The ESPAD 2011 Report

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Content

- What is ESPAD
- Methodological aspects
- Some results
- Summary
Economic support and cooperating partners

- Swedish Ministry of Health and Social Affairs
- European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA)
- Pompidou Group, Council of Europe
ESPAD data collections

- 26 countries in 1995
- 30 countries in 1999
- 35 countries in 2003
- 35 countries in 2007 (plus 5 in 2008)
- 39 countries in 2011
The 2011 data collection 1(2)

- Collected data: 39 countries
- In the ESPAD 2011 report: 36 countries

- Autumn data collection
  * Bosnia and Herzegovina (Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina)
  * Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244)
  * Netherlands
The 2011 data collection 2(2)

• New countries:
  * Albania
  * Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244)
  * Liechtenstein
Countries in the ESPAD project

- Collected data in 2011
- Earlier ESPAD data collections
- Non-ESPAD country
Some facts

• Students that will become 16 years old during the year of the data collection
• Nationally representative samples of classes
• About 2,400 participating students in each country
• Variation in 2011: 366 (Liechtenstein) – 6,084 (Serbia)
• Nearly 105,000 European students in 2011
• Strategy: Standardisation
Purpose 1(2)

• Get access to comparable data on substance use among European students
• Include as many European countries as possible
• Monitor trends in
  – single countries
  – groups of countries
  – Europe
Purpose 2(2)

- Serve as an incitement for alcohol and drug prevention among youth
- Provide data that can be used as a part of the evaluation of
  - EU Drugs Strategy
  - EU Strategy on alcohol
  - WHO Global Alcohol Strategy
- Databases to be used for further research
Strategy: standardisation

- Target age group
- Random sampling of classes
- Master questionnaire
- Survey leader protocol
- Data collection procedure
- Time of data collection
- Common database
Representativeness 1(2)

• **Target age group**
  - Mean: 15.8 years
  - Range: 15.6 – 16.0 years
  - In the range 15.7-15.9 years: All countries but 2

• **Random sampling of classes**
  - Total sampling in 5 countries
  - Sampling strategy differs somewhat
  - Adjusted to available information
Representativeness 2(2)

• **Student representativeness (coverage)**
  - Range: 67 – 100 %
  - In the range 90 – 100%: 29
    - 80 – 89% : 6
    - 79% : 1

• **Students’ presence rates**: 78 – 95 %

• **School participant rate**: 6 – 100 %
Validity: Student cooperation

- **Discarded questionnaires**: Average: 1.3 %, range: 0–4.8 %
- **Skipped core questions**: Average: 1.5 %, range: 0.5–3.3 %

- **Disturbances during the survey**
  - No or minor disturbances in nearly all countries
  - Most students worked seriously (87 %)
- **Completion time**: Average: 37 minutes, range: 27–52 minutes
Validity: Over-/under reporting 1(2)

• Anonymity
  - Individual envelopes (closed boxes)
  - Trusted survey leader

• Would not report cannabis honestly
  - Average: 10 %
  - Range: 3–36 %
  - Over 20 %: 4 countries

• Reported dummy drug use
  - Average: 0.7 %
  - Range: 0.0–3.1 %
  - Over 0.9 %: 5 countries
Validity: Over-/under reporting 2(2)

- **Cultural context**
  - Would not admit cannabis use
  - Dummy drug use
  - ESPAD Methodology Project 1998
  - Probably varies a bit between countries

- **Comparisons** with other survey data show very similar figures
Methodological considerations

- Taken together, the methodological problems are limited
- Substance use figures are probably somewhat underestimated
- Underreporting probably differs somewhat between countries
- However, unlikely that underreporting differs so much that it effects the main results with clear differences between (groups of) countries
- Small discrepancies between countries should be considered carefully
- Country specific comments
- UK under the line in the tables
The 2011 ESPAD Report
Substance Use Among Students in 36 European Countries

Available for download at www.espad.org
Cigarette use during the last 30 days. 2007-2011.

- On average: Relatively unchanged
- However,
  * increases in 7 countries
  * decreases in 6 countries
Alcohol use during the past 30 days. 2011. Percent.
Estimated average consumption during the last drinking day. 2011. Centilitres 100% alcohol.
Proportion reporting having had five or more drinks \(^{a)}\) on one occasion during the last 30 days, by gender. 1995–2011. \(^{b)}\)

Percentages. Averages for 14 countries.

\(^{a)}\) “A ‘drink’ is a glass/bottle/can of beer (ca 50 cl), a glass/bottle/can of cider (ca 50 cl), 2 glasses/bottles of alcopops (ca 50 cl), a glass of wine (ca 15 cl), a glass of spirits (ca 5 cl) or a mixed drink.”

\(^{b)}\) The question referred to “five or more drinks in a row” 1995–2003 and nor cider or alcopops were included among the examples. However, a questionnaire test in eight countries 2006 found no significant differences between the two versions.
Proportion reporting having had five or more drinks on one occasion during the last 30 days. 2007 - 2011

• On average: Some decrease
• However,
  * Increases in 4 countries
  * Decreases in 11 countries
Lifetime use of marijuana or hashish. 2007 – 2011.

• On average: Unchanged
• However,
  * Increases in 11 countries
  * Decreases in 6 countries
Lifetime use of marijuana or hashish. All students. 2011. Percentages.
Lifetime use of marijuana or hashish by gender.

1) Belgium, Cyprus and Germany: Limited geographical coverage.
2) UK, Spain and USA: Limited comparability.

\(^a\) Any illicit drug but cannabis includes ecstasy, amphetamines, LSD or other hallucinogens, crack, cocaine and heroin.
Lifetime use of any illicit drug other than marijuana or hashish. 2007-2011.

- On average: Unchanged
- However,
  * Increases in 4 countries
  * Decreases in 7 countries
Summary 1(2)


- Frequent drinking in the western and southern parts of Europe

- Large alcohol quantities in the Nordic countries

Summary 2(2)

• Illicit drug use is high in the west of Europe, but...
• ... increases since 1995 mainly in previous Eastern Europe
• Reduced drug use since 1995 mainly in Ireland and UK
• Large differences between countries
Large differences between countries. All students. 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Percentage points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cigarettes, last 30 days</td>
<td>33 (43 – 10 %)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol, last 30 days</td>
<td>62 (79 – 17 %)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 + drinks, last 30 days</td>
<td>43 (56 – 13 %)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis, lifetime</td>
<td>38 (42 – 4 %)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis, last 30 days</td>
<td>23 (24 – 1 %)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illicit drug but cannabis, lifetime</td>
<td>14 (16 – 2 %)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The ESPAD summary

- Translated into 22 languages by EMCDDA
- Printed in 4 languages (English, French, German and Portuguese)

\(^a\) Any illicit drug includes cannabis, ecstasy, amphetamines, LSD or other hallucinogens, crack, cocaine and heroin.
Reliability

- Inconsistency life time prevalence - age of onset
  - 5 variables
  - Average proportion of inconsistency: 1 – 4 %
  - Low figures for all variables in nearly all countries
  - No country scores high for more than one variable
- Conclusion: No important reliability problems
Validity: Student cooperation 1(2)

- Discarded questionnaires: Average: 1.3 %, range: 0–4.8 %
- Disturbances during the survey
  - No or minor disturbances in nearly all countries
  - Most students worked seriously (87 %)
- Completion time
  - Average: 37 minutes
  - Range: 27–52 minutes
Validity: Student cooperation 2(2)

• Inconsistent answers (lifetime – 12 months – 30 days)
  - 5 variables
  - Averages: 0–5 %
  - Low in most countries
  - High figures in a few countries only

• Skipped core questions
  - Average: 1.5 %
  - Range: 0.5–3.3 %
Lifetime use of illicit drugs other than marijuana or hashish \(^a\). All students. 2011. Percentages.

\(^a\) Any illicit drug but cannabis includes ecstasy, amphetamines, LSD or other hallucinogens, crack, cocaine and heroin.
CAST –
the Cannabis Abuse Screening Test

• A French screening scale to assess cannabis related problems
• 13 countries in ESPAD 2011
• Refers to past 12 months
• Screens for harmful use patterns (health and social), not dependency
• Six problem items with 5 scale steps: “Never” to “Very often” ➔ 0-6 points
• High risk use: 2+ points
## CAST items

**Table CM-1. The Cannabis Abuse Screening Test (CAST; Beck & Legleye, 2003).**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>During the last 12 months</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>Rarely</th>
<th>From time to time</th>
<th>Fairly often</th>
<th>Very often</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Have you ever smoked cannabis before midday?</td>
<td>☐ 0</td>
<td>☐ 0</td>
<td>☐ 1</td>
<td>☐ 1</td>
<td>☐ 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Have you ever smoked cannabis when you were alone?</td>
<td>☐ 0</td>
<td>☐ 0</td>
<td>☐ 1</td>
<td>☐ 1</td>
<td>☐ 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Have you ever had memory problems when you smoke cannabis?</td>
<td>☐ 0</td>
<td>☐ 1</td>
<td>☐ 1</td>
<td>☐ 1</td>
<td>☐ 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Have friends or members of your family ever told you that you ought to reduce your cannabis use?</td>
<td>☐ 0</td>
<td>☐ 1</td>
<td>☐ 1</td>
<td>☐ 1</td>
<td>☐ 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Have you ever tried to reduce or stop your cannabis use without succeeding?</td>
<td>☐ 0</td>
<td>☐ 1</td>
<td>☐ 1</td>
<td>☐ 1</td>
<td>☐ 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Have you ever had problems because of your use of cannabis (arguments, fight, accident, bad results at school, etc.)?</td>
<td>☐ 0</td>
<td>☐ 1</td>
<td>☐ 1</td>
<td>☐ 1</td>
<td>☐ 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Proportion of high-risk users (reference group: 12 months users with complete CAST scale answered).

- Monaco
- Latvia
- Poland
- Germany (5 Bundesl.)
- France
- Belgium (Flanders)
- Liechtenstein
- Czech Republic
- Ukraine
- Romania
- Slovak Republic
- Italy
- Cyprus
- Average
Proportion of high-risk users (reference group: total sample)