

period compared to stayers' averages of 0.36 and 0.14, respectively. School leavers' utilization of physician visits also averaged slightly higher - 3.6 in 12 months compared to 2.9 for stayers.

Alcohol and Other Drug Use among Young Adult School Leavers

- Young school leavers were much more likely to use tobacco, equally likely to use illegal drugs, and substantially less likely to use alcohol than stayers.
- Lifetime smoking prevalence among school leavers was 65% compared to 54% of stayers. Twelve-month prevalence rates for smoking were 50% and 33%, respectively. School leavers who smoked cigarettes consumed an average of 19 cigarettes per day compared to 15 per day among smoking stayers. Recent use of smokeless tobacco was also higher among school leavers with 12-month prevalence rates of 10% compared to 7%.
- Among school leavers, 25% used an illegal drug in their lifetimes compared to 22.5% of stayers.
- A higher percentage of school leavers had never drunk any alcoholic beverages (33% compared to 22% of stayers), and a higher percentage were former or infrequent drinkers (27% versus 18%). However, stayers were more likely to have drunk alcohol recently, i.e., in the past 12 months (60%), compared to school leavers (40%). Similarly, proportionally more young school leavers (46%) than stayers (31%) used neither alcohol nor drugs in the past year. A higher percentage of school leavers (15% versus 10%) used other drugs while abstaining from alcohol. Stayers were more likely to use alcohol alone in the absence of other drugs (41% versus 22%). However, stayers were no more likely than school leavers to have used both alcohol and other drugs in the past year (16%-18%). School leavers were less likely to drink alcohol heavily (5+ or more alcoholic drinks at a sitting at least once in 12 months -- (6% versus 10% of stayers).
- The same percentages of school leavers (9%) as stayers (8%) reported ever having felt that they were addicted to a drug or substance, and 54% of both groups of respondents felt they were currently addicted to a drug or substance. Only 3.5% of school leavers and 2.1% of stayers had ever received formal AOD treatment, that is, treatment at an alcohol or drug treatment facility, while 6.5% of stayers and 7.6% of school leavers had received either formal or informal (12th step/self-help group) AOD treatment.
- School leavers were more likely to express concern about parental AOD use, abuse and problems than stayers.