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National Prevalence Estimates of Problem Drug Use in the European Union, 1995-2000

EMCDDA project CT.00.RTX.23 – Data update for
EMCDDA 2003 Annual Report

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Foreword and Acknowledgement

This document provides an updated version of the key tables and graphs of report CT.00.RTX.23. It includes new and changed estimates received at the EMCDDA as of 15 September 2002 and which are presented in the EMCDDA 2003 Annual Report. This document should be used together with report CT.00.RTX.23.

Report CT.00.RTX.23 is a compilation of country reports prepared by experts, who were nominated by the respective National Focal Points of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction. They have provided national prevalence estimates and given insight into the developments which took place in the member state in relation to this indicator during an expert meeting which took place in Lisbon in 2001. At this meeting valuable contributions were given on local prevalence estimation, incidence and geographic modelling of problem drug use, by participants in the 'EMCDDA/TSER European Drug Modelling Network', DG Research funded project SOE2-CT98-3075.

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....See Report CT.00.RTX.23 section 3.1.2.... For the summary tables 21-23 and charts 1-2 rates have been recalculated using standard population sizes 15-64 taken from Eurostat (see Table 4). In the cases where the original estimate was based on data for age 15-54 this means that the assumption was made that the absolute number of drug users aged 55-64 is very small.

Table 4: Population size reported by national experts (age 15-64)

Country	Year, population size and age group reported by national expert			Population size 15-64 (EUROSTAT) ²⁾						
				1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Austria	1999	4570377	15-54	5412819				5457652	5483440	
Belgium	1997	6706152	15-64	6707199	6705928					
Denmark	2000	3558379	15-64		3535829					
Finland	1999	2918000	15-54			3420598	3433511	3449681		
France	1999	32835000	15-54	37736396				38131287		
Germany	1999	55915209	15-64		55846564				55915209	
Greece	1996	5580553	15-54							7087000
Ireland	1996	2061028	15-54		2342670					
Italy	1997	32315499	15-54		39099069			39065503	38989709	38974209
Luxembourg	2000	249840	15-54	278367	281107	284005	287096		291010	
The Netherlands	1999	10713380	15-64		10585196		10661543	10713380		
Norway	¹⁾	2462300				2835512	2852913		2900748	
Portugal	2000	6790140	15-64					6778900	6920368	
Spain	1998	27131400	15-64				26923202	27022926	27157975	
Sweden	¹⁾	4765656		5535247 ³⁾			5650799			
UK	¹⁾	32481100			37007584 ⁴⁾					

1) not reported in 2001

2) data available at <http://intracomm.cec.eu-admin.net/newcronos/access/navig/navig.m4?thelang=en&theroot=newcron/theme3/demo/dpop>

3) 1992

4) estimates are for Great Britain: population has been downcorrected by 1098199 to exclude Northern Ireland

Table 21: Estimated number of problem drug users for reference years 1995-2001

Country / Reference year	Multiplier Treatment data	Multiplier Police data	Multiplier Mortality data	Capture-recapture	Multivariate Indicator	(Back calculation)/ HIV AIDS mult.	Other Methods
Austria 1994/95				15,980-18,672 (17,276)			
1999				16,569-19,033 (17,801) ⁹⁾			
2000			12,000-23,000				
Belgium 1995						19,600 ¹⁾	
1997						23,200-28,400 ²¹⁾	
Denmark 1996			12,372-18,460 ¹⁾	12,752-15,248 (14,007) ²⁾			
1999							
Finland³⁾ 96/97			4,000-8,500	9,400-14,700			
1998				10,100-16,400 ⁴⁾			
1999			7,000-14,000	11,100-14,000 ⁴⁾			7,000-21,000 ⁵⁾
France 1995	156,000	164,000				141,000-177,000 ¹⁾	176,000 ⁶⁾
1999	180,000	147,900-182,600			178,000	122,000 ¹⁷⁾	146,400 ⁶⁾
Germany 1996	94,350-140,600 ¹⁾	140,843-165,424	80,000-112,000				
2000	166,345-197,534	152,529-189,954	126,875-169,167		157,482	91,428-157,500	127,800-160,000 ⁶⁾
Greece 2001				21,643-29,381 (25,512) ⁹⁾			
Ireland 1995/96			4.694-7.884	6,308 / 13,735 ¹⁸⁾			
Italy 1996	298.989	171,531		274,000	248,672	326.000	239.987 ⁶⁾
1999⁸⁾	276,746	281,273		297,711	302,829		
2000⁸⁾	292,196			309,850	319,447		
2001⁹⁾	279820	251864		268660	233075		

Footnotes see page 9

Table 21 continued

Country / Reference year	Multiplier Treatment data	Multiplier Police data	Multiplier Mortality data	Capture-recapture	Multivariate Indicator	(Back calculation)/ HIV AIDS mult.	Other Methods
Luxemburg 1996		1,800 ¹⁰⁾					1,900 ¹¹⁾
1997		1900-2300 ⁹⁾					
1998⁸⁾	1,900-2,200 ¹⁰⁾	2,020-2,220 ¹⁰⁾					
1999		2350-2625 ⁹⁾¹⁰⁾	2087-2155 (2121)	1510-3926 ⁹⁾		1,780	1912-3133 ⁹⁾¹⁹⁾
2000				1,801-3,948 ⁹⁾		1,715	2132-2924 ⁹⁾¹⁹⁾
Netherlands 1996	25,145-29,104				27,000 ¹¹⁾		
1998		25,800-34,300					
1999	25,970-30,298				27,970-29,256		
Norway 1997			7,200-10,300 ¹²⁾				12,000 ¹³⁾
1998⁹⁾			9,000-13,000				
2000			10,500-14,000 ¹⁴⁾				
Portugal 1999		49,920-56,150	18,450-36,900			22,656-33,593	
2000	41,720-48,673	47184-58980 ⁹⁾	15900-31800 ⁹⁾			29620-43966 ⁹⁾	
Spain 1998¹¹⁾	177,756		83,972				
1999¹¹⁾	148,763						116,298 ⁶⁾
2000	144198 ⁹⁾¹¹⁾						182498-214152 ⁶⁾⁹⁾²⁰⁾
Sweden¹⁾¹⁵⁾				16600-20000 (18500) ⁹⁾			
1992							
1998				23500-27300 (25400) ⁹⁾			
UK 1996¹⁶⁾	243,820		161,133		268,253	161,200	162,544-251,000

Footnotes see page 9

Table 22: Estimated number of problem drug users for reference years 1995-2001

Country / Reference year	Multiplier Treatment data	Multiplier Police data	Multiplier Mortality data	Capture-recapture	Multivariate Indicator	(Back calculation)/ HIV AIDS mult.	Other Methods
Austria 1994/95				2.95-3.45 (3.19)			
1999				3.04-3.49 (3.26) ⁹⁾			
2000			2.19-4.19				
Belgium 1995						2.92 ¹⁾	
1997						3.46-4.24 ²¹⁾	
Denmark 1996			3.50-5.22 ¹⁾	3.61-4.31 (3.96) ²⁾			
Finland³⁾ 96/97			1.17-2.48	2.75-4.30			
1998				2.94-4.78 ⁴⁾			
1999			2.03-4.06	3.22-4.06 ⁴⁾			
France 1995	4.13	4.35				3.74-4.69 ¹⁾	4.66 ⁶⁾
1999	4.72	3.88-4.79			4.67	3.2	3.84 ⁶⁾
Germany 1996	1.69-2.52 ¹⁾	2.52-2.96	1.43-2.01				
2000	2.97-3.53	2.73-3.40	2.27-3.03		2.82	1.64-2.82	2.29-2.89 ⁶⁾
Greece 2001				3.05-4.15 (3.60) ⁹⁾			
Ireland 1995/96			2.0-3.37 (2.69)	2.69-5.86 ¹⁸⁾			
Italy 1996	7.65	4.39		7.01	6.36	8.34	6.14 ⁶⁾
1999⁸⁾	7.08	7.20		7.62	7.75		
2000⁸⁾	7.49			7.95	8.19		
2001⁹⁾	7.18	6.46		6.89	5.98		

Footnotes see page 9

Table 22 continued

Country / Reference year	Multiplier Treatment data	Multiplier Police data	Multiplier Mortality data	Capture-recapture	Multivariate Indicator	(Back calculation)/ HIV AIDS mult.	Other Methods
Luxemburg 1996		6.47 ¹⁰⁾					6.83 ¹¹⁾
1997		6.76-8.18 (7.47) ⁹⁾					
1998⁸⁾	6.69-7.75 ¹⁰⁾	7.11-7.82 ¹⁰⁾					
1999		8.19-9.14 ⁹⁾¹⁰⁾	7.27-7.51 (7.39)	5.26-13.67 ⁹⁾		6.2	6.66-10.91 ⁹⁾¹⁸⁾
2000				6.19-13.57 ⁹⁾		5.89	7.33-10.05 ⁹⁾¹⁹⁾
Netherlands 1996	2.38-7.75				2.55 ¹¹⁾		
1998		2.42-3.22					
1999	2.42-2.83				2.61-2.73		
Norway 1997			2.54-3.63 ¹²⁾				4.23 ¹³⁾
1998⁹⁾			3.15-4.56				
2000			3.62-4.83 ¹⁴⁾				
Portugal 1999		7.36-8.28	2.72-5.44			3.34-4.96	
2000	6.03-7.03	6.82-8.52 ⁹⁾	2.30-4.60 ⁹⁾			4.28-6.35 ⁹⁾	
Spain 1998¹¹⁾	6.6		3.12				
1999¹¹⁾	5.51						4.30 ⁶⁾
2000	5.31 ⁹⁾¹¹⁾						6.72-7.89 ⁶⁾⁹⁾²⁰⁾
Sweden¹⁾¹⁵⁾ 1992				3.00-3.61 (3.34) ⁹⁾			
1998				4.16-4.83 (4.49) ⁹⁾			
UK 1996¹⁶⁾	6.59		4.35		7.25	4.36	4.39-6.78

Footnotes see page 9

Footnotes for tables 21 and 22:

In Table 21 and 22 all available estimates also for former reference periods are included. The country tables only show the most recent application and its methodological description per estimate. Standard population sizes 15-64 from Eurostat were used (see Table 4). These tables include data reported after 15 April 2002 which therefore do not appear in other parts of the report. These estimates are marked with footnotes 8 and 9.

A - Mortality and HIV/AIDS multipliers are assumed to give estimates of injecting drug use, which is only part of the problem drug use. The other methods are assumed to result in estimates to problem drug use (EMCDDA definition of problem drug is "injecting drug use or long-duration/regular use of opiates, cocaine and/or amphetamines").

B - Population sizes taken from Eurostat NewChronos database February 2003, except for Greece: data as reported by the National Focal Point (2001 not yet available from Eurostat), and UK (estimates are for Great Britain): population has been down-corrected by 1098199 to exclude Northern Ireland.

(<http://intracomm.cec.eu-admin.net/newcronos/access/navig/navig.m4?thelang=en&theroot=newcron/theme3/demo/dpop>)

C - Rates are represented with three significant digits in order to preserve precision of the original estimates which mostly have been provided with three or more significant digits. However the precision of the estimates is best represented by the intervals given and where no interval has been provided precision is unknown.

D - Midpoints have been calculated in cases no central estimate was provided to facilitate interpretation and comparisons.

E - In several cases (see Table 4) original estimates were based on age range 15-54 and the rates have been recalculated using total population age 15-64 as the denominator - this assumes that the proportion of drug users aged 55-64 is very small and can be neglected.

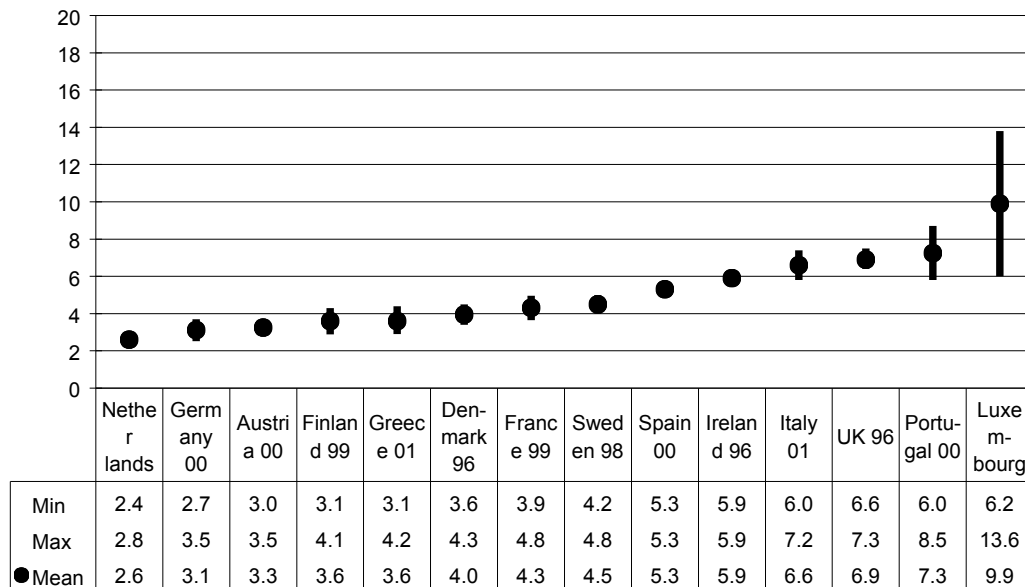
- 1) revised estimation
 - 2) problematic drug users
 - 3) problem opiate and amphetamine users
 - 4) estimates based on 3 and 4 registers
 - 5) multiplier method based on registered cases of hepatitis C infections
 - 6) demographic multiplier method, results less reliable and not included in overall country range
 - 7) note deleted
 - 8) source: drug report 2000
 - 9) recent country report not available, data from national standard tables
 - 10) 'High-risk consumption problem drug users'
 - 11) problematic opiate users
 - 12) mean of the years 1995,1996,1997 number of drug related deaths used to avoid the effect of random variations and outliers
 - 13) method based on survey within police and public health services
 - 14) mean of the years 1998,1999,2000 number of drug related deaths used to avoid the effect of random variations and outliers
 - 15) mostly amphetamine users. Estimates according to EMCDDA definition of problem drug use. 1992: figures include an estimated 5,800-6,950 (point estimate 6,450) opiate users (opiates as primary or secondary drug). 1998: country report not available, figures include an estimated 11,500-13,400 (12,200) opiate users. Data provided by Borje Olson and based on: B. Olsson, C.A. Wahren, S. Byqvist, Det tunga narkotikamissbrukets, omfattning i Sverige 1998, CAN, Stockholm 2001.
 - 16) country report not available, data taken from Frischer et al. 2001
-

- 17) method not based on HIV but on use of syringes and substitution substance
- 18) 6,308: estimate for “problematic opiate users with medical problems”, 13,735: estimate for “opiate users with both medical and social/legal problems” . The higher figure only is compatible with EMCDDA definition of problem drug use and is used for country comparisons.
- 19) Truncated Poisson model, combined results of Chao and Zelterman estimators
- 20) Combination of treatment multiplier and demographic method; includes problem cocaine users.
- 21) The lower estimate is based on extrapolation from self-reported prevalence of HIV among IDUs and the higher on serological based prevalence.

Table 23: Estimates for problem drug users and intravenous drug users in different countries

	Problem Drug Users			Intravenous Drug Users		
	Min	Max	Mean	Min	Max	Mean
Austria 1999/00	3,0	3,5	3,25	2,2	4,2	3,2
Belgium 1997				3,5	4,2	3,9
Denmark 1996	3,6	4,3	4,0	3,5	5,2	4,4
Finland 1999	3,2	4,1	3,6	2,0	4,1	3,1
France 1999	3,9	4,8	4,3	3,2	3,2	3,2
Germany 2000	2,7	3,5	3,1	1,6	3,0	2,3
Greece 2001	3,1	4,2	3,6			
Ireland 1995/96	5,9	5,9	5,9	2,0	3,4	2,7
Italy 2001	6,0	7,2	6,6			
Luxembourg 2000	6,2	13,6	9,9	5,9	5,9	5,9
Netherlands 1999	2,4	2,8	2,6			
Norway 2000				3,6	4,8	4,2
Portugal 2000	6,0	8,5	7,3	2,3	6,4	4,4
Spain 2000	5,3	5,3	5,3			
Sweden 1998	4,2	4,8	4,5			
UK 1996	6,6	7,3	6,6	4,4	4,4	4,4

**Chart 1: Estimates of problematic drug use in different EU Member States
(last year prevalence per 1000 inhabitants aged 15-64)**



**Chart 2: Estimates of intravenous drug use in different EU Member States
(last year prevalence per 1000 inhabitants aged 15-64)**

