

THE RISKS OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE AMONGST THE UK'S



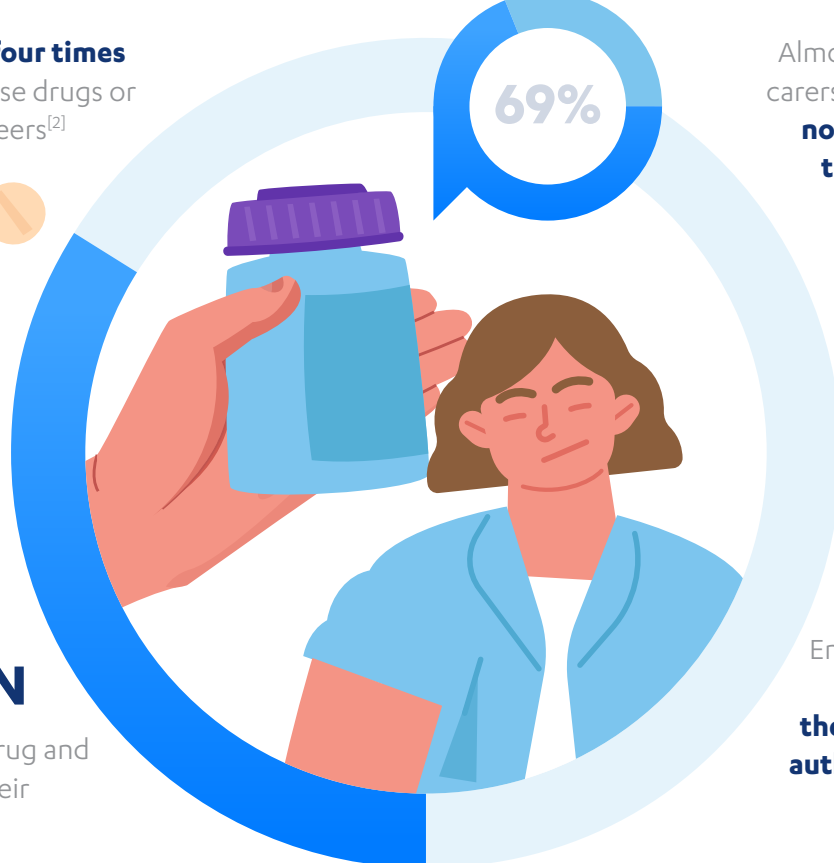
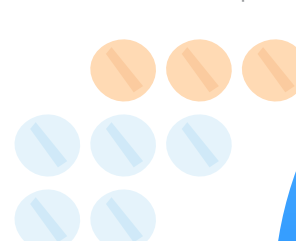
Foster Children

The purpose of this infographic is to raise awareness about the prevalence of addiction and drug and alcohol use among foster children and young adults in the UK. These young people have a significantly increased risk of substance use and mental disorder compared to their peers.



Prevalence Rates of Addiction and Drug and Alcohol Use Among Foster Children and Young Adults in the UK

Foster children are **four times more likely** to misuse drugs or alcohol than their peers^[2]

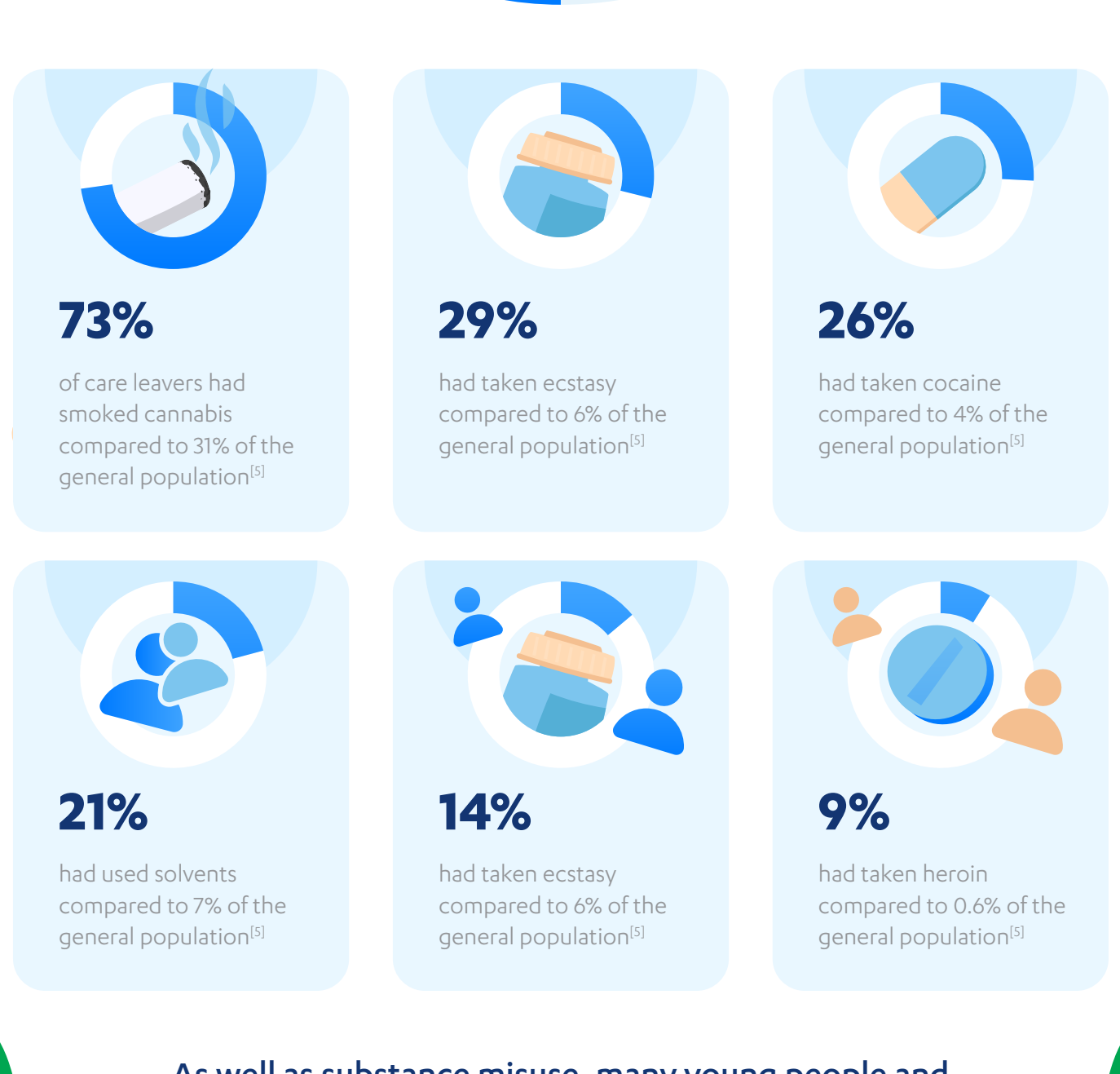


Almost seven in ten foster carers (69%) feel they have **not received adequate training** or support to deal with substance misuse issues in the children and young people they care for^[3]

34% OF FOSTER CHILDREN

have experienced drug and alcohol misuse in their birth families^[2]

Researchers interviewed **68 drug dealers** in four neighbourhoods in England and found that **over half of them had lived in local authority care** or secure accommodation^[4]



As well as substance misuse, many young people and that care leavers are disproportionately disadvantaged in other ways, including:



Factors Contributing to Addiction and Drug and Alcohol Use in Foster Children and Young Adults



Signs of Addiction and Drug and Alcohol Use in Foster Children and Young Adults



Consequences of Addiction and Drug and Alcohol Use in Foster Children and Young Adults



How to Support a Foster Child You Suspect is Using Drugs or Alcohol



Sources of Further Support & Help



References

[1] <https://business.senedd.wales/documents/s35716/ASM%2004%20The%20Fostering%20Network.ht> miPCT=2
 [2] <https://sp.ukdataservice.ac.uk/doc/5280/mrdoc/pdf/5280userguide.pdf>
 [3] <https://www.thefosteringnetwork.org.uk/policy-practice/research/state-nations-foster-care-2019>
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