

CHILD OF THE
NEW CENTURY 



UPDATE 2017

NEWS FOR
STUDY MEMBERS

THE AGE 14 SURVEY

WHAT WE'VE FOUND OUT SO FAR

EXERCISE

We asked you how much you exercised the previous week: over two thirds of you had exercised on at least 3 or 4 days.

Twice as many boys as girls exercised every day.

LEFT OR RIGHT HANDED?

12% of you are left handed, and 1% can use both hands equally well. Boys were more likely to be left handed than girls.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Almost all of you used social networking sites or messaging apps every day.

Girls were more likely to use social media than boys - just under half of girls used social media for three hours or more on an average weekday, compared to a quarter of boys.



HAPPINESS

Almost 4 in 5 of you said you're happy with your life as a whole.

SCHOOL AND QUALIFICATIONS

More than 8 in 10 of you thought that you need qualifications to get a worthwhile job.

FUTURE JOBS

We asked you what you'd like to do when you grow up.

The 5 most popular jobs among girls were:

1. Teacher (11%)
2. Nurse (7%)
3. Doctor (7%)
4. Actor (6%)
5. Vet (5%)

The 5 most popular jobs among boys were:

1. Sports person (14%)
2. Engineer (9%)
3. IT professional (7%)
4. Scientist (5%)
5. Armed forces (5%)



ATTITUDES TO ALCOHOL

YOUR THOUGHTS AT AGE 11

Findings from Child of the New Century (CNC) have shown that young people start to think about alcohol very early in life - well before they've ever had a drink.

Researchers from the University of Michigan in America used information from CNC to look at what young people thought about alcohol, and why your attitudes to drinking are so important.

WHAT WE ASKED YOU

When you were age 11, we asked you whether you agreed or disagreed with the statement 'Drinking beer, wine, or spirits is a way to make friends with other people'. We also asked you how much you thought people risk harming themselves if they try one or two alcoholic drinks.

WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT ALCOHOL MATTERS

Your early attitudes to alcohol are very important. Young people who think drinking is going to be fun and not risky tend to try alcohol at younger ages. Experimenting with alcohol at an early age can lead to drinking problems later in life.



ATTITUDES TO ALCOHOL AT AGE 11

Overall, most of you disagreed that alcohol was a way to make friends, and felt there was at least some risk to having one or two drinks.

However, some people felt differently about alcohol than others. Boys were more likely to agree that drinking was a way to make friends than girls. More White British children agreed with this statement than those from other ethnic backgrounds.

Compared to 11-year-olds in England, young people in Wales were more likely to see alcohol as a way to make friends, and those in Northern

Ireland were more likely to think drinking was harmful. Scottish and English young people did not have significantly different attitudes to alcohol at this age.

FAMILIES MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Your attitudes to alcohol also seemed to be shaped by your families and home life. For instance, young people answered the questions about alcohol differently depending on how well they got along with their parents, and their parents' own drinking habits.

DO YOU NEED TO TALK ABOUT ALCOHOL?

If you or someone you know is having problems with drinking, or you just want to talk about alcohol, you can contact FRANK, who can give you free confidential advice. You can text them on 82111, phone them for free on **0300 123 6600**, or get advice via webchat at **www.talktofrank.com**.





COMING UP: AGE 17 SURVEY

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

We are planning to visit you and your families again in 2018, when you will be turning 17. The Age 17 Survey will be carried out by interviewers who work for Ipsos MORI, the research agency that did the Age 11 and Age 14 Surveys.

WHY AGE 17?

We've followed you since you were a baby and now you're a young adult! Seventeen is a really important age, a time when you are taking important decisions and preparing for more independence and responsibility, and we would love to find out how things have changed since the last time we visited you.

We'd like to find out about what's

been happening in your life. At this point you may be thinking about going on to university or what jobs you'd like in the future, and some of you will already be working or doing apprenticeships.

You're making decisions now that could shape the rest of your lives, and we'd like to get an insight into who you are now. By taking part in the study you'll be helping us understand the links between your



life at age 17, your childhood and your future.

You've already provided us with valuable information that has helped shape the way we think about bullying, health, family life and young people's happiness. By taking part at 17, you'll be helping researchers continue this fantastic work.

WHAT WILL WE ASK YOU TO DO?

At age 17, you'll be the focus of the visit.

An interviewer will be asking you to answer some questions about your lives, similar to the ones we've asked your parents in previous surveys. We'd also like you to answer some questions on your own in private. We'll ask you to have your measurements taken, and to complete number activities. After the interviewer visits, we'd like you to answer a short online questionnaire.

WHAT WILL WE ASK YOUR PARENTS TO DO?

While we hope you'll enjoy answering most of the questions this time around, we'd still like your parent(s) or guardian(s) to be involved. We'll be asking them to complete an online questionnaire and a short paper questionnaire when the interviewer visits you.

We'll send you more information about the Age 17 Survey shortly before we visit you in 2018.



KEEP IN TOUCH!

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