

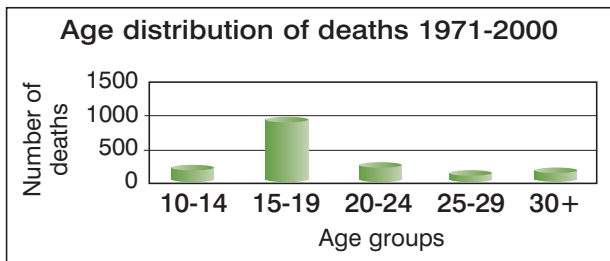
SNIFFING

Why do we need to teach this subject?

On average 1-2 people die every week from 'sniffing' solvents and gases.

Just under two-thirds of these deaths are under the age of 19, the most common age of death being 16. The youngest death ever recorded is 7, but there have been several deaths amongst 9-11's.

A recent survey published by the Department of Health revealed that one in ten children have 'sniffed' by the age of 13. This report highlighted the fact that 'sniffing' these substances is more prevalent than previously reported, peaking amongst 13 and 14 – year-olds.



Data shows that there have been almost 2000 deaths in total from 'sniffing', whereas there have only been around 150 deaths from ecstasy. However, due to media coverage young people are far more aware about the dangers of ecstasy than they are of 'sniffing'.

The purpose of this video and teachers pack is to provide accurate facts and information specifically about 'sniffing'. Unfortunately this subject is often ignored in PHSE projects and doesn't always get

the appropriate priority in drug education programmes. Consultations conducted by Re-Solv in 2000 revealed that over 80% of pupils when asked, were totally unaware about the dangers of 'sniffing'.

"I didn't know it could kill"

Year 9 pupil, Stoke-on-Trent

So the aim of this pack is to address this problem by providing accessible, easy to use activities and resources for all teachers.

The most common way young people find out about 'sniffing' is via friends or siblings, which unfortunately tends to be the least reliable source of information. In fact our surveys suggest that young people who find out about 'sniffing' from their friends and siblings are far more likely to 'sniff', than those informed via drug education.

The DFES makes the following statement about the importance of teaching about these substances:

"In the light of the early age of first use and concern about sudden death at first use, all schools may wish to consider the place of education about the dangers of volatile substance misuse within their drug and health education programmes. As with other education about drugs, pupils need information and the skills to resist experimentation. Teachers need to be aware of the needs of pupils who may be experimenting, including arrangements for referral to appropriate agencies."

DFES Circular 4/95

