

Mini-European Web Survey on Drugs (EWSD): Impact of COVID-19 on patterns of drug use, harms and drug services in the European Union

Fields marked with * are mandatory.



Mini-European Web Survey on Drugs (EWSD): COVID-19

Impact of COVID-19 on patterns of drug use, harms and drug services in the European Union

INTRODUCTION AND CONSENT

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 across Europe and subsequent national responses to contain and mitigate the epidemic (self-isolation, quarantine, confinement, lockdowns), information has emerged about unprecedented challenges for services providing care to people who use drugs in the community and in prisons. Anecdotal information also indicates that there may have been changes in drug use patterns and in how people are obtaining their drugs. Understanding and sharing information on the consequences of COVID-19 and national response measures on harms deriving from the lack of access to care and how services have adapted as a response may help services improve their responses.

In order to investigate and rapidly document the current impact of the COVID-19 epidemics and national responses in the EU Member States on changes in patterns of drug use, harms and service provision, the EMCDDA is carrying out a study using an adapted version of the trendspotter methodology across EU Member States, of which this survey forms a part. The Mini European Web Survey on Drugs: COVID-19 is part of this snapshot and is being conducted across Europe. The aim is to gather information about how patterns of drug use may have changed in Europe due to COVID-19.

Your time is enormously appreciated. Please be assured that the information you give us is entirely confidential and will be kept safely. The questionnaire is also anonymous - although there are a few broad

questions about your general situation to help us understand how different groups of people who use drugs have been affected by the COVID-19 restrictions and how services have responded in different parts of Europe. This will help the sharing of good practice and improved preparedness in the future.

Informed Consent

Purpose:

The main purpose of this study is to better understand the impact of COVID-19 on patterns of drug use in EU countries. For a comprehensive picture we need information from people who use drugs.

Participants:

You can participate in this survey if you are aged 18 or over.

Benefits:

The information gathered from this study will be used to input into future European response to COVID-19.

Risks:

Participants will be asked to provide information about their use of substances. However, the survey is completely anonymous, no information that could identify you will be collected, and the data are confidential.

Participant Rights:

Participation in this project is completely voluntary. If at any time you wish to discontinue the activity, you may do so.

By participating in this study, I indicate that I accept the aforementioned terms and that I understand the following:

- (1) My participation is voluntary and I may discontinue participation at any time without consequence.
- (2) I will remain anonymous and any and all information I provide will be used for study purposes only and will not be traceable to me.

* The answers that you provide about your drug use are important to this study's success.

Some questions are personal or concern behavior which may be against some social rules or the law. We hope that you will answer all the questions and answer them truthfully. Remember that your answers are ANONYMOUS.

A note on privacy

This survey is anonymous. The record of your survey responses does not contain any identifying information about you. No IP addresses will be stored. No tokens are used. The information will remain with the EMCDDA. No individual results of this survey will be published, but only aggregated data.

By clicking on the "agree to participate" button, I indicate my agreement to take part in this study.

- Yes
- No

SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHICS

What is your gender?

- Female
- Male
- Non-binary
- Prefer not to say

Year of birth:

Only values between 1900 and 2002 are allowed

Which country are you currently living in?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Austria | <input type="radio"/> Germany | <input type="radio"/> Poland |
| <input type="radio"/> Belgium | <input type="radio"/> Greece | <input type="radio"/> Portugal |
| <input type="radio"/> Bulgaria | <input type="radio"/> Hungary | <input type="radio"/> Romania |
| <input type="radio"/> Croatia | <input type="radio"/> Ireland | <input type="radio"/> Slovak Republic |
| <input type="radio"/> Cyprus | <input type="radio"/> Italy | <input type="radio"/> Slovenia |
| <input type="radio"/> Czechia | <input type="radio"/> Latvia | <input type="radio"/> Spain |
| <input type="radio"/> Denmark | <input type="radio"/> Lithuania | <input type="radio"/> Sweden |
| <input type="radio"/> Estonia | <input type="radio"/> Luxembourg | <input type="radio"/> Norway |
| <input type="radio"/> Finland | <input type="radio"/> Malta | <input type="radio"/> Turkey |
| <input type="radio"/> France | <input type="radio"/> Netherlands | <input type="radio"/> Other |

If other, please specify the country you live in

Would you say you live in a....

- City
- Town
- Village

Please tell us in which city you live:

COVID-19 STATUS

Have you had to engage in any of the following as a consequence of the COVID-19 restrictions (mark all that apply)?

- Physical isolation (e.g., avoiding public transport and social gatherings, working/studying from home)
- Home isolation (i.e., a government asked everyone to stay in isolation at home)
- Home quarantine (tested positive for COVID-19 and stayed at home)
- Admitted to hospital (tested positive for COVID-19 and admitted to hospital)
- Other
- None
- Don't know

If other, please provide details.

DRUG USE

In the past 30 days, how often did you use the following substances?

	Never	Less than once a week, but at least once a month	Once a week	Not daily but more than once a week	Almost daily	Daily
Cannabis (weed/resin)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ecstasy/MDMA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cocaine/crack-cocaine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Amphetamines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Heroin	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
LSD	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Synthetic cannabinoids	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other synthetic stimulants (e.g. cathinones)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other opioids without medical prescription (e.g. methadone, buprenorphine, fentanyl or others)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

In the past 12 months, how often did you use the following substances?

	Never	Once or twice	Less than once a month	Less than once a week, but at least once a month	Once a week	Not daily but more than once a week	Almost daily	Daily
Cannabis (weed /resin)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ecstasy/MDMA	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Cocaine/crack-cocaine	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Amphetamines	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Heroin	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
LSD	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Synthetic cannabinoids	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other synthetic stimulants (e.g. cathinones)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other opioids without medical prescription (e.g. methadone, buprenorphine, fentanyl or others)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Have you changed your use of CANNABIS as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, as compared to before COVID-19?

- No change
- Stopped using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Started using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used more frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used greater quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used a different form (e.g., pills, powder, capsule)
- Used a new psychoactive substance instead
- Used other illicit drugs instead
- Used psychoactive medicines instead (e.g. benzodiazepines)
- Used more alcohol instead
- Used by a different route (e.g., changed from injecting to smoking or vice versa)
- Other
- Don't know

Please specify any other changes of your cannabis use:

Have you changed your use of ECSTASY/MDMA as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, as compared to before COVID-19?

- No change
- Stopped using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Started using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used more frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used greater quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used a different form (e.g., pills, powder, capsule)
- Used a new psychoactive substance instead
- Used other illicit drugs instead
- Used psychoactive medicines instead (e.g. benzodiazepines)
- Used more alcohol instead
- Used by a different route (e.g., changed from injecting to smoking or vice versa)
- Other
- Don't know

Please specify any other changes of your ecstasy/MDMA use:

Have you changed your use of COCAINE/CRACK-COCAINE as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, as compared to before COVID-19?

- No change
- Stopped using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Started using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used more frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used greater quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used a different form (e.g., pills, powder, capsule)
- Used a new psychoactive substance instead
- Used other illicit drugs instead
- Used psychoactive medicines instead (e.g. benzodiazepines)
- Used more alcohol instead
- Used by a different route (e.g., changed from injecting to smoking or vice versa)
- Other
- Don't know

Please specify any other changes of your cocaine/crack-cocaine use:

Have you changed your use of AMPHETAMINES as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, as compared to before COVID-19?

- No change
- Stopped using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Started using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used more frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used greater quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used a different form (e.g., pills, powder, capsule)
- Used a new psychoactive substance instead
- Used other illicit drugs instead
- Used psychoactive medicines instead (e.g. benzodiazepines)
- Used more alcohol instead
- Used by a different route (e.g., changed from injecting to smoking or vice versa)
- Other
- Don't know

Please specify any other changes of your amphetamines use:

Have you changed your use of HEROIN as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, as compared to before COVID-19?

- No change
- Stopped using since COVID-19 restrictions

- Started using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used more frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used greater quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used a different form (e.g., pills, powder, capsule)
- Used a new psychoactive substance instead
- Used other illicit drugs instead
- Used psychoactive medicines instead (e.g. benzodiazepines)
- Used more alcohol instead
- Used by a different route (e.g., changed from injecting to smoking or vice versa)
- Other
- Don't know

Please specify any other changes of your heroin use:

Have you changed your use of LSD as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, as compared to before COVID-19?

- No change
- Stopped using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Started using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used more frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used greater quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used a different form (e.g., pills, powder, capsule)
- Used a new psychoactive substance instead
- Used other illicit drugs instead
- Used psychoactive medicines instead (e.g. benzodiazepines)
- Used more alcohol instead
- Used by a different route (e.g., changed from injecting to smoking or vice versa)
- Other
- Don't know

Please specify any other changes of your LSD use:

Have you changed your use of SYNTHETIC CANNABINOIDS as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, as compared to before COVID-19?

- No change
- Stopped using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Started using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used more frequently with COVID-19 restrictions

- Used greater quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used a different form (e.g., pills, powder, capsule)
- Used a new psychoactive substance instead
- Used other illicit drugs instead
- Used psychoactive medicines instead (e.g. benzodiazepines)
- Used more alcohol instead
- Used by a different route (e.g., changed from injecting to smoking or vice versa)
- Other
- Don't know

Please specify any other changes of your synthetic cannabinoids use:

Have you changed your use of SYNTHETIC STIMULANTS OTHER THAN AMPHETAMINES (e.g. cathinones) as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, as compared to before COVID-19?

- No change
- Stopped using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Started using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used more frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used greater quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used a different form (e.g., pills, powder, capsule)
- Used a new psychoactive substance instead
- Used other illicit drugs instead
- Used psychoactive medicines instead (e.g. benzodiazepines)
- Used more alcohol instead
- Used by a different route (e.g., changed from injecting to smoking or vice versa)
- Other
- Don't know

Please specify any other changes of your synthetic stimulant use:

Have you changed your use of OTHER OPIOIDS without medical prescription (e.g. methadone, buprenorphine, fentanyl or others) as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, as compared to before COVID-19?

- No change
- Stopped using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Started using since COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used more frequently with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used greater quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions
- Used less quantity in a session with COVID-19 restrictions

- Used a different form (e.g., pills, powder, capsule)
- Used a new psychoactive substance instead
- Used other illicit drugs instead
- Used psychoactive medicines instead (e.g. benzodiazepines)
- Used more alcohol instead
- Used by a different route (e.g., changed from injecting to smoking or vice versa)
- Other
- Don't know

Please specify any other changes of your use of other opioids:

In general, would you say you have used more or less illicit drugs, since the start of the COVID-19 epidemic in your country?

- Have not used illicit drugs during COVID-19 restrictions in your country
- Used less illicit drugs during COVID-19 restrictions in your country
- Used more illicit drugs during COVID-19 restrictions in your country
- Used the same amount of illicit drugs during COVID-19 restrictions in your country
- Don't know

Why has your illicit drug use decreased as a result of COVID-19 restrictions (mark all that apply)?

- Loss of income/less money to buy drugs
- Reduced availability of drugs to buy
- Reduced ability to collect drugs (e.g., can't leave home)
- Fewer opportunities to use drugs (e.g., closure of clubs/bars, restrictions on gatherings)
- Living arrangements make it difficult to use drugs
- Worried about effects on my health
- Saving my money due to future financial uncertainty
- Other
- Don't know

Please specify any other reason for the decrease

Why has your illicit drug use increased as a result of COVID-19 restrictions (mark all that apply)

- More money to buy drugs
- Greater availability of drugs to buy
- Greater ability to collect drugs (e.g., online)
- Boredom
- Anxiety/to cope with COVID-19
- Because I stockpiled drugs
- Other
- Don't know

Please specify any other reason for the increase

When compared to the past 12 months, did the way you use drugs changed as a result of COVID-19 restrictions?

	Haven't used that way in the past 12 months	Increased	Decreased	Same
Smoking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Injecting	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Swallowing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Snorting/sniffing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

ACCESS TO SERVICES

Where did you obtain your syringes before and after the COVID-19 restrictions (mark all that apply)?

	In the past 12 months	After COVID-19 restrictions
Pharmacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drop-in center	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outreach-workers/van	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vending machine	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drug consumption room	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Received clean syringe for free from a friend or partner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
From a dealer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Found used syringe on the street	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shared used syringe with a friend or partner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Has your access to clean injection material changed as a result of COVID-19 restrictions, as compared to before COVID-19 restrictions were in place?

- Less accessible than usual
- Same as usual
- More accessible than usual
- Don't know

Have you had enough injection material to always use a clean syringe after the COVID-19 restrictions (i.e. after nationwide stay-at-home measures)?

- Yes

- No
- I have not injected drugs after the COVID-19 restrictions

Has there been a change in your intention to seek professional support (counselling or drug treatment) to reduce or abstain from use of illicit drugs since COVID 19 containment measures were introduced?

- Strong increase
- Slight increase
- No change
- Slight decrease
- Strong decrease

Has there been a change in your use of online or remote professional support services such as phone-, video- and/or web-based drug services to seek support for reducing drug-related risk behaviours and/or drug use since COVID 19 containment measures were introduced?

- Strong increase
- Slight increase
- No change
- Slight decrease
- Strong decrease

DRUG MARKET

Have you obtained/attempted to obtain illicit drugs since the outbreak of COVID-19?

- Yes
- No

Thinking about the last time you obtained illicit drugs since the COVID-19 outbreak, what drugs did you obtain (mark all that apply)?

- Cannabis (herbal/resin)
- Ecstasy/MDMA
- Cocaine/crack-cocaine
- Amphetamines
- Heroin
- LSD
- Synthetic cannabinoids
- Other synthetic stimulants (e.g. cathinones)
- Other opioids without medical prescription (e.g. methadone, buprenorphine, fentanyl or others)
- I tried but was not able to get any drugs
- Don't know

Have you had difficulties in accessing illicit drugs because of COVID-19?

- Not at all
- Somewhat
- Moderately
- Extremely

Don't know

Have you changed the way you have obtained illicit drugs during COVID-19 compared to before the restrictions? This might include obtaining more on an occasion or more frequently as compared to pre-COVID-19, for example (mark all that apply).

- No change
- Haven't tried to access illicit drugs
- Stopped obtaining illicit drugs
- Obtained illicit drugs from a different dealer
- Obtained illicit drugs from surface net more than I had before COVID-19
- Obtained illicit drugs from darknet more than I had before COVID-19
- Obtained larger quantities on an occasion
- Bought smaller quantities on an occasion
- Bought illicit drugs more frequently
- Bought illicit drugs less frequently
- Bought different illicit drugs
- Arranged for more home delivery of illicit drugs than I had before
- Arrange for more postal delivery of illicit drugs than I had before
- Reduced face-to-face collection of illicit drugs compared to before
- Other
- Don't know

How else did you change the way you obtain drugs?

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, has there been a change in the purity, price, or amount of drugs drug(s) you have obtained?

	the same	higher	lower	don't know
purity/strength was	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
the price was	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
quantity/amount received	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Any other comments

Thank you very much for taking the time to fill out this survey. Stay safe!