094	957	815	538	415	347	275	271
Weighted bases											
11-13 years	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	32	30
14 years	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	76	70
15 years	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	164	175
Total (11-15)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	272	275

Footnotes

1. Estimates since 2010 are based on weighted data (see appendix A for more details).

Source

Survey of smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England



Percentages

2018

%

[31]

17

20

21

42

72

124

246

41

54

146

247

Table 2.7
Proportion of pupils who tried to buy cigarettes in a shop in the last year, by age
 1986 - 2018

All pupils

Numbers / Percentages

Tried to buy cigarettes in a shop	Year													
	1986	1990	1994	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010 ¹	2012	2014	2016	2018
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
11 years	16	18	7	4	3	2	2	3	2	2	1	1	1	1
12 years	15	18	11	6	6	4	4	4	2	1	1	2	1	1
13 years	21	27	19	15	12	11	11	9	6	4	3	2	1	2
14 years	30	39	34	32	27	26	24	22	11	8	6	5	4	3
15 years	45	54	55	57	43	41	42	38	23	18	13	8	8	6
Total (11-15)	27	32	26	22	19	18	17	17	10	7	5	4	4	3
Unweighted bases ²														
11 years	446	601	500	603	1162	1655	1650	1217	1218	1099	1103	961	843	814
12 years	628	619	613	722	1408	1972	1901	1651	1525	1438	1447	1142	985	1269
13 years	610	598	635	691	1422	1967	1904	1617	1508	1430	1506	1267	1359	1440
14 years	654	605	615	1276	1433	1893	1879	1603	1529	1419	1497	1151	1132	1457
15 years	818	662	670	1421	1551	2128	2078	1884	1786	1635	1737	1410	1283	1396
Total (11-15)	3157	3092	3033	4742	6976	9615	9412	7972	7566	7021	7290	5931	5673	6481
Weighted Bases ²														
11 years	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	901	884	980
12 years	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	1103	1001	1317
13 years	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	1245	1193	1290
14 years	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	1177	1121	1202
15 years	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	1513	1435	1574
Total (11-15)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	5939	5696	6474

Footnotes

1. Estimates since 2010 are based on weighted data (see appendix A for more details).
2. Bases for individual ages may not sum to total due to missing age data in some surveys between 1986 to 1998

Source

Survey of smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England

Table 2.8**Proportion of pupils who tried to buy cigarettes from a shop in the last year and who were refused at least once, by age**

1990 - 2018

Pupils who tried to buy cigarettes from a shop in the last year

	Year										
	1990	1992	1993	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008
Refused at least once	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
11-13 years ²	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	58	55	59	52
14 years	31	38	36	43	39	46	46	49	59	55	56
15 years	29	26	21	27	33	36	39	43	47	49	59
Total (11-15)	37	36	29	35	38	43	45	48	52	53	57
Unweighted bases ³											
11-13 years	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	336	310	249	145
14 years	234	211	207	207	200	450	380	484	440	351	163
15 years	360	344	333	366	317	746	667	915	867	709	405
Total (11-15)	971	811	737	798	706	1329	1347	1735	1617	1309	713
Weighted bases											
11-13 years	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
14 years	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
15 years	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total (11-15)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Footnotes

1. Estimates since 2010 are based on weighted data (see appendix A for more details).

2. Prior to 2002, younger students were grouped into an 11-12 years age group, with 13 year olds being reported separately.

This information is available in Table 2.8a of the *Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among Young People in England 2014* publication.

3. Bases for individual ages may not sum to total due to missing age data in some surveys between 1990 and 1998.

Source

Survey of smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England

Numbers / Percentages

2010 ¹	2012	2014	2016	2018
%	%	%	%	%
52	51	[64]	[50]	[28]
58	50	45	[77]	[66]
60	51	61	64	45
58	51	58	64	45
92	63	51	48	46
112	82	51	51	50
283	221	112	99	90
487	366	214	198	191
:	:	48	36	46
:	:	55	48	34
:	:	123	109	96
:	:	226	192	182

wn as NHS Digital.

Table 2.9

Proportion of pupils who tried to buy cigarettes from a shop in the last year and who were refused on the most recent occasion, 1990 - 2018

Pupils who tried to buy cigarettes from a shop in the last year

Refused on the most recent occasion	Year									
	1990	1992	1993	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
11-13 years ²	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	63	62	58
14 years	11	13	6	14	11	11	15	17	22	24
15 years	6	3	3	4	3	6	7	7	10	14
Total (11-15)	15	14	10	13	11	14	15	15	19	22
Unweighted bases ³										
11-13 years	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	332	306	241
14 years	235	211	206	207	200	452	379	484	440	352
15 years	361	345	334	366	317	748	669	914	868	706
Total (11-15)	972	812	737	797	705	1333	1346	1730	1614	1299
Weighted bases										
11-13 years	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
14 years	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
15 years	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
Total (11-15)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

Footnotes

1. Estimates since 2010 are based on weighted data (see appendix A for more details).

2. Prior to 2002, younger students were grouped into an 11-12 years age group, with 13 year olds being reported separately.

This information is available in Table 2.9a of the *Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Among Young People in England 2014* publication.

3. Bases for individual ages may not sum to total due to missing age data in some surveys between 1990 and 1998.

Source

Survey of smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England

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by age

Numbers / Percentages

2008	2010 ¹	2012	2014	2016	2018
%	%	%	%	%	%
57	58	65	[41]	[41]	[29]
30	26	26	14	[44]	[26]
24	27	21	23	30	24
29	30	25	25	35	25
145	90	63	50	45	45
163	112	81	51	49	49
404	282	222	109	100	87
712	484	366	210	194	186
:	:	:	46	33	45
:	:	:	55	46	34
:	:	:	120	116	94
:	:	:	221	196	178

¹, also known as NHS Digital.

Table 2.10
Frequency of buying cigarettes from shops

2004-2018

Pupils who bought cigarettes in a shop in the last year

Numbers / Percentages

Frequency of buying cigarettes from shops	Year							
	2004	2006	2008	2010 ¹	2012	2014	2016	2018
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Almost every day	18	22	15	11	15	12	8	6
Once or twice a week	24	19	20	20	23	29	18	21
2 or 3 times per month	10	10	12	10	12	12	15	12
Once a month	11	11	12	14	12	11	16	16
A few times a year	37	38	41	45	38	35	44	45
Unweighted bases	1523	1219	673	457	343	191	179	165
Weighted Bases	:	:	:	:	:	198	178	158

Footnotes

1. Estimates since 2010 are based on weighted data (see appendix A for more details).

Source

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› known as N

Table 2.11
Proportion of pupils who have asked someone else to buy them cigarettes from a shop in the last year

2010 - 2018

All pupils

Numbers / Percentages

	Year				
	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018
Asked someone else to buy cigarettes from a shop	%	%	%	%	%
Asked someone else to buy cigarettes from a shop	10	8	6	6	5
<i>Unweighted bases</i>	6869	7045	5694	5451	6184
<i>Weighted bases</i>	6868	7032	5707	5468	6174

Source

Survey of smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England

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Table 2.12
Proportion of pupils who have asked someone else to buy them cigarettes from a shop in the last year, by age and sex

2018

All pupils

Numbers / Percentages

Asked someone else to buy cigarettes	Age					Total (11-15)
	11 years	12 years	13 years	14 years	15 years	
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Boys	0	1	2	5	8	4
Girls	0	2	3	8	11	6
Total	0	2	3	6	10	5
Unweighted bases						
Boys	380	594	625	649	674	2933
Girls	392	624	742	729	645	3137
Total	776	1222	1373	1383	1325	6184
Weighted bases						
Boys	466	643	611	561	744	3040
Girls	460	623	610	580	741	3019
Total	930	1269	1226	1146	1493	6174

Source

Survey of smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England

Table 2.13

Proportion of smokers who have asked someone else to buy them cigarettes from a shop in the last year, by smoking status

2018

Current smokers

Numbers / Percentages

	Smoking status		Total
	Regular smoker	Occasional smoker	
Asked someone else to buy cigarettes	%	%	%
Asked someone else to buy cigarettes from a shop	81	47	62
Unweighted bases	135	173	308
Weighted bases	130	172	302

Source

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Table 2.14

Proportion of pupils who asked someone else to buy them cigarettes in the last year, who were successful

2010 - 2018

Pupils who asked someone to buy them cigarettes from a shop in the last year

	Numbers / Percentages				
	Year				
Was bought cigarettes by someone else	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018
	%	%	%	%	%
Was bought cigarettes by someone else	90	88	91	85	88
Unweighted bases	658	551	335	318	288
Weighted bases	658	552	335	321	281

Source

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Table 2.15
Proportion of pupils who asked someone else to buy them cigarettes in the last year, who were successful, by age and sex

2018

Pupils who asked someone to buy them cigarettes from a shop in the last year

Numbers / Percentages

Was bought cigarettes by someone else	Age			Total (11-15)
	11-13 years	14 years	15 years	
	%	%	%	%
Boys	<i>u</i>	<i>u</i>	<i>94</i>	<i>89</i>
Girls	<i>[79]</i>	<i>[88]</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>87</i>
Total	<i>78</i>	<i>88</i>	<i>92</i>	<i>88</i>
Unweighted bases				
Boys	19	33	55	108
Girls	35	58	75	169
Total	54	92	133	288
Weighted bases				
Boys	22	27	56	107
Girls	33	44	84	162
Total	55	71	145	281

Source

Survey of smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England

Table 2.16

Proportion of smokers who asked someone else to buy them cigarettes in the last year and who were successful, by smoking status

2018

Current smokers who asked someone to buy them cigarettes in a shop in the last year

Numbers / Percentages

	Smoking status		Total
	Regular smoker	Occasional smoker	
Was bought cigarettes by someone else	%	%	%
Was bought cigarettes by someone else	94	92	93
Unweighted bases	107	79	186
Weighted bases	104	79	184

Source

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Table 2.17
Length of time as a regular smoker, by sex

1988 - 2018

Regular smokers

Numbers / Percentages

Length of time as a regular smoker	Year																
	1988	1990	1992	1994	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010 ¹	2012	2014	2016	2018	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	
Boys																	
Less than 3 months	11	8	17	13	7	10	12	11	11	15	13	10	14	12	6	[8]	
3-6 months	14	14	14	8	5	5	9	11	8	11	10	13	12	11	19	[20]	
6 months to 1 year	21	16	12	19	19	18	16	18	16	18	15	25	17	22	21	[29]	
More than 1 year	54	62	57	61	69	67	63	60	65	56	62	52	58	55	54	[43]	
Girls																	
Less than 3 months	10	11	11	11	10	10	8	10	12	12	11	11	18	18	9	9	
3-6 months	11	13	18	13	9	8	16	13	7	9	15	7	13	17	13	13	
6 months to 1 year	21	23	14	22	16	18	22	18	18	15	22	27	21	25	29	30	
More than 1 year	57	53	57	54	65	64	54	59	63	64	52	55	48	41	49	48	
Total																	
Less than 3 months	11	9	14	12	9	10	10	11	11	13	12	10	16	15	8	9	
3-6 months	13	14	16	11	7	6	13	12	7	10	13	9	12	14	16	16	
6 months to 1 year	21	19	13	20	18	18	19	18	17	16	19	26	19	24	24	30	
More than 1 year	55	58	57	57	67	65	58	59	64	61	56	54	53	46	53	45	
Unweighted bases																	
Boys	106	146	143	150	150	198	303	436	337	252	190	150	145	80	65	52	
Girls	134	153	153	195	198	277	385	519	460	405	273	202	153	111	86	76	
Total	243	299	305	345	348	475	688	955	797	657	463	352	298	191	156	135	
Weighted bases																	
Boys	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	74	75	50
Girls	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	111	75	73
Total	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:	185	153	130

Footnotes

1. Estimates since 2010 are based on weighted data (see appendix A for more details).

Source

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