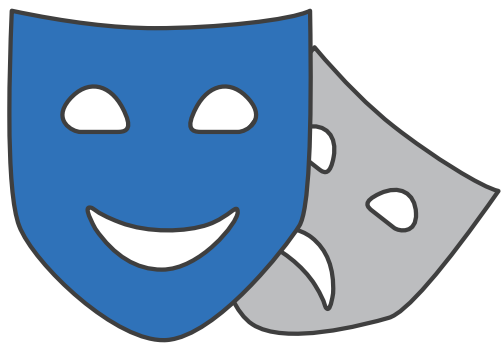
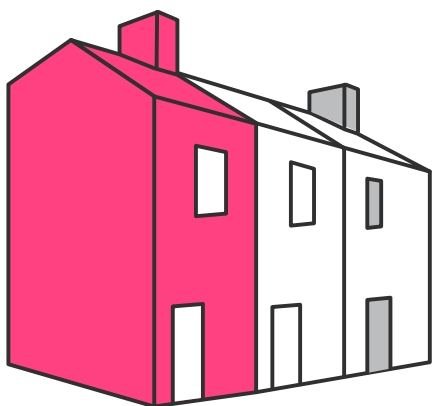


Why do young people take drugs?



Enjoyment

One of the main reasons people take drugs is because they find it enjoyable to alter their perceptions. They may like the feelings of excitement, confidence and connection with others which some drugs can give.



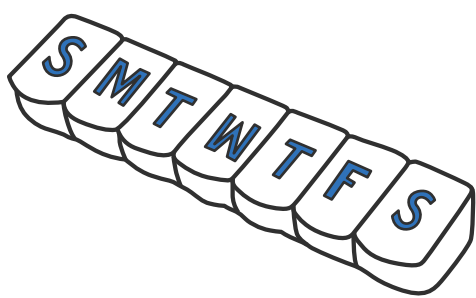
Environment

Some people live in communities which suffer from high unemployment, low quality housing and where the infra-structure of local services is poorly resourced. In such communities drug supply and use can thrive as an alternative economy. As well as use that might be associated with the stress and boredom of living in such communities, people with poor job prospects may recognise the financial advantages of the business of drug supply.



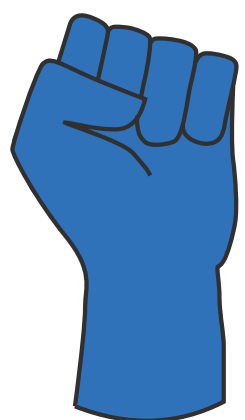
Curiosity & Experimentation

Many people are naturally curious and want to experiment with different experiences. For some, drugs are a good conversation point.



Self medication & Defence mechanism

Some people use drugs to help them forget about problems, including any traumatic experiences they may have had. Drugs may also be seen as a way to help people relax and deal with stress, or to help deal with anxiety, depression and other mental health problems.



Natural rebellion

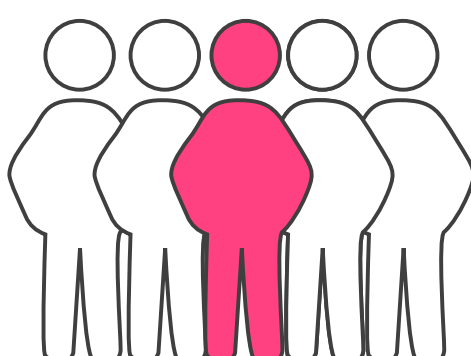
With young people in particular, taking drugs can be part of natural rebellion. Drug use may act as a means of defiance or may be associated with belonging to an alternative culture.



Availability, medical use & price

Drugs are everywhere. People are often seen smoking and using alcohol on television. People may be prescribed drugs for medical reasons, such as tranquillisers or opioid painkillers, which they then become dependent upon. Drugs may now be ordered off the dark web and received to homes by post.

Drugs can be a cheap way of getting high. Cannabis sufficient for a few joints would cost about £5. In terms of how long the effects last, this compares favourably with an average price for a pint of lager is around £4-5.



Peer pressure

There is considerable pressure to use substances. Being around others who are using drugs can make people feel like they have to follow suit to fit in. For example, it may be hard to abstain from alcohol in a pub where everyone else is drinking.