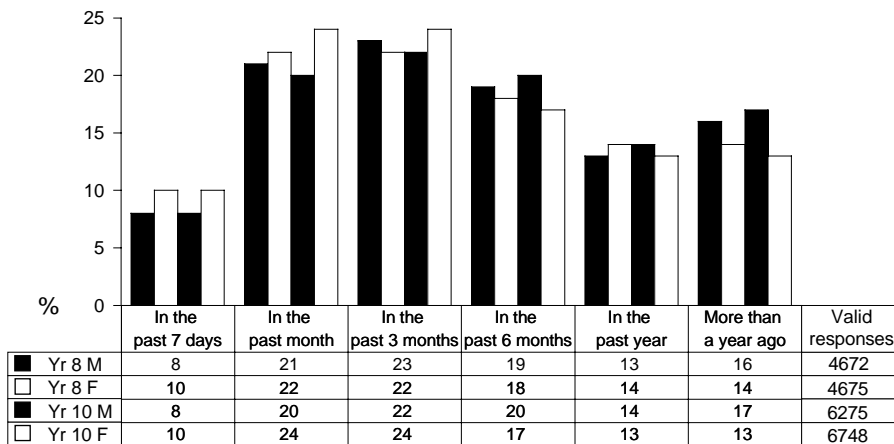


Visiting the doctor

Most pupils have visited the doctor in the past three months

How long ago did you last visit the doctor?

1. Around 50% report having visited their GP within *the past 3 months*.
2. Slightly more older females than males report going to their GP in the past 7 days/month. More older males than females report going to their GP in the last year and more than a year ago.



Comments

1. Are GPs aware of these perhaps surprisingly high frequencies of attendance? In the 'Introduction' (page xxv), we reported how one GP was so disbelieving of the attendance figures reported locally that he checked his own practice records, and found them consistent with the rates recorded in the survey.
2. Are the numbers going up or down? Since 1999 the percentage of those visiting the doctor in the past month are:

| Visit GP in past month | 1999 % | 2003 % | 2012 % |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Yr 8 Male | 26 | 27 | 29 |
| Yr 8 Female | 28 | 26 | 32 |
| Yr 10 Male | 26 | 21 | 28 |
| Yr 10 Female | 31 | 29 | 34 |

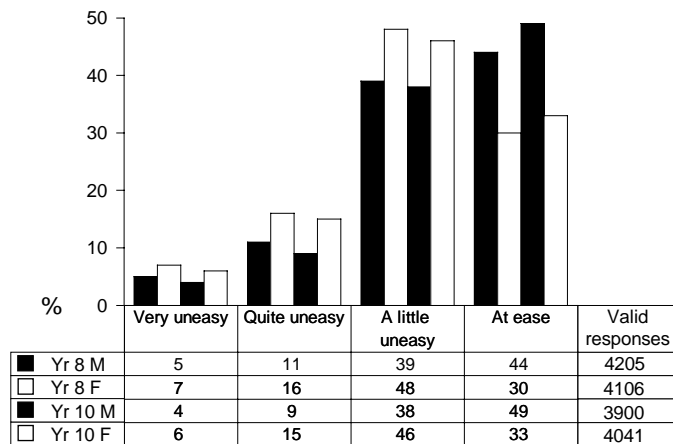
Gender and age differences are generally consistent and females have usually been visiting more frequently than males. The differences are small with the exception of older pupils.

Talking to the doctor

Up to 23% of the females felt *quite uneasy* or *very uneasy*

On this last visit, did you feel at ease with the doctor?

1. More males than females felt *at ease* on their last visit.
2. Up to 23% of the females felt *quite uneasy* or *very uneasy* with the younger females reporting higher figures.



Comments

1. This question has been asked since the early 1980s. Earlier surveys recorded the gender of the GP last visited, and suggested that both boys and girls were more likely to be at ease with female doctors, who are of course in the minority. The table below shows results, from 1991-2012, of those pupils who felt *at ease* with the GP.

| Visit GP and felt at ease | 1991 % | 2001 % | 2012 % |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Yr 8 Male | 64 | 57 | 44 |
| Yr 8 Female | 48 | 40 | 30 |
| Yr 10 Male | 65 | 59 | 49 |
| Yr 10 Female | 47 | 43 | 33 |

2. The level of ease with the doctor could reflect general confidence with adults, or concern about the reason for the visit.
3. A less trusting interpretation is that males are less likely to admit to unease.



In *Young People in 1997* we have shown that those young people who say they were at ease with their GP on their last visit were also likely to have visited their GP more recently:

At ease (whole sample) : 50%
 At ease (visited last week) : 55%
 (visited last year) : 48%