PREVALENCE OF USE
How many people use illegal drugs?

5% of the worldwide adult population (nearly 250 million people) between the ages 15–64, used at least one drug in 2014, according to the World Drug Report.

Around 1 in 12 (8.4%) adults aged 16–59 had taken a drug in the last year in England and Wales. This is around 2.7 million people. 1 in 5 16–24 year olds had taken an illicit drug in the last year.

Drug use amongst males and females has remained fairly constant over the last ten years:

Age matters...

3.3% of adults aged 16 - 59 were defined as frequent drug users (having taken any illicit drug more than once a month in the last year). This equated to around 1.1 million people.

The proportion of young adults aged 16 - 24 who were classed as frequent drug users was 4.7%.

8% of adults who reported using drugs in the last year said they had used drugs every day.

Use of substance by 16–59 year olds in England and Wales in 2014/15

An infographic from DrugWise