Cannabis trends in the UK

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Trends in prevalence of cannabis use

- CSEW (16-59 yrs, LYP, E&W)
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- SD&D (11-15 yrs, LTP, Eng)
Trends in LYP of cannabis use by age, CSEW
Trends in LYP of cannabis use by sex, CSEW
Trends in use of substances, SD&D survey, England

- Smoked cigarettes
- Drunk alcohol
- Sniffed volatile substances
- Taken cannabis
- Taken Class A drugs

Correlation coefficients:
- Smoker: $r = 0.980^{**}$, $p < 0.000$
- Drank alcohol: $r = 0.966^{**}$, $p < 0.000$
- Sniffed VSA: $r = 0.832^{*}$, $p = 0.010$
- Class A drugs: $r = 0.933^{**}$, $p = 0.001$
Substance use prevalence trends, Men

(Cannabis, CSEW, 16-59 yrs; Drinking and Smoking, GLF, England, 16+)

\[ r = \begin{array}{ccc}
0.754^{**} & 0.860^{**} & 0.937^{**} \\
0.005 & 0.000 & 0.000 \\
\end{array} \]

\[ P< \begin{array}{ccc}
0.005 & 0.000 & 0.000 \\
\end{array} \]
Substance use prevalence trends, Women
(Cannabis, CSEW, 16-59 yrs; Drinking and Smoking, GLF, England, 16+)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Drank alcohol on 5+ days</th>
<th>Drank alcohol in last week</th>
<th>Current smoker</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$r = \text{r}$</td>
<td>0.839**</td>
<td>0.965**</td>
<td>0.948**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$P &lt; \text{p}$</td>
<td>0.001</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Changing attitudes towards cannabis
Source: British Social Attitudes Survey

**Question:** How much do you agree or disagree that cannabis isn't nearly as damaging as some people think?

- (1) Agree strongly
- (2) Agree
- (3) Neither
- (4) Disagree
- (5) Disagree strongly
- (8) Don't know

![Bar chart showing changing attitudes towards cannabis from 1993 to 2007. The chart illustrates a trend towards increased agreement that cannabis isn't nearly as damaging as some people think.](chart.png)
Changing attitudes towards cannabis
Source: British Social Attitudes Survey

**Question:** Which of these statements comes closest to your own view? Taking cannabis should be legal, without restrictions OR taking cannabis should be legal, but it should only be available from licensed shops OR taking cannabis should remain illegal.

![Bar chart showing changing attitudes towards cannabis from 1993 to 2010. The chart indicates a trend towards increased support for legalizing cannabis, with a peak in 2000 and a slight decline in 2007. The categories are: Cannabis should be legal, Legal but restrict, Should remain illegal, NK/DNA.]
Relationship between attitudes and use

Figure 5.4 Acceptability of people of own age taking any cannabis by whether taken cannabis, adults aged 16 to 59, 2012 to 2013 CSEW

Chart notes: Base: All adults aged 16 to 59 Due to rounding, individual figures may not sum to totals. Not to scale
Figure 2.5  Police recorded crime and justice outcomes for possession of cannabis offences, 2005 to 2012
Changing type of cannabis used

Number of seizures by police & border force, England & Wales

- Cannabis – herbal
- Cannabis – resin
- Cannabis plants

Year:
- 2004
- 2005
- 2006/07*
- 2007/08
- 2008/09
- 2009/10
- 2010/11
- 2011/12
Increase in numbers seeking treatment for cannabis

- % of new presentations
- % of all in treatment