

European Web Survey on Drugs 2021: Emerging findings in Georgia

The European Web Survey on Drugs¹ collected data between 19 March to 12 May 2021 from people who use drugs living in Georgia. During this period, the populations in many European and neighbouring countries were experiencing COVID-19 related lockdown or restrictions. The data here refers to respondents who have used at least one illicit drug during the last 12 months. The final sample was composed of 396 respondents (male 291; 73%) with most of the young adults in the 18-34 age group (n=316; 80%).

For more information on the methodology of the *European Web Survey on Drugs*, please find https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/news/2021/2/emcdda-launches-2021-european-web-survey-on-drugs_en

In summary

- Cannabis is the most commonly used drug in lifetime and during the last year.
- Home was reported as the most common setting for drug use during the last year.
- Getting high and stress reduction are the motivations for the use of almost all substances.
- Men tend to buy MDMA, while females report getting the substance for free.
- The use of CBD and/or low-THC products was reported by a quarter of respondents, mainly in herbal form.

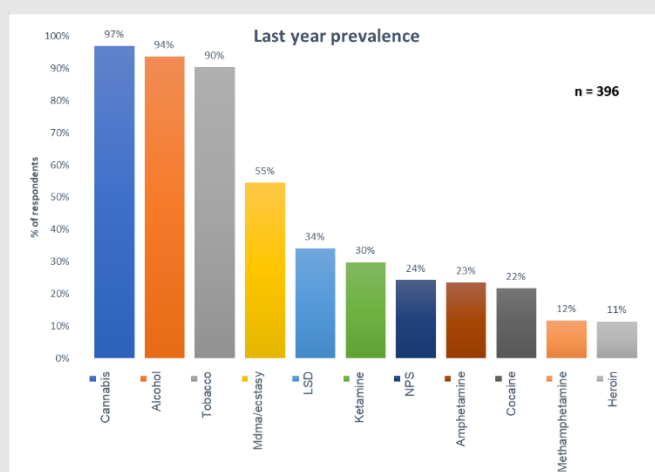
Drug use patterns

Cannabis is the most commonly used drug in lifetime (n=395; 99%) and during the last year (n=384; 97%).

The herbal cannabis (239 cases; 64%) is widely used rather than cannabis resin (63 cases; 17%), cannabis oil or extract (39 cases; 10%) and edibles (31 cases; 8%). The cannabis resin is more frequently used by males, rather than females.

The use of other substances remained relatively low during last year. MDMA/ecstasy, LSD and Ketamine were the next most reported illicit substances.

More than half of the sample reported using MDMA/ecstasy (55%) while more than a third of the sample had used LSD (34%) in the last year, 30% reported use of ketamine and 24% NPS. While the use of these substances remain relatively low during last 30 days-period and varies between 1.5%-6%.



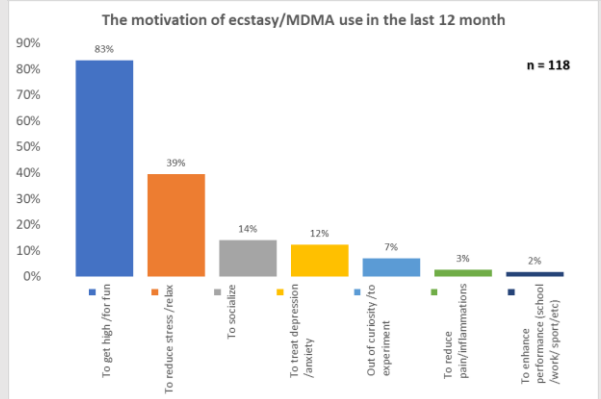
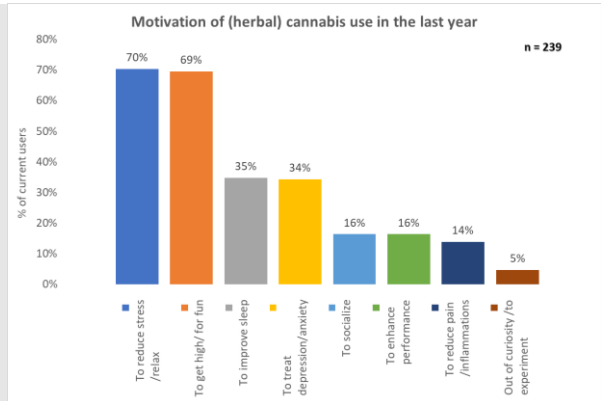
Motivation for drug use

The motivations for using particular drugs often reflect the effects users expect when they use them. The survey responses suggest cannabis products (herbal, resin, oil and edible) are taken to reduce stress and relax, to get high or for fun, to improve sleep and to treat depression or anxiety.

Stress reduction, relaxation, and getting high or having fun were the most stated reasons for using herbal cannabis, accounting for 70% and 69% of all cases, respectively.

Getting high and stress reduction were the motivations for ecstasy/MDMA use in the majority of cases, 83% and 39%, respectively.

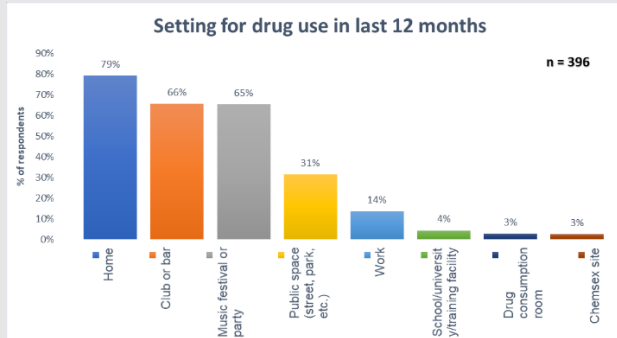
Men tend to buy MDMA, while females report getting the substance for free ($p= 0.003$).



Settings for drug use

The most commonly reported context for drug use in the last year ($n=308$; 79%) and last 30 days was the home.

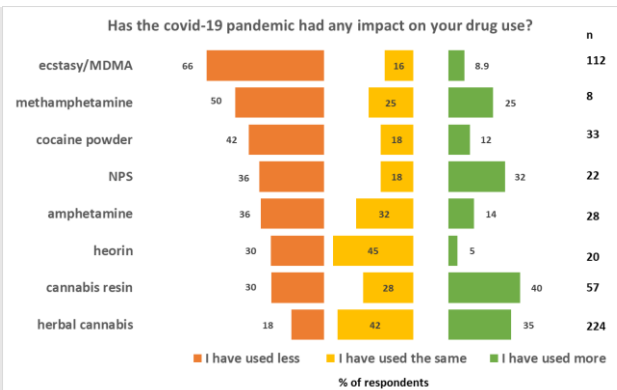
Respondents indicated that they used comparatively fewer synthetic cannabinoids/cathinone, GHB/GBL, and meth/amphetamine in clubs/bars or at music festivals/parties and at home during the last month or last year than in the previous year. This pattern may have been stipulated by the reduced mobility resulting from COVID-19 lockdowns.



Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on drug use

When asked about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on their use of illicit drugs, respondents reported mixed experiences.

Cannabis resin and herbal cannabis were reported to have been used more, while ecstasy/MDMA and methamphetamine were used less.



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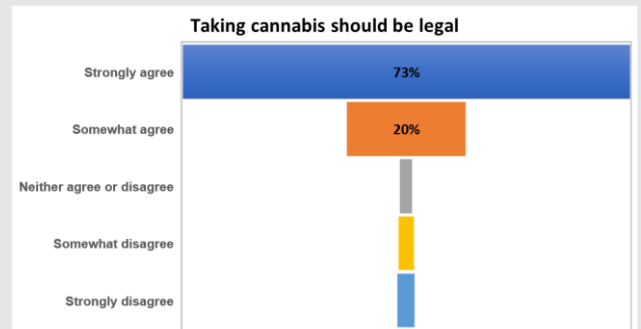
Country specific findings

The statement "Taking cannabis should be legal" was supported by the majority of respondents (n=367; 93%) without significant differences in gender and age group.

The use of CBD and/or low-THC products are reported by a quarter of respondents (n=98) without significant difference in age group and gender, mainly in herbal form (n=88; 91%)

The use of benzodiazepines is reported by the one fifth (18%) of respondents during last year period while half of them (10%) indicated use during the last 30 days.

Only 10% (n=41) of respondents indicated that they received treatment (medical or psycho-social) because of their substance use in the last 12 months, without any difference in gender and age group.



Notes:

(1) The analysis here covers Georgia, where the web-survey was carried out as part of the EU4Monitoring Drugs project, funded by the European Union.

While web surveys are not representative of the general population, when carefully conducted and combined with traditional data-collection methods, they can help paint a more detailed, realistic and timely picture of drug use and drug markets in Europe and the European neighbourhood. As such, they are a key ingredient in the EMCDDA's responsiveness to an ever-shifting drug problem.

For more detailed information on the project, please see our dedicated page on the European Web Survey on Drugs:

emcdda.europa.eu/activities/european-web-survey-on-drugs

For more detailed information on the EU4Monitoring Project, please see our dedicated page:

https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/activities/eu4md_en

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