



## Flash Eurobarometer 493

# Impact of drugs on communities

Report



Fieldwork:

**June-July 2021**

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**February 2022**

Survey requested by the European Commission, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs and coordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication

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Flash Eurobarometer 493 – Ipsos European Public Affairs





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(DG COMM “Media Monitoring and Eurobarometer” Unit)

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## Introduction

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Illicit drug use is having a detrimental effect on European communities at multiple levels. Among individual users, drug use can lead to, or exacerbate, a wide range of **physical and mental health problems**, such as dependency, infectious diseases and death. According to a 2017 report by the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), drug overdoses, particularly from heroin and opioids, were a major cause of mortality among men aged between 25 and 55 years in many European countries.<sup>1</sup> A more recent EMCDDA report estimates that at least 8,300 overdose deaths occurred in the European Union (EU) in 2018.<sup>2</sup>

**Issues indirectly related to drug use**, such as infections, accidents, violence and suicide add to the number of premature preventable deaths. Equally, drug use can prevent people from being actively involved in both the community and the economy, limiting their potential. Social exclusion in cases of severe dependence on drugs is often associated with unemployment, criminal acts to obtain money for drugs, and homelessness.<sup>3</sup>

The approximate **social cost of illicit drugs** varies between 0.1% and 2% of GDP in those European countries for which data are available.<sup>4</sup> This state expenditure covers the implementation of drug policies, the issuing of social benefits, as well as spending on health care services and the criminal justice system. Of course, illicit drug use also leads to other, less readily measurable 'costs' for society. For instance, 'open drug scenes', where drug use and dealing occur in public spaces, making local residents feel insecure and uncomfortable in their neighbourhoods.

The illicit trade in drugs presents security challenges for the EU too, as it has been shown to be a cross-cutting facilitator of all types of **violence, including drug-related homicide**.<sup>5</sup> There are raising concerns that drug related violence and drug-related murders, and their coverage in the media, have a profound effect on general feelings of public safety and well-being. Importantly, illicit drug markets are the major source of income for **organised crime** groups in the EU, generating a minimum estimated retail value of EUR 30 billion per year.<sup>6</sup> Furthermore, drug markets can impact negatively on the legal economy by fuelling **corruption**.

Recently, drug markets have demonstrated their resilience by adapting rapidly to the COVID-19 pandemic, with supplies remaining steady despite COVID-19 restrictions. Currently, a wide range of potent and high purity substances are available and **new digital technologies** are being employed to facilitate **illicit drug distribution**.<sup>7</sup>

**Complex drug-related problems require comprehensive and multisector responses.** The European Commission's Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs (DG HOME) occupies a central position in this regard, coordinating EU drugs policy across the European Commission.<sup>8</sup> June

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<sup>1</sup> [EMCDDA \(2017\) Health and social responses to drug problems](#)

<sup>2</sup> [EMCDDA \(2021\) Drug-related deaths and mortality in Europe](#)

<sup>3</sup> [EMCDDA \(2017\) Health and social responses to drug problems](#)

<sup>4</sup> [EMCDDA \(2017\) Health and social responses to drug problems](#)

<sup>5</sup> [EMCDDA \(2020\) Drug-related homicide in Europe](#)

<sup>6</sup> [EMCDDA and Europol \(2016\), EU drug markets report: in-depth analysis](#)

<sup>7</sup> [EMCDDA \(2021\). European Drug Report: Trends and Developments](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Strategic Plan 2020-2024 DG MIGRATION AND HOME AFFAIRS](#)

2021 saw the approval of the new **EU Drugs Action Plan 2021-2025**,<sup>9</sup> following the earlier approval of the **EU Drugs Strategy 2021-2025** (December 2020), providing a “common and evidence-based framework for responding in a consistent manner to the drugs phenomenon, within and outside the EU”.<sup>10</sup> The aims of the Strategy are to:

- protect and improve the well-being of society and of the individual
- protect and promote public health
- offer a high level of security and well-being for the general public
- increase health literacy.

Specific goals of the Strategy include reducing drug supply and drug demand, addressing drug-related harm, strengthening international collaboration and providing the EU with a comprehensive evidence base to inform a more effective, innovative and agile approach to the growing complexity of the drugs phenomenon.

In implementing the Strategy, the EU Drugs Action Plan 2021-2025 addresses the existing and evolving challenges of the drugs phenomenon through 85 actions and 11 overarching indicators. The overarching indicator 4, seeks to measure “perceptions of how drugs, their availability and the operation of drug markets impact on public health, safety and the security of communities, including drug-related violence and intimidation.”<sup>11</sup>

Therefore, in the context of the Strategy and Action Plan, DG HOME commissioned a **Flash Eurobarometer survey** to evaluate the **impact of drugs on communities** in the EU. This survey builds on the work of previous reports (Flash Eurobarometer 401 of 2014<sup>12</sup>, Flash Eurobarometer 330 in 2011<sup>13</sup>, Flash Eurobarometer 233 in 2008<sup>14</sup>, Flash Eurobarometer 158 in 2004<sup>15</sup>, Special Eurobarometer 172 in 2002<sup>16</sup>) which focused on perceptions about and attitudes towards drugs of young people in particular. Specifically, the survey covered the following topics:

- The extent to which drug use and dealing is seen to be problematic in local communities – and the perceived prevalence of associated issues and problems
- The perceived link between drug use and crime
- The impact of drugs on health and well-being, including quality of life in local areas
- Attitudes to cannabis, including whether it should be allowed for medical and recreational use
- Opinions on the sale and regulation of drugs in the Member States
- The perceived ease with which different types of drugs can be obtained for personal use.

<sup>9</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ%3AJOC\\_2021\\_272\\_R\\_0002](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ%3AJOC_2021_272_R_0002)

<sup>10</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/drugs-policy\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/what-we-do/policies/drugs-policy_en)

<sup>11</sup> [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ%3AJOC\\_2021\\_272\\_R\\_0002](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ%3AJOC_2021_272_R_0002)

<sup>12</sup> <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2029>

<sup>13</sup> <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/1006>

<sup>14</sup> <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/700>

<sup>15</sup> <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/388>

<sup>16</sup> <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/226>

Ipsos European Public Affairs interviewed a representative sample of EU citizens, aged 15 and over, in each of the 27 Member States of the European Union. Between 30 June and 10 July 2021<sup>17</sup>, 25 713 people were surveyed via computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI), using Random Digit Dialling (RDD) and a dual frame (landline and mobile) probability design. Survey data are weighted to known population proportions. The EU27 averages are weighted according to the size of the 15+ population of each EU Member State. A technical note on the methods applied to conduct the survey is appended as an annex to this report.

Fieldwork for this Flash Eurobarometer took place in June-July 2021 when the COVID-19 pandemic and corresponding measures were still ongoing, the perceptions of respondents could have been impacted on a wide range of topics.

Notes:

**Due to rounding, the percentages shown in the charts and tables do not always exactly add up to the totals mentioned in the text.**

Survey results are subject to sampling tolerances meaning that not all apparent differences between groups may be statistically significant. Thus, only differences that are statistically significant (at the 5% level) – i.e. where it can be reasonably certain that they are unlikely to have occurred by chance – are highlighted in the text.

In this report, countries are referred to by their official abbreviation. The abbreviations correspond to:

BE  Belgium	FR  France	NL  Netherlands
BG  Bulgaria	HR  Croatia	AT  Austria
CZ  Czechia	IT  Italy	PL  Poland
DK  Denmark	CY  Rep. of Cyprus*	PT  Portugal
DE  Germany	LV  Latvia	RO  Romania
EE  Estonia	LT  Lithuania	SI  Slovenia
IE  Ireland	LU  Luxembourg	SK  Slovakia
EL  Greece	HU  Hungary	FI  Finland
ES  Spain	MT  Malta	SE  Sweden

\* Cyprus as a whole is one of the 27 EU MS. However, the ‘acquis communautaire’ has been suspended in the part of the country which is not controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus. For practical reasons, only the interviews carried out in the part of the country controlled by the government of the Republic of Cyprus are included in the ‘CY’ category.

<sup>17</sup> On the 6 July 2021, in the Netherlands, a prominent Dutch journalist, Peter de Vries, was shot and later passed away (on 15 July 2021). The tragedy occurred mid-fieldwork and could have influenced responses to the survey in the Netherlands. De Vries was known for his work on exposing drug lords and had helped police solve a number of high-profile cases (including case against Ridouan Taghi, who is currently on trial for murder and drug trafficking). The attack was widely discussed in the media with high profile figures in the Netherlands expressing their condolences over De Vries’ death.

## Key findings

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### Perceived seriousness of drugs as an issue

- Over half (54%) of respondents think that **drug use or dealing is a serious problem in their local area**, including 25% who think it is a very serious problem. The proportion saying it is a very serious or somewhat serious problem is highest in Croatia (79%) and France (76%). Even in countries with the lowest proportions, nearly a third of respondents consider drug use or dealing to be causing serious problems in their local area (27% in Poland, 28% in Denmark and 29% in the Netherlands).
- Females are slightly more likely than males to regard drug use or dealing as a *very serious* or *somewhat serious* problem in their local area (females 57% versus males 51%). Similarly, older respondents are more likely than younger ones to perceive drug problems as causing serious problems (60% of those aged over 55). However, even in the youngest age group (15-24), nearly half (46%) perceive drugs or drug dealing as resulting in serious problems for their community.
- Historically, inner city areas are most commonly associated with visible drug problems.<sup>18</sup> Data presented here suggests that this difference may be narrowing. In this Flash Eurobarometer, respondents living in urban areas are a little more likely than those in rural areas to think drug use or dealing is a serious problem, but the difference observed is small (56% in small or medium-sized towns and 55% in large towns and cities, versus 52% in rural areas).
- **Children and teenagers taking drugs** and the **ready availability of drugs** are seen as two of the most prevalent drug use related problems (both mentioned by 67% of *respondents who think drugs are a problem in their local area*). Other problems commonly mentioned by respondents include **people taking 'hard' drugs** (53%) and **people smoking cannabis in public places** (45%).
- Over a third (35%) of respondents think that **problems caused by drugs have increased in their local area over the past few years**. This figure is highest for Cyprus, Finland, Sweden and France, where half or more of respondents think problems caused by drugs have increased (between 50% and 62%).
- Three in ten respondents agree that **the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in higher use of illegal drugs in their local area**. A similar proportion (29%) report that the pandemic has resulted in **more drug problems** in their local area.
- Respondents in rural areas are slightly more likely than those in urban areas to think that problems caused by drugs have increased in their local area (36% vs 34% of respondents living in large towns and cities).

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<sup>18</sup> See EMCDDA publications on the topic, e.g. Drugs policy and the city in Europe, 2015. [https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/emcdda-papers/drug-policy-and-the-city\\_en](https://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/emcdda-papers/drug-policy-and-the-city_en)

## Problems associated with people using or dealing drugs

- **Traffic accidents are perceived as the most common problem for communities associated with people using or dealing drugs** (mentioned by 71% of respondents who think drugs cause problems in their area).
- Other problems experienced by local communities and commonly perceived by respondents to be related to the use of drugs or drug dealing include: **poverty or unemployment** (55%), **conflict and violence in the community** (54%) and **domestic violence** (53%).
- **Drug dealers or users being intimidating to local people** is reported by 42% of respondents who think drugs are causing problems for their community. In seven countries, this view is shared by a majority: France (72%), Cyprus (58%), Lithuania (57%) Czechia (56%), Slovakia (56%), Bulgaria (55%) and Luxembourg (52%).
- Respondents who think that drug use or dealing is a *very serious problem* in their local area are most likely to report that drug dealers or users being intimidating to local people is causing problems (almost three times more likely than those who mentioned they do not experience drug-related problems).
- There is a narrow difference between respondents living in large towns and cities versus other areas in terms of reporting that drug use or dealing is linked to drug dealers or users being intimidating in their community (46% in large towns and cities versus 40% in small or medium-sized towns and 41% in rural areas).

## Drugs and crime

- **Almost three quarters of respondents (72%) think that drug use is a cause of youth crime in their local area.** The figure is especially high in Slovakia (87%), Cyprus (86%), Finland (84%), Estonia (82%), Bulgaria (81%) and Croatia (81%).
- **Two-thirds (66%) think drug use is a cause of stealing, theft or burglary in their local area.** The highest proportions sharing this view are observed in Greece (81%), Slovakia (81%), Croatia (82%), Estonia (83%), Finland (85%), Malta (85%) and Cyprus (88%).
- **Almost six in ten (58%) see drug use as a cause of violent crime or murder in their local area.** In 23 Member States, a majority see drug use as a cause of violent crime and murder, with the figure rising to three-quarters or more in Slovakia (76%), Estonia (76%), France (78%), Cyprus (79%) and Finland (79%).
- Finally, **39% of respondents perceive drug use as a cause of corruption and a lack of trust in public officials or institutions.** Historically this problem has been most associated with producer countries outside of the EU or specific geographical locations within the EU where organised crime groups are particularly active.
- Females are slightly more likely than males to perceive links between drug use and all the crimes under consideration (for example, 73% versus 70% in the case of youth crime and 42% versus 37% in the case of corruption). Older respondents are also more likely than

younger ones to perceive links between drug taking and stealing, theft or burglary (71% of people aged 55, compared to 52% of those aged 15 to 24).

## The impact of drugs on safety, health and well-being

- About a quarter (26%) of respondents agree that the availability and use of drugs make them **feel unsafe near their home, school or place of work**.
- Around a third (35%) of respondents agree that the **availability and use of drugs is central to reducing the overall quality of life in their local area**. The proportion of respondents agreeing with this statement approaches half or more in Bulgaria (48%), Croatia (48%), Portugal (51%), Ireland (52%) Malta (52%) and Italy (58%).
- Also, around a third (32%) of respondents agree that the **availability and use of drugs has a negative impact on their own health or that of those close to them**. A lower proportion (17%) agree that the availability and use of drugs negatively impacts on their personal relationships.
- Even though more females than males agree that the availability and use of drugs makes them feel unsafe, the difference is small (28% versus 24%). Similarly, more respondents aged 15-24 than older groups agree that the availability and use of drugs negatively impacts on their personal relationships (26% versus 14% of those aged 55 and over) and their well-being or that of those close to them (42% versus 29%, respectively).
- The differences in agreement are surprisingly small in terms of place of residence, with respondents living in towns or cities being moderately more likely to agree that the availability and use of drugs negatively affects the quality of life in their area (36% in large towns or cities and 37% in small and medium-sized towns, versus 30% in rural areas).

## Use of cannabis and health effects

- **Recent (last year) use of cannabis** is reported by 6% of respondents and is higher among males (9%) than females (4%).<sup>19</sup> Those aged 15 to 24 are most likely to report recent cannabis use (17%). This figure is similar to EMCDDA's latest analysis of cannabis use in Europe, which shows that 19% of 15-24 year-olds have used cannabis in the last year.
- The proportion of those who report having recently used cannabis ranges from 1% in Romania to 12% in Portugal. Recent use of cannabis is also reported by 10% of respondents in Czechia, France, Ireland and the Netherlands.

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<sup>19</sup> Note: this is the sum of respondents who have used cannabis in the past month and those who have used cannabis in the past year

- There is a divergence of views on the negative **health effects of cannabis**. About four in ten (42%) think that cannabis has no or very rarely negative health effects or causes few negative health effects. Slightly over half (53%) believe cannabis causes some or serious health effects. This divergence of views may have important implications for informing prevention and educational initiatives in this area.
- Among respondents who have used cannabis in the past month, 76% think cannabis causes few or even no negative health effects. This figure is 71% for those who have used cannabis in the past 12 months and 57% for those who have used cannabis more than a year ago.

## The availability of drugs

- A majority of respondents (56%) think it would be **easy to obtain cannabis** if they wanted some and around a third of respondents (35%) think it would be easy to obtain 'legal highs' (substances imitating the effects of illicit drugs). Smaller proportions think it would be easy to obtain MDMA (28%), cocaine (27%) or heroin (18%).
- **Respondents who have used cannabis are generally more likely than other respondents to believe obtaining drugs would be easy.** While 87% of respondents who have used cannabis in the past month say it is easy to obtain cannabis if they want some, this figure drops to 49% for respondents who have never used cannabis.
- *Among respondents who have used cannabis*, most believe it would be easy to obtain cannabis if they wanted to. Eighty three percent of the youngest cannabis users (15-24 year-olds) report it is easy to obtain the drug compared to 65% among those aged 55 and over. Seventy seven percent of those who have ever used cannabis and live in large cities report it is easy to obtain; this figure is only slightly lower in rural areas and small towns (73%-74%).
- Overall, two in five respondents agree that the **online sale of drugs is increasing drug problems in their local area**. In 11 Member States, a majority of respondents agreed with this statement.
- Although socio-demographic variations are small, agreement that the online sale of drugs is increasing drug problems locally is slightly higher among females than males (43% versus 38%) and respondents aged 55 and over than among younger groups (43% versus, for example, 39% of people aged 15 to 24).

## Support for the banning and regulation of drugs

- A large majority of respondents support the **current EU-wide ban on the sale of heroin** (92%), **MDMA** (89%) **and cocaine** (89%).
- While 35% of respondents support a ban on the sale of cannabis, 62% favour the regulation of this substance instead. In 22 Member States, over half of respondents support the **regulation of cannabis**, with the figure rising to around 70% in Czechia, Poland, Slovenia and Croatia.

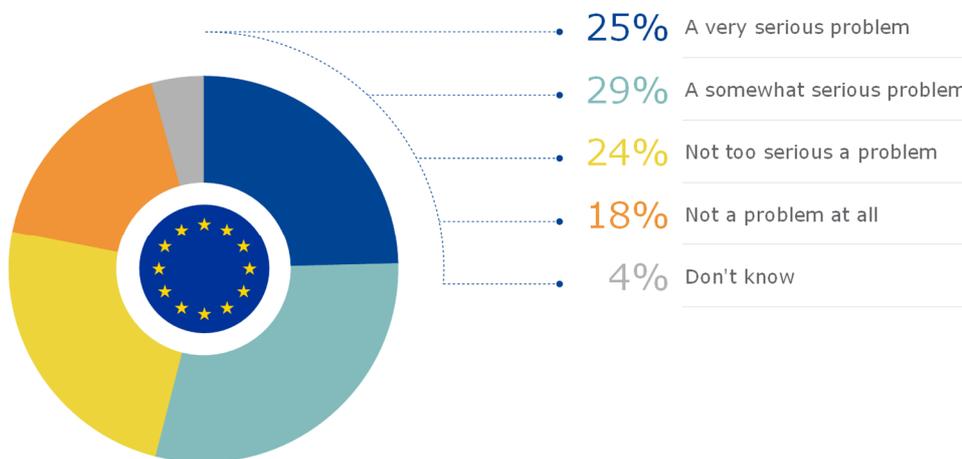
- Support for the regulation of cannabis is lower among the least educated (46%), people aged 55 and over (55%) and those living in rural areas (57%), while it is highest among males (65%), younger respondents (67% for 15-24 year-olds and 69% of 25-39 year-olds), the highest educated respondents (66%) and those living in urban areas (66%).
- **A majority of respondents are in favour of cannabis being available for medical use** – though the most common view expressed is that it should be available **only with a prescription** (62% vs 8% who think it should be available even without such a prescription). A further 23% of respondents think cannabis should be allowed for both medical use and recreational use, while 6% think it should not be available under any circumstances.
- In six Member States, more than 10% of respondents think that cannabis should not be available for either medical or recreational use. These are Romania (12%), Sweden (12%), Slovakia (13%), Estonia (15%), Finland (16%) and Hungary (18%).
- Among the 35% of respondents who agree that cannabis should continue to be banned, a large majority (77%) do support that cannabis is allowed for **medical use, although only under medical prescription**.
- The view that cannabis should be available for medical use with a prescription emerges as the dominant perspective among almost all socio-demographic sub-groups.

## Section 1. Perceived seriousness of drug use or dealing

### 1.1. Perceived seriousness of drugs as an issue

**Over half (54%) of respondents think that drug use or dealing is a serious problem in their local area**, including a quarter who think it is a very serious problem. Meanwhile, another quarter (24%) think drug use or dealing is not too serious a problem in their local area, and a further 18% think it is not a problem at all. Four percent are unsure.<sup>20</sup>

**Q1** Do you think that, in your local area, people using or dealing drugs are a very serious problem, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not a problem at all? (% - EU27)



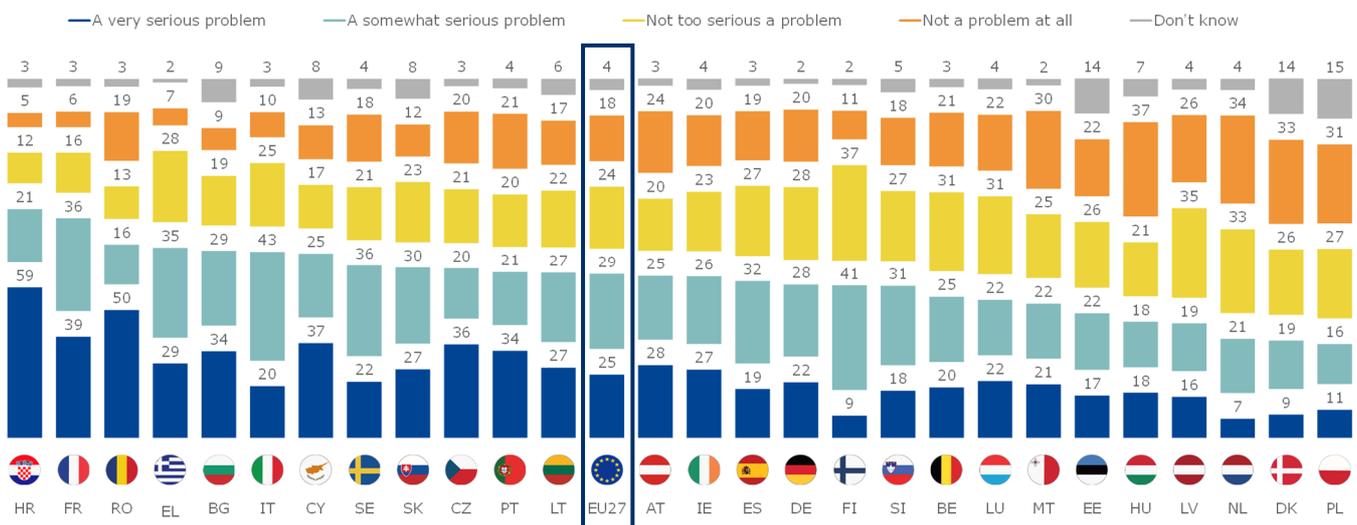
Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

<sup>20</sup> Due to rounding, the percentages shown in the charts do not always exactly add up to the totals mentioned in the text.

**The perceived seriousness of drug use or dealing in local areas varies greatly by EU Member State.** The proportion saying it is a *very serious* or *somewhat serious* problem is highest in Croatia (79%) and France (76%). In Croatia, 59% of respondents even say that drug use or dealing is a very serious issue in their local area; the proportion expressing this view is also high in Romania (50%), followed by France (39%), Cyprus (37%) and Czechia (36%).

Although respondents in Poland, Denmark and the Netherlands are the least likely to perceive drug use or dealing as a serious issue for their community, the view is still shared by nearly a third of respondents in these countries: 27% in Poland, 28% in Denmark and 29% in the Netherlands. It should also be added that around a third of respondents in these three countries think that drug use or dealing is not a problem *at all* in their area (31%, 33% and 34%, respectively); this figure, however, is overall the highest in Hungary (37%).

**Q1** Do you think that, in your local area, people using or dealing drugs are a very serious problem, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not a problem at all? (% by country)



Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

**Socio-demographic analysis** shows that older respondents are more likely than younger ones to regard drug use or dealing as a *very serious* or *somewhat serious* problem in their local area (for example, 60% of people aged 55 share this view). However, even in the youngest age group (those aged 15 to 24), nearly half (46%) perceive drugs or drug dealing as resulting in serious problems for their community.

There are also important differences according to gender<sup>21</sup> with females being slightly more likely than males to think drug use is a serious problem. The difference between males and females, however, is only observed among 15–24 year-olds, 25–39 year-olds and 40–54 year-olds. For

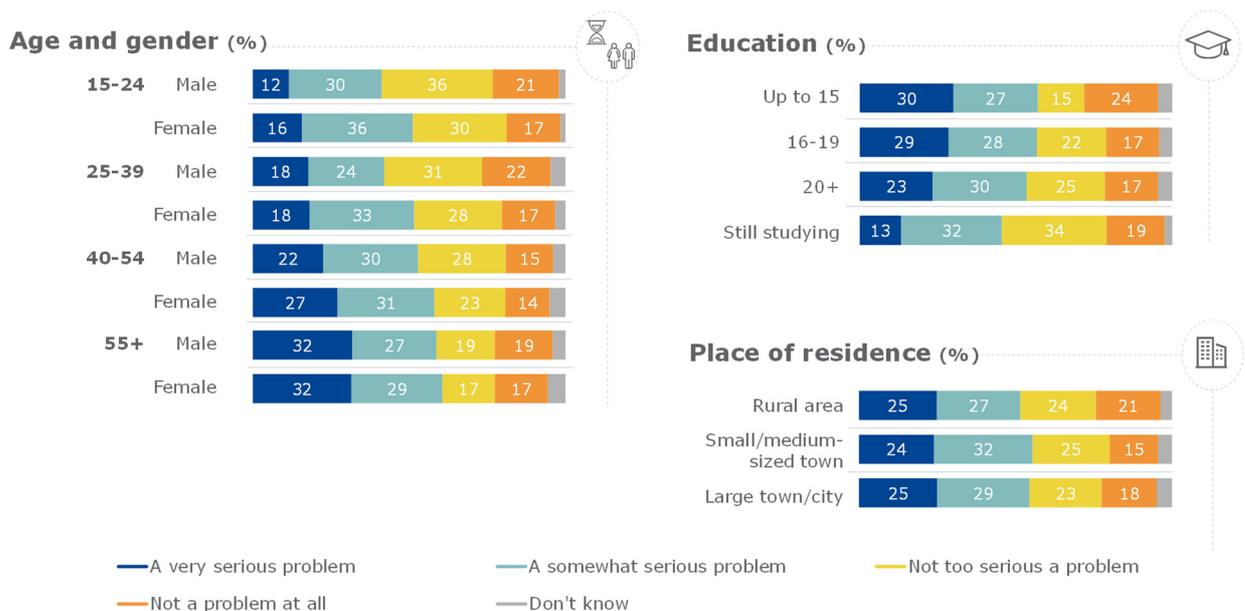
<sup>21</sup> The gender question of the Flash Eurobarometer allows respondents to choose between “male”, “female”, “in another way” or “prefer not to say”. In this report, only the results for respondents who answered “male” or “female” are shown as the number selecting the other responses is below the reporting threshold.

example, 52% of 25–39 year-old females, compared to 42% of 25–39 year-old males, regard drug use or dealing as a problem in their local area.

Historically, inner city areas are most commonly associated with visible drug problems. Data presented here suggests that this difference may be narrowing. Respondents living in urban areas are a little more likely than those in rural areas to think drug use or dealing is a serious problem, but the difference observed is small (56% in small or medium-sized towns and 55% in large towns and cities, versus 52% in rural areas). This small difference by place of residence is, nonetheless, observed across all age groups; for example, among 15–24 year-olds in rural areas, 43% think drug use or dealing is a problem in their local area; this proportion only increases to 49% for 15–24 year-olds living in large cities.

Finally, respondents with lower levels of education are somewhat more likely than those with higher levels to regard drug use or dealing as a very or somewhat serious problem (57% of those who completed education at age 15 or younger versus 53% of those who did so at age 20 or older).

**Q1** Do you think that, in your local area, people using or dealing drugs are a very serious problem, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not a problem at all? (% by socio-demographics)



Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

Whether or not respondents have **ever used cannabis** emerges as another predictor of how serious a problem they think drug use or dealing is locally: 45% of those who have used cannabis think it is a *very* or *somewhat serious* problem, compared to an appreciably higher 58% of those who have never used cannabis.

The table on the following page presents, **for each country**, the proportion of respondents who regard drug use or dealing as a very serious or somewhat serious problem in their local area **by gender and age groups**. The first observation to be made is that, across all gender and age groups, a considerable proportion perceive drugs or drug dealing as resulting in serious problems in their community. Secondly, across many countries, the patterns observed in the EU average results are repeated – meaning that females are slightly more likely than males to regard drug use or dealing as a problem and that older respondents are also more likely than younger ones to think so. For example, in the Netherlands, 32% of females, compared to 25% of males, and 31% of over 54 year-olds, compared to 22% of 15-24 year-olds, say that drug use or dealing is a very serious or somewhat serious problem in their local area.

There are, however, also countries where different patterns are observed. For example, in Czechia, the proportion saying that drug use or dealing is a very serious or somewhat serious problem in their local area is similar for male and female respondents (56%-57%). There are also countries where 40-54 year-olds are more likely than 54+ year-olds to regard drug use as a problem in their local area; this is the case, for example, in Bulgaria (74% of 40-54 year-olds vs 61% of over 54 year-olds) and in Denmark (34% vs 25%, respectively). Another country worth pointing out is Estonia; in this country, 15-24 year-olds are more likely than their older counterparts to regard drug use as a problem (44% vs 36%-40% across older age groups).

**Q1** Do you think that, in your local area, people using or dealing drugs are a very serious problem, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not a problem at all? (% 'Very serious problem' + 'Somewhat serious problem', by country)

	Males	Females	15 - 24 year-olds	25-39 year-olds	40-54 year-olds	55+ year-olds
EU27 	51	57	46	47	56	60
BE 	40	50	34	37	46	53
BG 	62	64	59	57	74	61
CZ 	56	57	46	53	63	56
DK 	26	30	31	24	34	25
DE 	45	55	37	44	48	57
EE 	37	40	44	36	40	38
IE 	53	53	55	44	56	56
EL 	58	70	50	63	69	67
ES 	49	53	51	48	53	51
FR 	72	79	58	61	82	87
HR 	75	84	69	74	80	85
IT 	59	66	59	55	61	68
CY 	64	60	37	60	70	70
LV 	31	37	35	34	37	33
LT 	48	59	34	48	60	61
LU 	42	45	31	45	42	50
HU 	32	38	38	28	40	35
MT 	41	43	32	38	48	46
NL 	25	32	22	28	30	31
AT 	51	56	50	44	56	58
PL 	27	26	28	17	26	33
PT 	53	56	51	48	58	57
RO 	63	67	51	67	69	68
SI 	47	52	38	43	54	53
SK 	55	58	49	55	59	58
FI 	42	57	32	45	52	56
SE 	54	61	48	46	60	66

Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

To shed more light on the **socio-demographic profile of those who regard drug use or dealing as a very serious or somewhat serious problem in their local area** (Q1), a logistic regression is performed. The results show whether characteristics such as gender, age, education, etc. are more or less associated with perceptions of the seriousness of drug use or dealing **whilst controlling for the effects of other socio-demographic characteristics**.

In the table with the results, the binary variable showing whether a respondent regards drug use or dealing as a serious problem in their local area, is regressed on the predictor variables (i.e. the characteristics) of gender by age (interaction term), education level, place of residence and cannabis use. The positive values in the table show higher **odds of regarding drug use or dealing as a serious problem** to the base category in each predictor, controlling for other predictors. Similarly, negative log odds indicate a lower probability of regarding drug use or dealing as a serious problem compared to the base category. The base (reference) categories have 0 log odds.

The table also includes the **net percentages** that show the percentage of each socio-demographic characteristic that regard drug use or dealing as a serious problem in their local area, after controlling for the effects of the characteristics. Of most interest is the calculation of the **net differences (in percentage points)** of regarding drug use or dealing as a serious problem, which is the difference of that category compared to the base category within a socio-demographic variable whilst controlling for the effects of the other characteristics.

As shown in the table and figure overleaf, the logistic regression model (run at the EU27 level) shows that older respondents are more likely to regard drug use or dealing as a serious problem in their local area. For example, controlling for other characteristics, the probability of regarding drug use or dealing as a serious problem goes up by 16.6 percentage points for males aged 55 to 64 and by 17.5 percentage points for females aged 55 to 64, compared to males aged 15 to 24 (base category). It can also be seen that, for both males and females, the probability of regarding drug use or dealing as a serious problem gradually increases until the age group of 50-64 year-olds, both for males and females, but does not further increase for over 65 year-olds. Finally, focussing on a comparison between males and females, it can be seen that the difference in probabilities is the largest in the youngest age group (a difference of 8.6 percentage points for 15-24 year-olds and of 6.8 percentage points for 25-34 year-olds).

Another important predictor of 'regarding drug use or dealing as a serious problem' is cannabis use. In the survey, respondents were asked if they have ever used cannabis – the results of this question are discussed in section 5.1. Controlling for other characteristics, the probability of regarding drug use or dealing as a serious problem goes down by close to 20 percentage points for someone who used cannabis in the past month or past year, compared to someone that has never used this drug. This effect is not seen because cannabis users tend to be younger and male (as will be seen in section 5.1), and due to these characteristics would be less likely to regard drug use or dealing as a serious problem, as in the regression model, the effects of these characteristics are controlled for.

There is a small, but significant difference, between respondents living in large towns and cities and those in rural areas: controlling for other characteristics, the probability of regarding drug use or dealing as a serious problem goes down by 5.6 percentage points for someone living in a rural area compared to someone in a city or large town. It is important to add that the difference in net percentage points, nonetheless, is much smaller than for the other predictors (gender x age and cannabis use).

In the previous section, it was noted that respondents with lower levels of education are somewhat more likely than those with higher levels to regard drug use or dealing as a serious problem. After controlling for the effects of the other variables, this difference is no longer significant for the comparison between those who completed education at age 15 or younger versus those who did so at age 20 or older.

**Table** Log odds, the net percentages and net difference of **regarding drug use or dealing as a very serious or somewhat serious problem in their local area (Q1)** by socio-demographic groups (EU27)

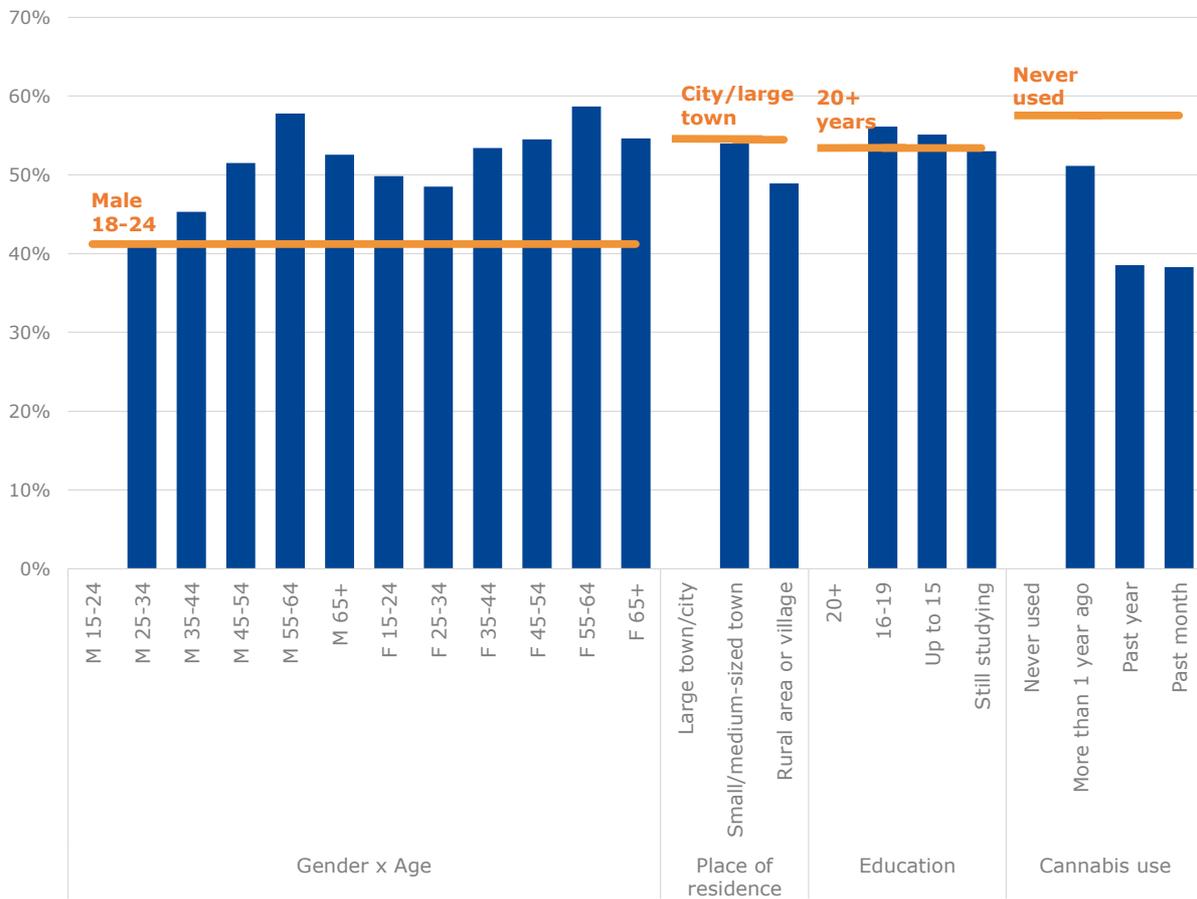
	Log odds of regarding drug use or dealing as a serious problem	(NET percentages)	NET difference (in percentage points) compared to base category
<b>Gender x Age</b>			
M 15-24	(base)	41.2%	
M 25-34	1.020	41.7%	0.5
M 35-44	1.183*	45.3%	<b>4.1</b>
M 45-54	1.517***	51.5%	<b>10.3</b>
M 55-64	1.956***	57.8%	<b>16.6</b>
M 65+	1.581***	52.5%	<b>11.4</b>
F 15-24	1.418***	49.8%	<b>8.6</b>
F 25-34	1.345***	48.5%	<b>7.3</b>
F 35-44	1.636***	53.4%	<b>12.2</b>
F 45-54	1.710***	54.5%	<b>13.3</b>
F 55-64	2.027***	58.7%	<b>17.5</b>
F 65+	1.717***	54.6%	<b>13.4</b>
<b>Place of residence</b>			
Large town/city	(base)	54.5%	
Small/medium-sized town	0.980	54.0%	-0.5
Rural area or village	0.800***	48.9%	<b>-5.6</b>
<b>Education</b>			
20+	(base)	53.4%	
16-19	1.116***	56.1%	<b>2.7</b>
Up to 15	1.072	55.1%	1.7
Still studying	0.985	53.0%	-0.4
<b>Cannabis use</b>			
Never used	(base)	57.5%	
Used more than 12 months ago	0.773***	51.1%	<b>-6.4</b>
Used in the past 12 months	0.463***	38.5%	<b>-19.0</b>
Used in the past month	0.458***	38.3%	<b>-19.2</b>

Note: \* p<0.05; \*\* p<0.01; \*\*\* p<0.001

**Model evaluation (LR test)**

Chi <sup>2</sup>	(df)	p
742.428	19	0.000

**Plot** Regarding drug use or dealing as a very serious or somewhat serious problem in their local area, **NET percentages showing the NET difference in percentage points compared to a base category** within each socio-demographic characteristic after controlling for the effects of the other variables in the model (EU27)

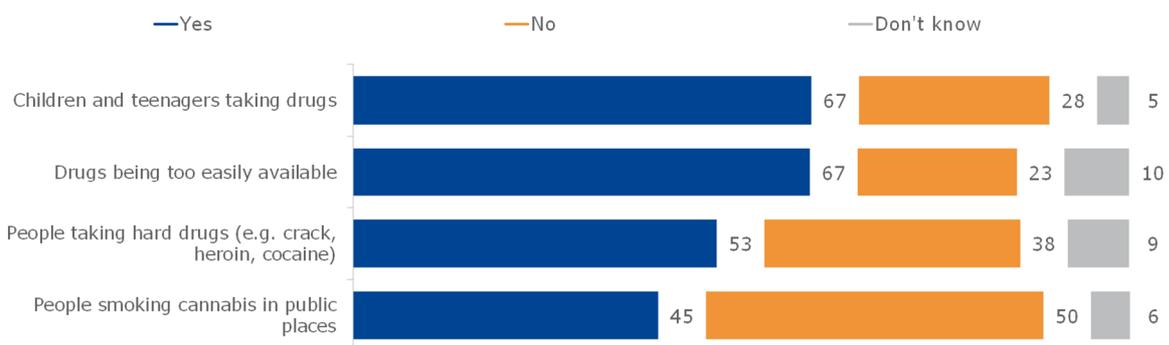


## 1.2. Drug use related problems

All respondents who regard drug use or dealing as a very serious, somewhat serious or not too serious problem were asked what specific drug use related problems are present in their local area. They were presented with a list of nine problems. Four of these problems refer to drug use directly – children and teenagers taking drugs, the ready availability of drugs, the consumption of hard drugs, and people smoking cannabis in public places. The remaining five problems can be understood as problems associated with people using or dealing drugs – traffic accidents related to drug use, domestic violence related to drug use, drug dealers or users being intimidating to local people, conflict and violence in the community related to drug use, and poverty and unemployment related to drug use. This section presents the results for the first four problems, while problems associated with people using or dealing drugs are discussed in section 2.

**Children and teenagers taking drugs** and the **ready availability of drugs** emerge as the perceived most prevalent such problems, both mentioned by 67%. Other problems mentioned in high proportion are **people taking ‘hard’ drugs** and **people smoking cannabis in public places** (mentioned by 53% and 45%, respectively).

**Q2** Which of the following would you say are a problem in your local area associated with people using or dealing drugs? (% - EU27)



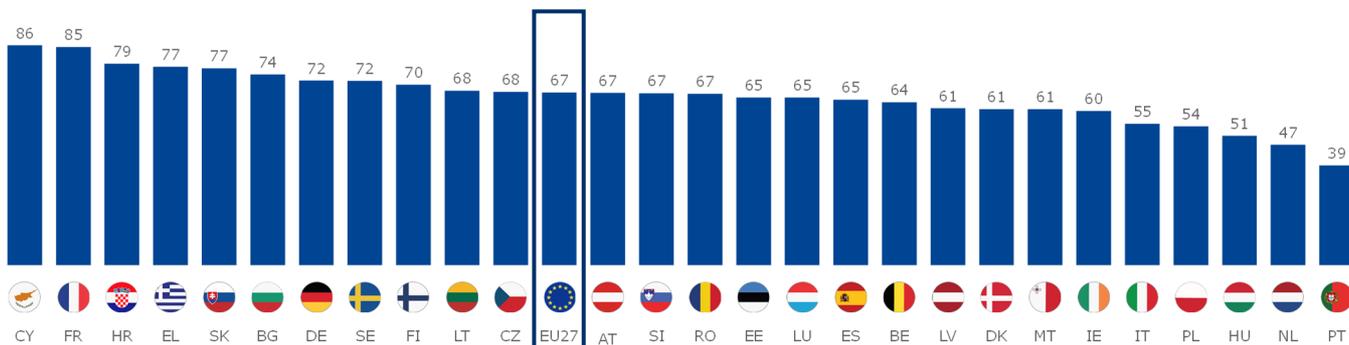
Base: respondents who regard drug use or dealing as very serious, somewhat serious or not too serious problem in their local area (n=19 483)

Analysis by Member State finds that:

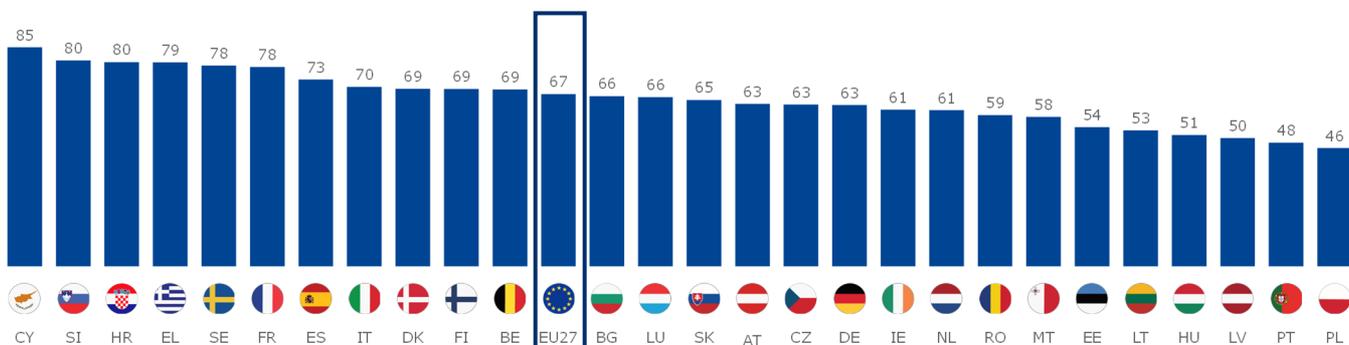
- The issue of **children and teenagers taking drugs** receives especially high mention in Cyprus (86% of respondents who think drugs are a problem in their local area) and France (85%), followed by Croatia (79%), Greece (77%) and Slovakia (77%). Only in two countries, this issue is mentioned by less than half of respondents: Portugal (39%) and the Netherlands (47%).
- **The ready availability of drugs** receives highest mention in Cyprus (85% of respondents who think drugs are a problem in their local area), followed by Slovenia (80%), Croatia (80%), Greece (79%), Sweden (78%) and France (78%). Even the countries found at the bottom of this ranking, half or just under half of respondents mention this problem: Portugal (48%), Poland (46%) and Latvia (50%).
- **The consumption of hard drugs** is most often mentioned in France (77% of respondents who think drugs are a problem in their local area), followed by Croatia (67%), Cyprus (67%) and Slovakia (65%). Only in three countries (Latvia, Poland and Estonia), the proportion mentioning this issue is at or below 30%.
- Although **people smoking cannabis in public places** tend to be mentioned less frequently than the above identified problems, in almost a third of countries, it is identified by more than half of respondents who think drugs are a problem in their local area: Cyprus (64%), Denmark (56%), France (54%), Czechia (53%), Spain (53%), Luxembourg (52%) and Slovakia (51%).

**Q2** Which of the following would you say are a problem in your local area associated with people using or dealing drugs?

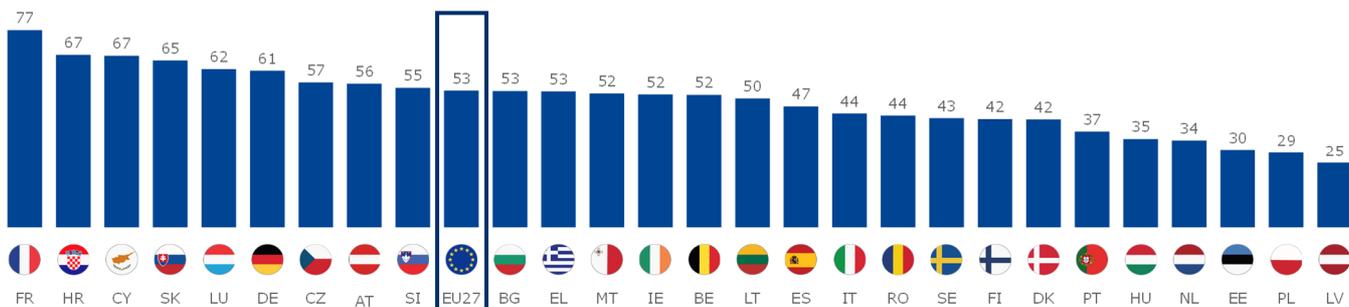
**Children and teenagers taking drugs** (% 'Yes', by country)



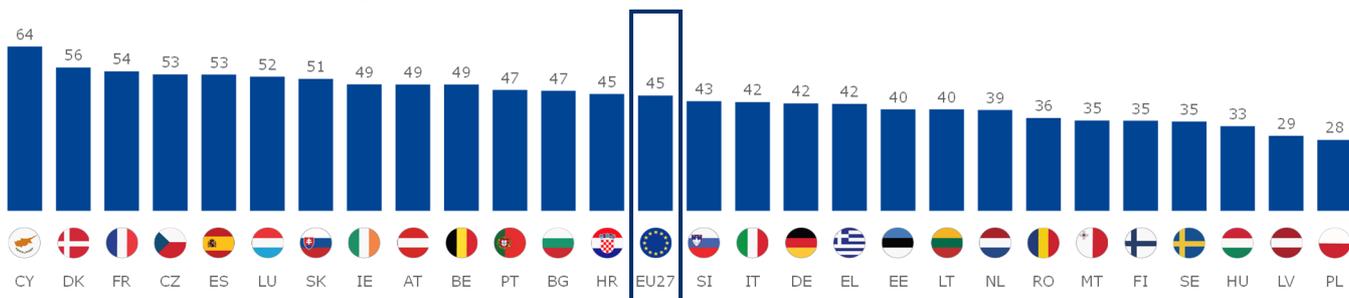
**Drugs being too easily available** (% 'Yes', by country)



**People taking hard drugs** (% 'Yes', by country)



**People smoking cannabis in public places** (% 'Yes', by country)



Base: respondents who regard drug use or dealing as very serious, somewhat serious or not too serious problem in their local area (n=19 483)

A summary measure is calculated that presents the **total number of issues associated with people using or dealing drugs** as identified by respondents; the following issues are considered: 1) children and teenagers taking drugs, 2) the ready availability of drugs, 3) the consumption of hard drugs and 4) people smoking cannabis in public places.

At the EU level, 18% of respondents (*who think drugs are a problem in their local area*) reply that **each of the issues listed in the questionnaire are a problem** that is associated with people using or dealing drugs in their local area, 21% says the same for three of the four problems and 17% for two problems. Another 12% only mention one of the problems listed and the remaining 32% say for each of the issues listed that this is not a problem associated with drug use and dealing in their local area.

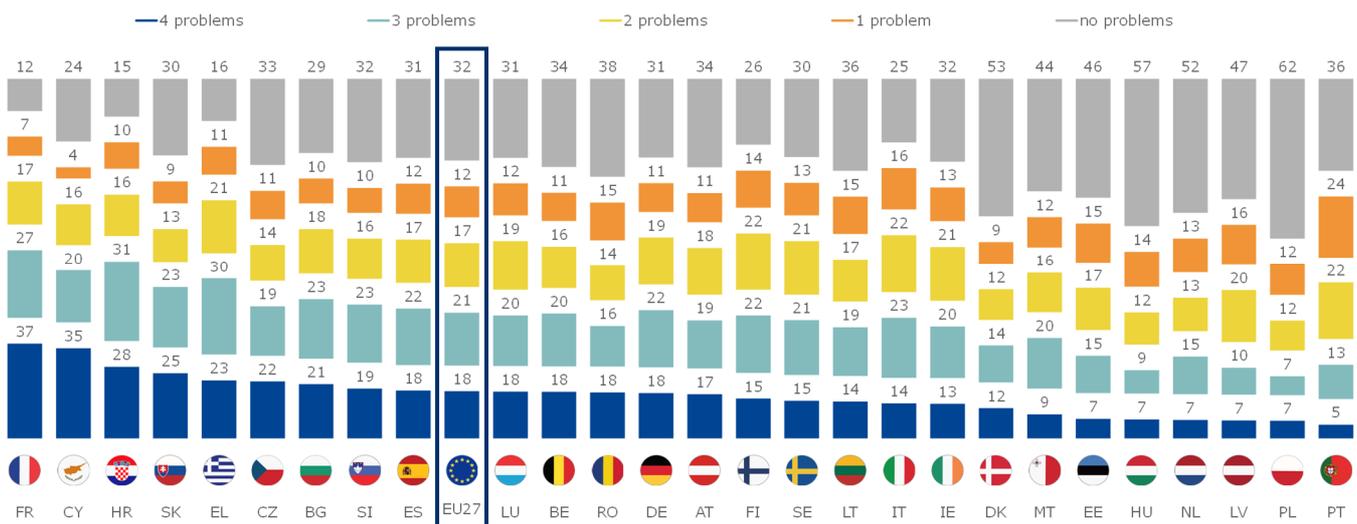
The country level results show that 35% of respondents in Cyprus and 37% of those in France say for each of the problems listed in the survey that it is a problem associated with people using or dealing drugs in their local area. In countries such as Portugal and Poland, this response pattern is seen for less than 10% of respondents. In Poland, 62% reply that none of the issues listed are a problem in their local area; this figure is 57% in Hungary, 53% in Denmark and 52% in the Netherlands.

**Q2** Which of the following would you say are a problem in your local area associated with people using or dealing drugs?

**Number of problems mentioned, out of:**

- 1) children and teenagers taking drugs,**
- 2) the ready availability of drugs,**
- 3) the consumption of hard drugs and**
- 4) people smoking cannabis in public places**

(% by country)



Base: respondents who regard drug use or dealing as very serious, somewhat serious or not too serious problem in their local area (n=19 483)

**Socio-demographic analysis** shows that the issue of children and teenagers taking drugs is more often identified by 15 to 24 year-olds than by older groups (74% versus, for example, 66% of those aged 55 or older), and by people who are studying than by those who have completed their education (76% versus, for example, 63% of those who completed education at age 15 or younger).

At the same time, slightly more respondents living in large towns and cities than in other areas think drug use or dealing is associated with people taking hard drugs (57% versus 52% of those in rural areas). Finally, females are slightly more likely than males to identify children and teenagers taking drugs (68% vs 66%), the ready availability of drugs (69% vs 66%) and people smoking cannabis in public places (64% vs 43%) as a problem in their local area.

**Q2** Which of the following would you say are a problem in your local area associated with people using or dealing drugs? (% by socio-demographics)

	Children and teenagers taking drugs	Drugs being too easily available	People taking hard drugs (e.g. crack, heroin, cocaine)	People smoking cannabis in public places
EU27	67	67	53	45
 <b>Gender</b>				
Men	66	66	54	43
Women	68	69	53	46
 <b>Age</b>				
15-24	74	68	52	47
25-39	66	64	53	43
40-54	67	67	51	46
55+	66	69	55	44
 <b>Education</b>				
Up to 15	63	69	54	46
16-19	64	68	53	47
20+	68	66	54	43
Still studying	76	69	55	47
 <b>Place of residence</b>				
Rural area or village	67	67	52	43
Small/medium-sized town	66	68	52	45
Large town/city	69	66	57	46

Base: respondents who regard drug use or dealing as very serious, somewhat serious or not too serious problem in their local area (n=19 483)

Respondents who have **never used cannabis** are more likely than those who have done so to identify the ready availability of drugs (68% vs 64%) and people smoking cannabis in public places (48% vs 38%) as a problem in their local area.

The socio-demographic analysis for the **summary measure** (presenting the total number of issues associated with people using or dealing drugs) shows, firstly, that, across most socio-demographic groups, not more than roughly 3 in 10 say that none of the issues listed in the survey are a problem in their local area. Secondly, this proportion is slightly higher among:

- males than females (33% vs 30%)
- respondents aged 25 to 39 or age 55+ (33%-34% vs, for example, 27% of 15-24 year-olds)
- those with the lowest level of education compared to other educational groupings (39% vs, for example, 32% of those who completed education at age 20 or over)
- those living in rural areas compared to those living in towns and cities (35% vs 30%-31%).

**Q2** Which of the following would you say are a problem in your local area associated with people using or dealing drugs?

**Number of problems mentioned, out of:**

**1) children and teenagers taking drugs,**

**2) the ready availability of drugs,**

**3) the consumption of hard drugs and**

**4) people smoking cannabis in public places**

(% by socio-demographics)

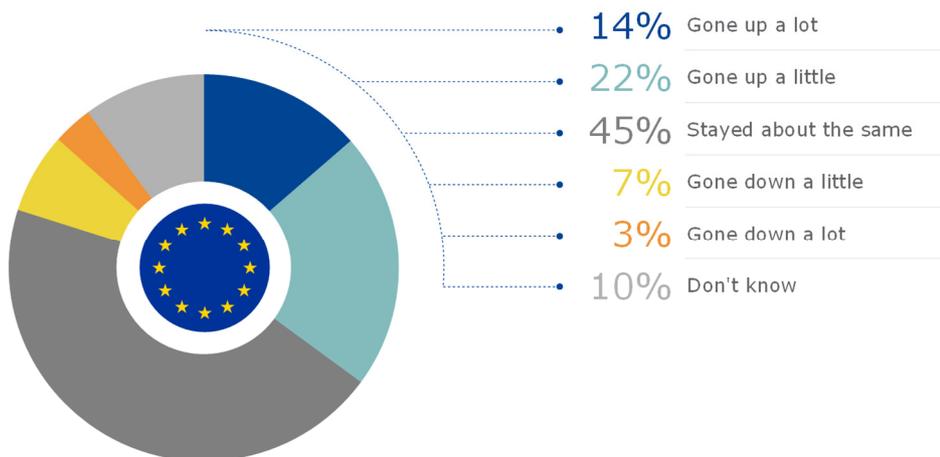
	4 problems	3 problems	2 problems	1 problem	No problems
EU27	17	19	18	11	34
 <b>Gender</b>					
Men	17	20	18	12	33
Women	19	21	17	12	30
 <b>Age</b>					
15-24	17	24	19	13	27
25-39	16	21	18	12	33
40-54	19	21	18	13	29
55+	20	19	16	11	34
 <b>Education</b>					
Up to 15	20	20	12	10	39
16-19	19	20	18	11	32
20+	18	21	18	12	32
Still studying	18	25	18	13	26
 <b>Place of residence</b>					
Rural area or village	18	19	17	12	35
Small/medium-sized town	18	21	18	13	30
Large town/city	18	22	18	11	31

Base: respondents who regard drug use or dealing as very serious, somewhat serious or not too serious problem in their local area (n=19 483)

### 1.3. Change over time

**Over a third (35%) of respondents think that problems caused by drugs have increased in their local area over the past few years.** Meanwhile, 10% think such problems have decreased and 45% perceive no change.<sup>22</sup>

**Q4** In your local area, do you think that in the past few years problems caused by drugs have:  
(% - EU27)



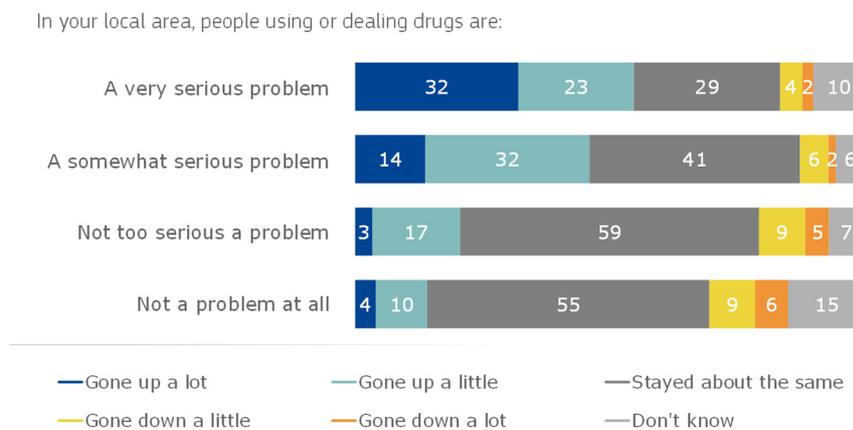
Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

Respondents who think that **drug use or dealing is a very serious or somewhat serious problem** in their local area are between three and four times more likely than those who do not see any drug-related problems (in their area), to report that the situation has deteriorated in their area in the past few years.

Of the respondents who say that drug use or dealing is a very serious problem in their local area, 32% reply that problems caused by drugs have gone up a lot, and a further 23% say these have gone up a little. For respondents who think that drugs are a somewhat serious problem, these figures are 14% for 'gone up a lot' and 32% for 'gone up a little'.

<sup>22</sup> Due to rounding, the percentages shown in the charts do not always exactly add up to the totals mentioned in the text.

**Q4** In your local area, do you think that in the past few years problems caused by drugs have: (% by perceived seriousness of drugs as an issue)



Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

There is a great deal of variation in the results by Member State. **In four Member States, half of respondents or more think problems caused by drugs have increased in their local area:** Cyprus (50%), Finland (53%), Sweden (58%) and France (62%). In France, almost a third (32%) think such problems have increased *a lot*. In section 1.1, it is noted that France is characterised by one of the largest proportions of respondents saying that using or dealing drugs is a very serious or somewhat serious problem in their local area (76% share this view); Cyprus and Sweden are also among the countries where respondents are among the most likely to perceive drug use or dealing as a serious issue for their community. In Finland, on the other hand, respondents are, relatively speaking, less likely to say that using or dealing drugs is a serious problem in their local area, but they are among the most likely to think that these problems have, nonetheless, increased over the past few years.

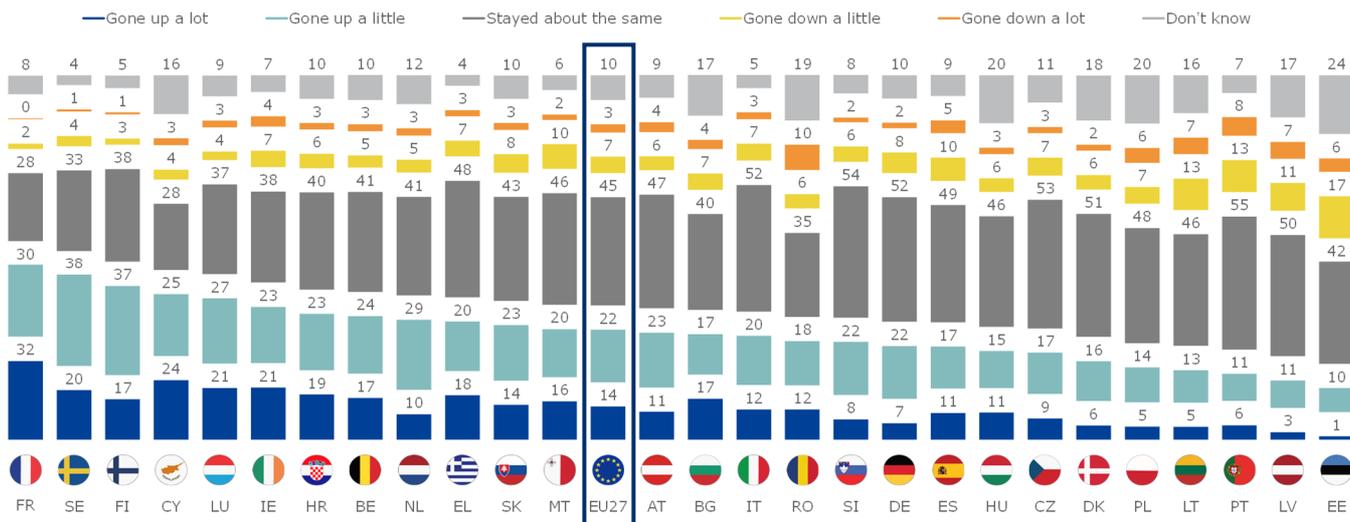
In four other Member States, the proportion who think problems associated with drugs have increased is lower: Estonia (11%), Latvia (14%), Portugal (17%) and Lithuania (19%). In these countries, between 18% and 23% of respondents think such problems have decreased over recent years.

**Drug-related violence (and murders) and their coverage in the media** can instil in the general public a sense that the problem is out of hand. The link between drug-related murder and the headlines it captures, and the impact of such drug-related violence on public perception is difficult to establish. On 6 July 2021, in the Netherlands, a prominent Dutch journalist, Peter de Vries, was shot and later passed away (on the 15 July 2021). De Vries was known for his work on exposing drug lords and had helped police solve a number of high-profile cases (including case against Ridouan Taghi, who is currently on trial for murder and drug trafficking). The attack was widely discussed in the media with high profile figures in the Netherlands expressing their condolences over De Vries' death. The tragedy occurred mid-fieldwork of this Flash Eurobarometer and could have influenced responses to the survey in the Netherlands.

In section 1.1, it is noted that the Netherlands is characterised by one of the lowest proportions of respondents saying that using or dealing drugs is a very serious or somewhat serious problem in their

local area (29% share this view). The figure for Q4 (above), however, shows that the Netherlands is ranked much higher when it comes to perceptions about an increase in drug-related problems. About four in ten (39%) of respondents in the Netherlands think that problems caused by drugs have increased in their local area over the past few years.

**Q4** In your local area, do you think that in the past few years problems caused by drugs have:  
(% by country)

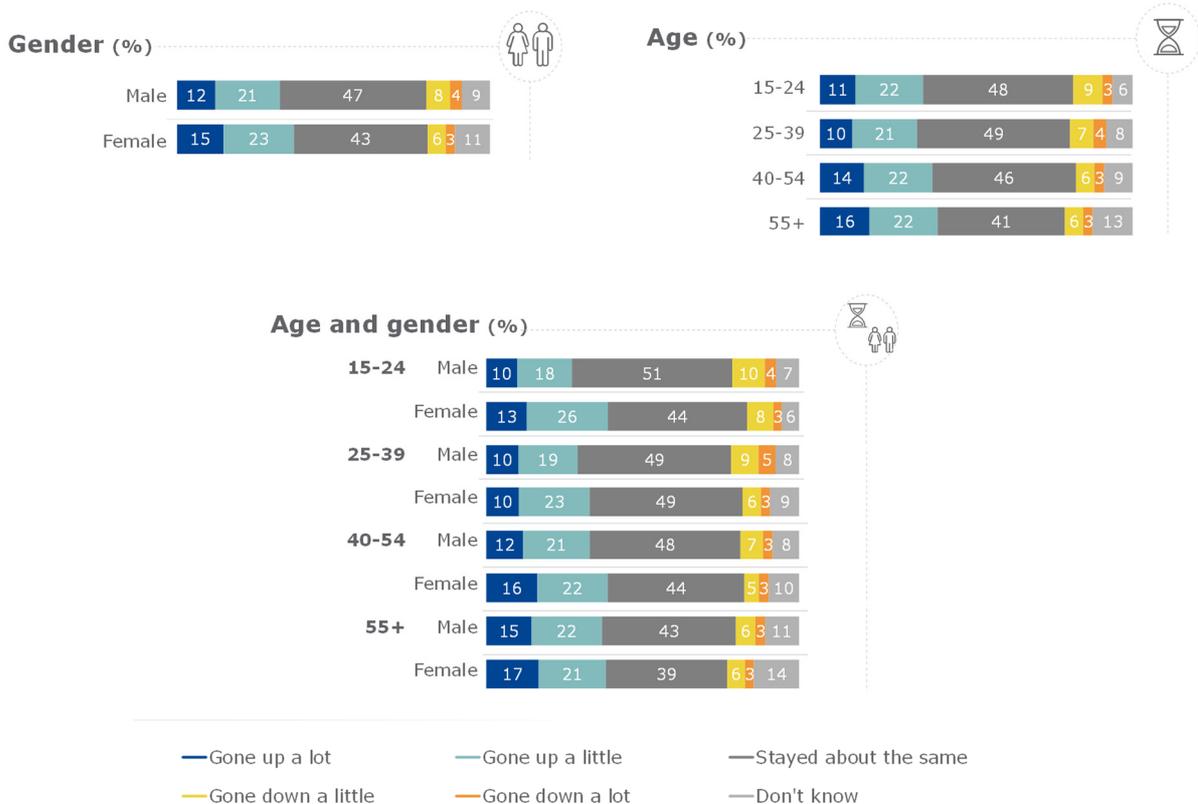


Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

In terms of **socio-demographic differences**, slightly more females than males think problems caused by drugs have increased in their area over the last few years (37% vs 33%). The same is true for older versus younger respondents (38% of people aged 55 and over think problems have increased, compared to 33% of those aged 15 to 24 and 31% of those aged 25 to 39).

A closer look at the results by age groups and gender show that young women, aged 15 to 24, are as likely as their older counterparts to think that problems caused by drugs have increased in their local area (39% vs 38% of women aged 54 and over and 39% of women aged 40 to 54).

**Q4** In your local area, do you think that in the past few years problems caused by drugs have: (% by socio-demographics)



Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

There is no significant difference in the proportion saying that problems caused by drugs have increased in their area by level of education. There is a small significant effect by place of residence, with respondents in rural areas being slightly more likely than those in urban areas to think that problems caused by drugs have increased in their local area (36% vs 34% of respondents living in large towns and cities). This may seem surprising, but it is in line with the observation made in the first section of the report that differences in perceptions about drug-related problems may be narrowing between rural and urban residents.

The table on the following page presents, **for each country, by gender and age groups**, the proportion of respondents who think that problems caused by drugs have increased in their local area. Across gender and age groups in most countries, a considerable proportion think that problems caused by drugs have increased in their local area.

Across many countries, it can also be seen that the patterns observed for the EU average results are repeated in the individual country results showing that females are more likely than males to say that drug-related problems have increased in their local area and that older respondents share this view more frequently than younger respondents. For example, in Slovakia, 40% of females, compared to 34% of males, and 41% of over 54 year-olds, compared to 31% of 15-24 year-olds, say that problems caused by drugs have increased in their local area.

The EU average differences across gender and age groups, however, are not observed across all countries. For example, in Ireland, male respondents are more likely than their female counterparts to believe that problems caused by drugs have increased in their local area (47% vs 42%), and in Denmark, younger respondents are more likely than their older counterparts to have seen an increase in drug problems (29% of 15-24 year-olds vs 18% of over 54 year-olds).

**Q4** In your local area, do you think that in the past few years problems caused by drugs have: (% 'Gone up a lot' + 'Gone up a little', by country)

		Males	Females	15 - 24 year-olds	25-39 year-olds	40-54 year-olds	55+ year-olds
EU27		33	37	33	31	36	38
BE		38	44	30	37	39	48
BG		31	35	35	28	40	31
CZ		25	26	26	21	27	28
DK		22	23	29	20	27	18
DE		24	33	24	25	29	31
EE		10	12	14	12	11	9
IE		47	42	40	43	48	44
EL		37	40	30	40	39	40
ES		28	29	32	31	27	27
FR		59	65	51	52	65	70
HR		36	47	38	39	40	45
IT		31	34	27	25	34	37
CY		48	51	36	52	56	50
LV		9	18	20	13	16	13
LT		18	19	14	16	21	20
LU		44	52	45	47	48	51
HU		24	28	29	21	31	26
MT		32	39	25	34	40	38
NL		38	40	41	37	37	41
AT		32	35	44	27	33	35
PL		19	20	24	16	21	20
PT		16	18	19	19	19	14
RO		30	30	28	33	30	29
SI		28	32	33	24	33	31
SK		34	40	31	34	38	41
FI		48	58	34	45	56	62
SE		54	62	57	55	60	58

Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

A logistic regression was also performed to shed more light on the **socio-demographic profile of those who think that problems caused by drugs have increased in their local area** (Q4).

As shown in the table and figure overleaf, the logistic regression model (run at the EU27 level) shows that older respondents tend to be more likely to think that problems caused by drugs have increased in their local area. There is, however, one important exception: one of the largest differences in net percentages is seen when comparing young women (aged 15 to 24) with young men (base category), with the former have a probability that is 10.4 percentage points higher. This means that, even after controlling for other characteristics, young women, aged 15 to 24, are as likely as their older counterparts to think that problems caused by drugs have increased in their local area.

It was noted in the previous section that there is a small significant effect by place of residence, with respondents in rural areas being slightly more likely than those in urban areas to think that problems caused by drugs have increased in their local area. It may be that this effect is observed because respondents living in rural areas tend to be older, and older respondents, in turn, are more likely to say that problems caused by drugs have increased in their local area. The results of the logistic regression, however, show that this is not true, and this small difference is also still observed, after controlling for the effect of other characteristics, such as age and gender. Controlling for other characteristics, the probability of thinking that problems caused by drugs have increased is 2.2 percentage points higher for someone living in a rural area compared to someone living in city or large town.

In the previous section, it was also noted that there appears to be no difference across different educational groups in the proportion saying that problems caused by drugs have increased in their local area. After controlling for the effects of other characteristics, a small significant difference in probabilities becomes visible. Controlling for other characteristics, the probability to answer that problems caused by drugs have increased goes down by 4.3 percentage points for those who completed education at age 15 or younger, versus those who did so at age 20 or older.

Differences of a similar size are also observed when comparing the probabilities for those who have used cannabis and those who have never done so. After controlling for the effects of other characteristics, the probability to say that problems caused by drugs have increased goes down by 3.5 to 5.4 percentage points for those who have used cannabis (in the past month or less frequently) compared to those who have never used cannabis.

**Table** Log odds, the net percentages and net difference of replying that **problems caused by drugs have increased in their local area (Q4)** by socio-demographic groups (EU27)

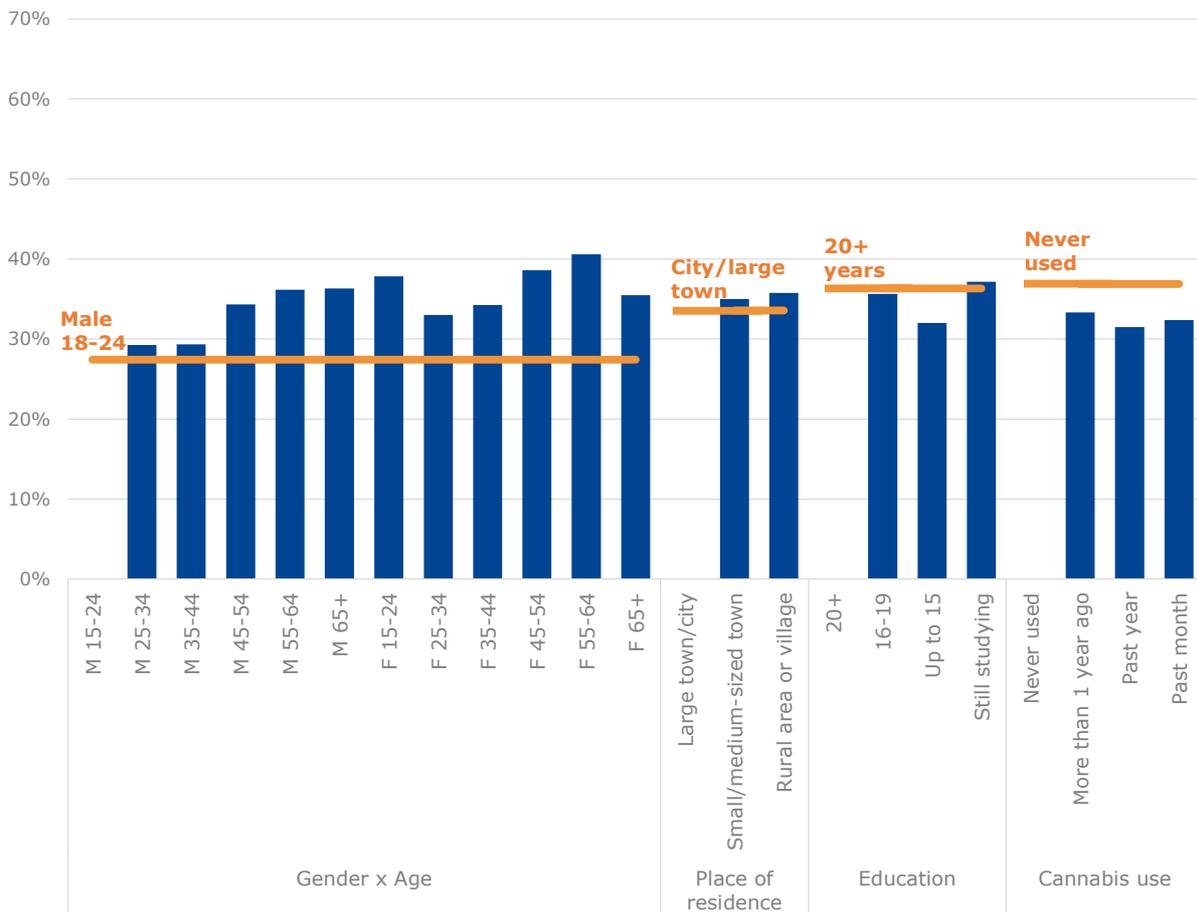
	Log odds of regarding drug use or dealing as a serious problem	(NET percentages)	NET difference (in percentage points) compared to base category
<b>Gender x Age</b>			
M 15-24	(base)	27.4%	
M 25-34	1.095	29.3%	1.8
M 35-44	1.099	29.3%	1.9
M 45-54	1.383***	34.3%	<b>6.9</b>
M 55-64	1.499***	36.2%	<b>8.7</b>
M 65+	1.509***	36.3%	<b>8.9</b>
F 15-24	1.611***	37.8%	<b>10.4</b>
F 25-34	1.303**	33.0%	<b>5.6</b>
F 35-44	1.377***	34.2%	<b>6.8</b>
F 45-54	1.663***	38.6%	<b>11.2</b>
F 55-64	1.809***	40.6%	<b>13.2</b>
F 65+	1.454***	35.5%	<b>8.0</b>
<b>Place of residence</b>			
Large town/city	(base)	33.6%	
Small/medium-sized town	1.065	35.0%	1.4
Rural area or village	1.102**	35.8%	<b>2.2</b>
<b>Education</b>			
20+	(base)	36.3%	
16-19	0.972	35.6%	-0.7
Up to 15	0.826***	32.0%	<b>-4.3</b>
Still studying	1.037	37.1%	0.8
<b>Cannabis use</b>			
Never used	(base)	36.9%	
Used more than 12 months ago	0.856***	33.3%	<b>-3.5</b>
Used in the past 12 months	0.787**	31.5%	<b>-5.4</b>
Used in the past month	0.82*	32.4%	<b>-4.5</b>

Note: \* p<0.05; \*\* p<0.01; \*\*\* p<0.001

**Model evaluation (LR test)**

Chi <sup>2</sup>	(df)	p
237.316	19	0.000

**Plot** Replying that problems caused by drugs have increased in their local area, **NET percentages showing the NET difference in percentage points compared to a base category** within each socio-demographic characteristic after controlling for the effects of the other variables in the model (EU27)

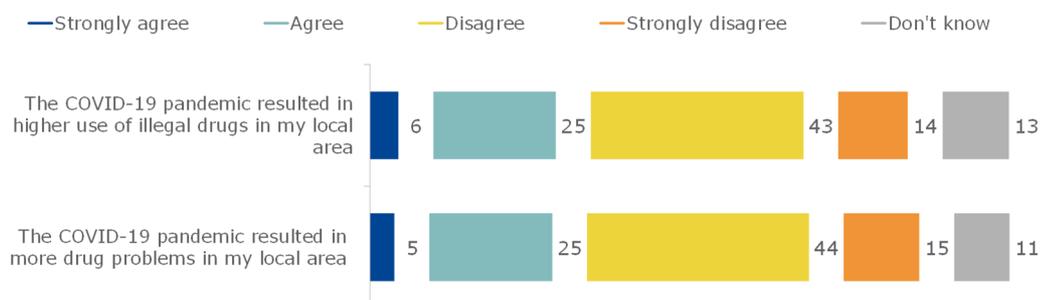


## 1.4. Impact of COVID-19 on incidence of drug-related problems

**At the EU27 level, 30% of respondents agree that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in higher use of illegal drugs in their local area.** A similar proportion (29%) agree that the pandemic has resulted in **more drug problems in their local area**. About six in ten respondents disagree that the pandemic has resulted in higher use of illegal drugs (57%) or that it has resulted in more drug problems (60%).<sup>23</sup>

It is worth noting that not many respondents 'strongly agree' when presented with these statements (5%-6%), while more respondents express 'strong disagreement' (14%-15%). Slightly more than one in ten respondents are not able to respond to this question (13% for 'higher use of illegal drugs' and 11% for 'more drugs problems').

**Q5** For each of the following statements could you say if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree: (% - EU27)



Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

The proportion agreeing that that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in **higher use of illegal drugs** in their local area ranges from 16% in Hungary and Denmark to 50% in Cyprus and 53% in Greece. Similarly, the proportion agreeing that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in **more drug problems** in their local area ranges from 13% in Hungary and 14% in Latvia to 49% in Greece and 52% in Cyprus.

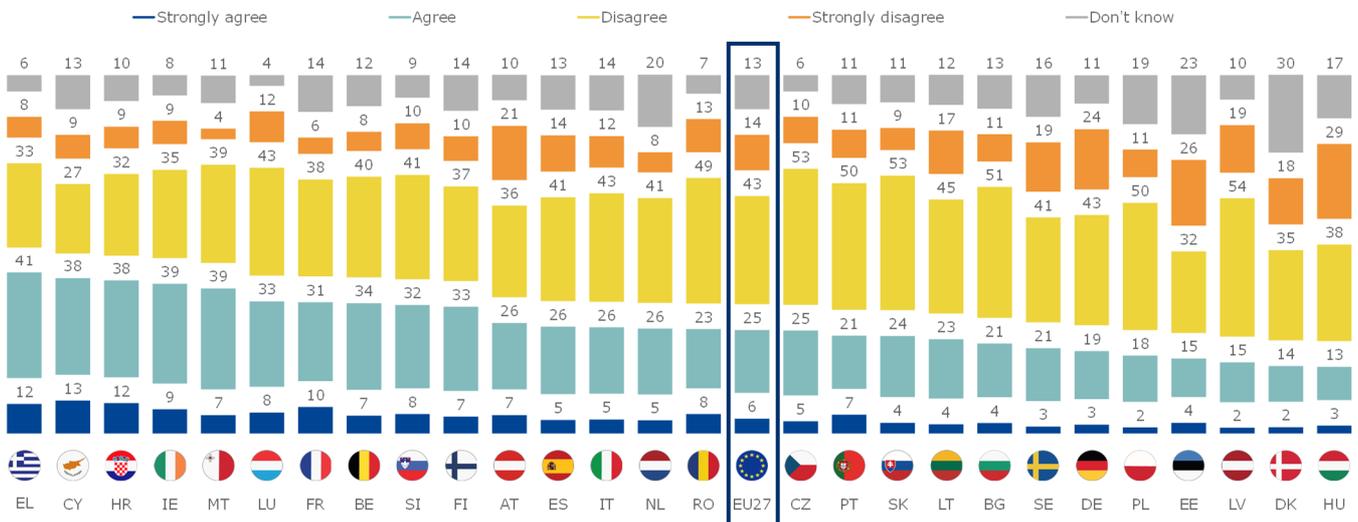
Agreement with both statements is also high in:

- Croatia (where 49% agree that the pandemic resulted in higher illegal drug use in their area and 44% that it resulted in more drug problems)
- Ireland (48% and 42%)
- Malta (46% and 41%)
- Luxembourg (41% and 40%)
- France (41% and 42%)

<sup>23</sup> Due to rounding, the percentages shown in the charts do not always exactly add up to the totals mentioned in the text.

**Q5** For each of the following statements could you say if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree:

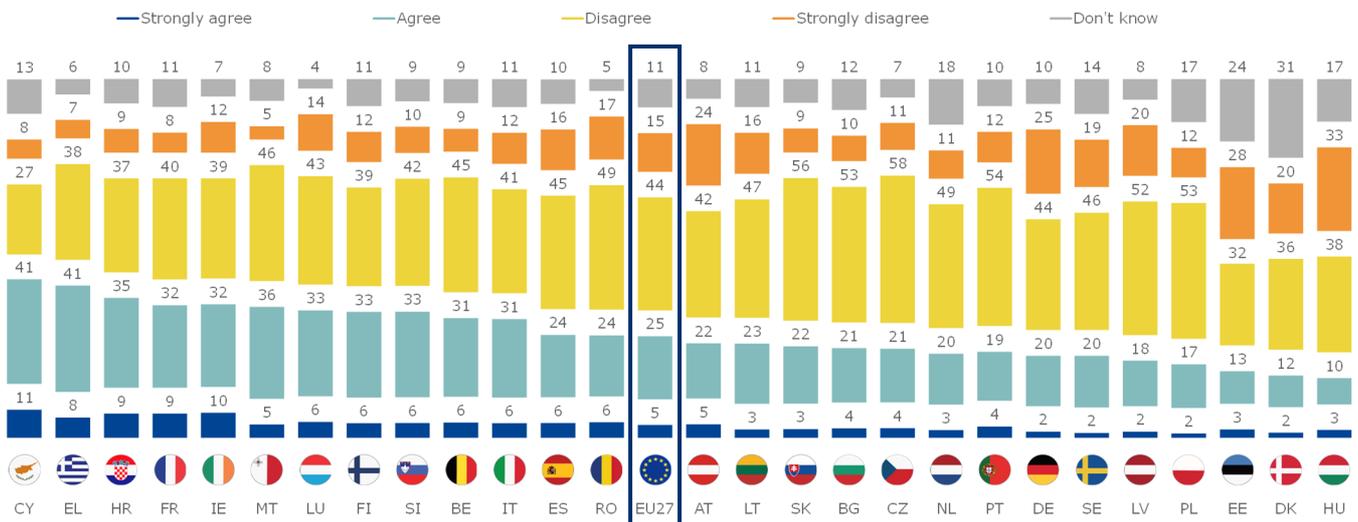
**The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in higher use of illegal drugs in my local area**  
(% by country)



Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

**Q5** For each of the following statements could you say if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree:

**The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in more drug problems in my local area**  
(% by country)



Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

Respondents who think that **drug use and dealing is a problem in their area** are more likely than those who do not, to agree that the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in more illegal drug use and more drug problems in their area. For example, among respondents who say that drug use and dealing is a very serious problem in their local area, 49% agree that the pandemic had resulted in more drug problems in their area; this proportion decreases to 21% for those who say drug use is not a problem in their area.

**Q5** For each of the following statements could you say if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree: (% 'Strongly agree' + 'Agree', by perceived seriousness of drugs as an issue)

	The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in higher use of illegal drugs in my local area	The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in more drug problems in my local
EU27	30	29
<b>Perceived seriousness of drugs as an issue</b>		
A very serious problem	47	49
A somewhat serious problem	45	45
Not too serious a problem	34	24
Not a problem at all	27	21

Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

In terms of **socio-demographic differences**, respondents who live in urban areas are slightly more likely than those in rural areas to agree that the pandemic has resulted in more drug problems in their area (31% in small, medium and large towns and cities versus 27% in rural areas). An opposite difference was observed in the previous section – with respondents in rural areas being slightly more likely than those in urban areas to think that problems caused by drugs have increased in their local area; it should, however, be added that for both questions the difference between urban and rural areas is small.

Agreement with both statements is higher among:

- females than males, but less so in the oldest age group (for example, among 15-24 year-olds, 44% of females versus 39% of males for higher use of illegal drugs; and 42% versus 32%, respectively, for more drug problems)
- respondents aged 15-24 than among older groups, especially among female respondents (for example, among female respondents, 44% for 15-24 year-olds versus 27% of those aged 55 and over for higher use of illegal drugs; and 42% versus 29%, respectively, for more drug problems)
- those who are still studying compared with other educational categories (41% versus, for example, 25% of those who left education at age 15 or younger for higher use of illegal drugs; and 35% versus 27%, respectively for more drug problems).

**Q5** For each of the following statements could you say if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree: (% 'Strongly agree' + 'Agree', by socio-demographics)

	The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in higher use of illegal drugs in my local area	The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in more drug problems in my local
 EU27	30	29
 <b>Age by Gender</b>		
15-24 Male	39	32
Female	44	42
25-39 Male	30	27
Female	34	32
40-54 Male	26	24
Female	31	32
55+ Male	26	27
Female	27	29
 <b>Education</b>		
Up to 15	25	27
16-19	30	30
20+	30	29
Still studying	41	35
 <b>Place of residence</b>		
Rural area or village	29	27
Small/medium-sized town	31	31
Large town/city	31	31

Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

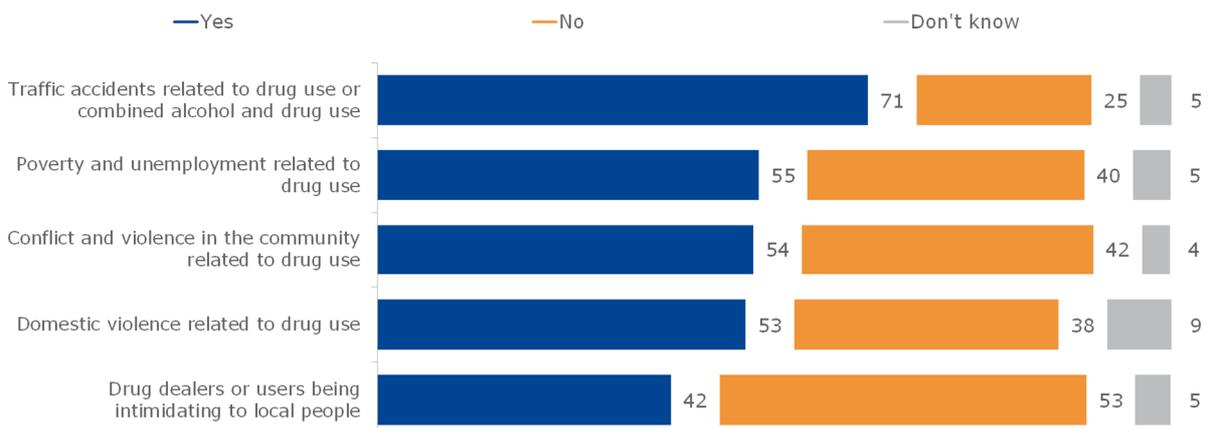
Finally, **respondents who have used cannabis** are more likely than those who have not to agree that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they have seen illegal drug use increase in their local area (33% versus 29%). No difference in agreement is observed for the statement about an increase in drug-related problems due to the pandemic.

## Section 2. Problems associated with people using or dealing drugs

As was noted in section 1.2, in this Flash Eurobarometer, respondents who regard drug use or dealing as a very serious, somewhat serious or not too serious problem were asked what type of problems in their local area are associated with people using or dealing drugs – from traffic accidents to domestic violence. One item asked respondents about drug-related intimidation.

**Traffic accidents** emerge as the problem impacting on local communities, that is most commonly perceived to be related to drug use, mentioned by 71% of respondents. Other community problems perceived to be related to drug use and mentioned by over half of respondents, are **poverty or unemployment** (55%), **conflict and violence** in the community (54%) and **domestic violence** (53%). **Drug dealers or users being intimidating to local people** is also identified by 42% of respondents as a problem in their local area.

**Q2** Which of the following would you say are a problem in your local area associated with people using or dealing drugs? (% - EU27)

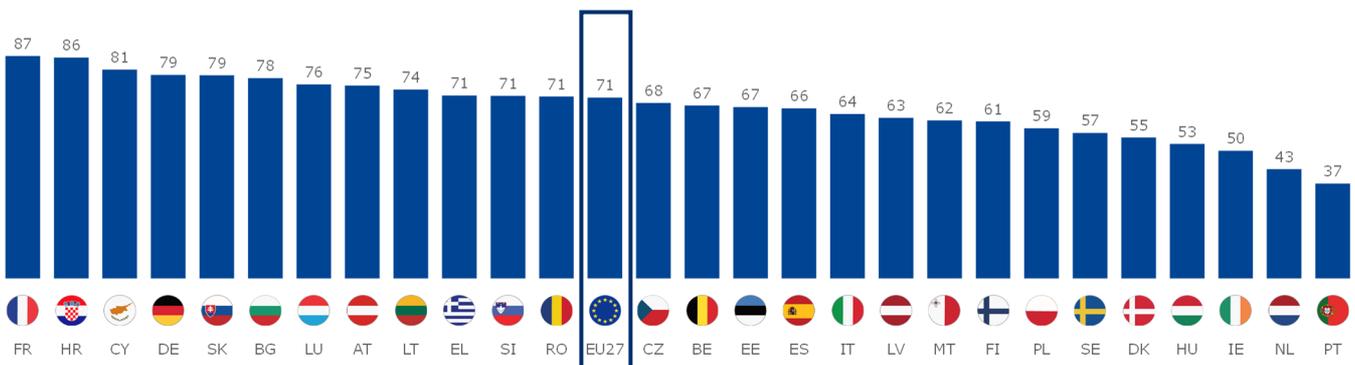


Base: respondents who regard drug use or dealing as very serious, somewhat serious or not too serious problem in their local area (n=19 483)

Analysis by Member State finds that:

- **Traffic accidents** are the ‘top’ mentioned problems associated with people using or dealing drugs in 24 of the 27 Member States. Traffic accidents is mentioned as a problem by a notably higher proportion of respondents (at least four in five) in France (87%), Croatia (86%) and Cyprus (81%).
- **Poverty and unemployment** receive especially high mention in Slovakia (69%), Germany (68%) and Austria (65%). In Ireland and Portugal, poverty and unemployment are the problem mentioned most frequently by respondents (57% and 44%, respectively).
- **Conflict or violence in the community** is most often seen as problematic in France (81%), Slovakia (73%), Sweden (73%), Croatia (67%) and Cyprus (65%). In Sweden, this problem is also the most mentioned one.
- **Domestic violence** is most often mentioned in Cyprus (76%), France (73%), Croatia (70%), Germany (67%) and Slovakia (67%).
- In seven countries, a majority of respondents who say drugs are a problem in their area, also reply that **drug dealers or users are being intimidating to local people**: France (72%), Cyprus (58%), Lithuania (57%) Czechia (56%), Slovakia (56%), Bulgaria (55%) and Luxembourg (52%).

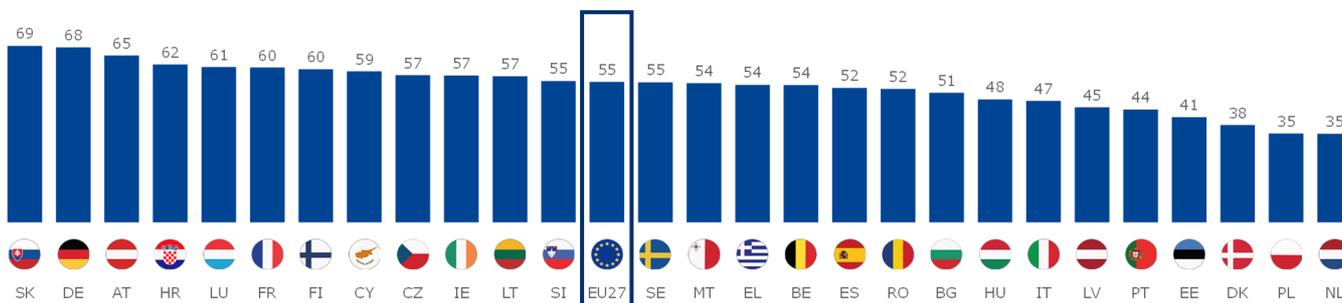
**Q2** Which of the following would you say are a problem in your local area associated with people using or dealing drugs?  
**Traffic accidents related to drug use or combined alcohol and drug use** (% ‘yes’, by country)



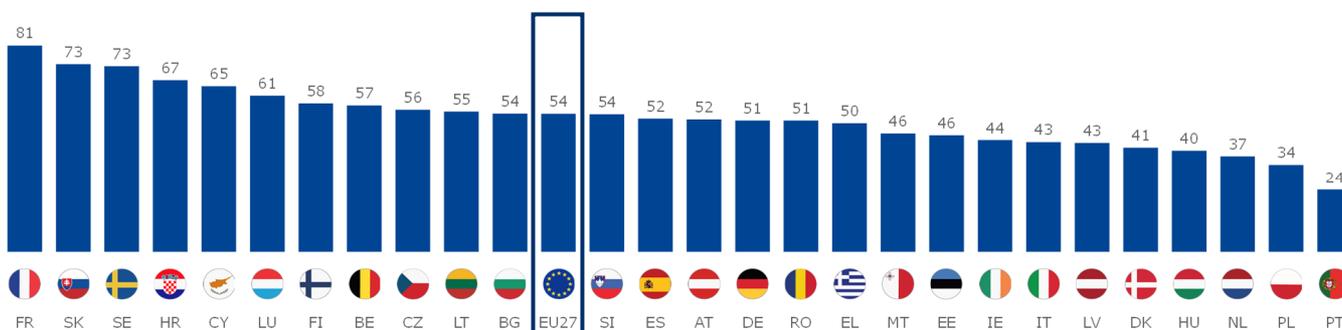
Base: respondents who regard drug use or dealing as very serious, somewhat serious or not too serious problem in their local area (n=19 483)

**Q2** Which of the following would you say are a problem in your local area associated with people using or dealing drugs?

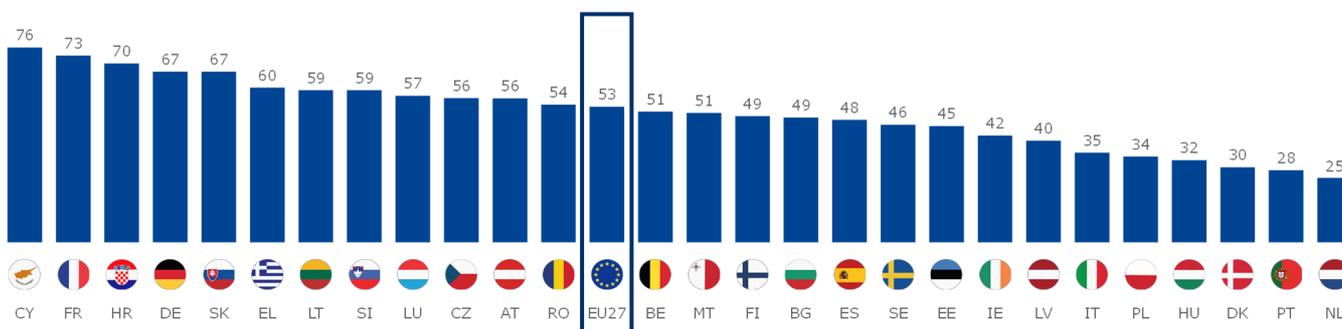
**Poverty and unemployment related to drug use (% 'yes', by country)**



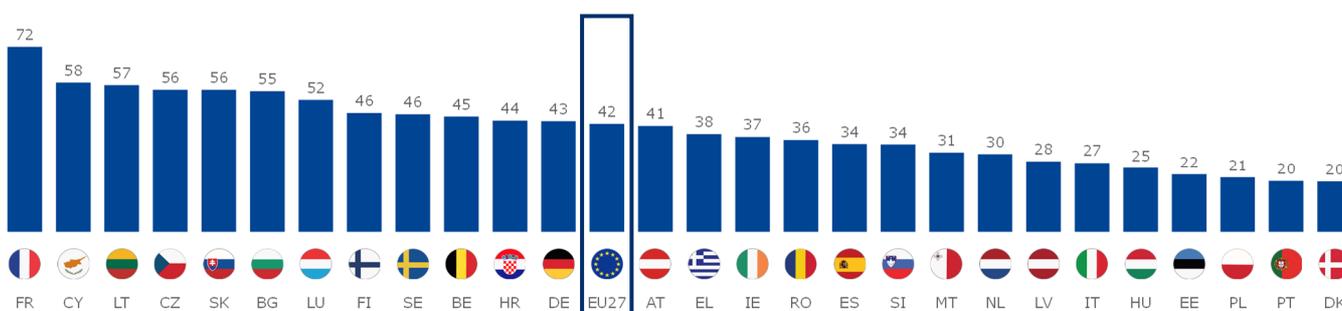
**Conflict and violence in the community related to drug use (% 'yes', by country)**



**Domestic violence related to drug use (% 'yes', by country)**



**Drug dealers or users being intimidating to local people (% 'yes', by country)**



Base: respondents who regard drug use or dealing as very serious, somewhat serious or not too serious problem in their local area (n=19 483)

**Q2** Which of the following would you say are a problem in your local area associated with people using or dealing drugs? (% 'yes', by country)

	Traffic accidents related to drug use or combined alcohol and drug use	Poverty and unemployment related to drug use	Conflict and violence in the community related to drug use	Domestic violence related to drug use	Drug dealers or users being intimidating to local people
EU27 	71	55	54	53	42
BE 	67	54	57	51	45
BG 	78	51	54	49	55
CZ 	68	57	56	56	56
DK 	55	38	41	30	20
DE 	79	68	51	67	43
EE 	67	41	46	45	22
IE 	50	57	44	42	37
EL 	71	54	50	60	38
ES 	66	52	52	48	34
FR 	87	60	81	73	72
HR 	86	62	67	70	44
IT 	64	47	43	35	27
CY 	81	59	65	76	58
LV 	63	45	43	40	28
LT 	74	57	55	59	57
LU 	76	61	61	57	52
HU 	53	48	40	32	25
MT 	62	54	46	51	31
NL 	43	35	37	25	30
AT 	75	65	52	56	41
PL 	59	35	34	34	21
PT 	37	44	24	28	20
RO 	71	52	51	54	36
SI 	71	55	54	59	34
SK 	79	69	73	67	56
FI 	61	60	58	49	46
SE 	57	55	73	46	46

Base: respondents who regard drug use or dealing as very serious, somewhat serious or not too serious problem in their local area (n=19 483)

Respondents who think that **people using or dealing drugs are a problem in their local area** are more likely to say that this results in traffic accidents related to drug use, conflict and violence in the community, poverty and unemployment, domestic violence and drug dealers or users being intimidating to local people. For example, 69% of respondents who think that drugs are a very serious problem in their local area and 62% of those who describe drugs as a somewhat serious problem, say that drugs in their local area are associated with domestic violence; the corresponding figure for those who think drugs are not too serious a problem in their area is 34%.

Interestingly, the largest difference in proportions is found for **drug-related intimidation**, with those saying that drug use or dealing is a very serious problem in their local area being almost three times more likely than those who do not experience drug-related problems to say that drug dealers or users are being intimidating to local people (60% versus 23%).

**Q2** Which of the following would you say are a problem in your local area associated with people using or dealing drugs? (% 'yes' by perceived seriousness of drugs as an issue)

	Traffic accidents related to drug use or combined alcohol and drug use	Poverty and unemployment related to drug use	Conflict and violence in the community related to drug use	Domestic violence related to drug use	Drug dealers or users being intimidating to local people
EU27	71	55	54	53	42
<b>Perceived seriousness of drugs as an issue</b>					
A very serious problem	79	69	75	67	60
A somewhat serious problem	75	60	62	59	50
Not too serious a problem	59	39	31	34	23

Base: respondents who regard drug use or dealing as very serious, somewhat serious or not too serious problem in their local area (n=19 483)

**Respondents who have never used cannabis** are more likely than those who have done so to think that drug use and dealing results in domestic violence (54% versus 50%) and conflict and violence in the community (55% versus 51%).

In terms of **socio-demographic differences**, slightly more females than males think that drug use or dealing in their local area is associated with conflict and violence in the community (55% versus 53%) and poverty or unemployment (56% versus 53%). A somewhat bigger difference is found when it comes to domestic violence (56% versus 50%).

Even though more respondents living in large towns and cities than in other areas, think drug use or dealing is linked to conflict and violence in the community (59% versus 51%), domestic violence (57% versus 52%), poverty or unemployment (59% versus 52%), and drug dealers or users being intimidating (46% versus 41%) – these difference are not very large and suggest that the common

perception that drug problems are largely associated with inner city areas is not supported by the data.

There are also minor differences by age. More older than younger respondents think drug use or dealing results in poverty and unemployment (56% of those aged 55 and over versus 53% of those aged 15 to 24), conflict and violence in the community (56% versus 51%), domestic violence (55% versus 49%) and drug dealers or users being intimidating to local people (43% versus 39%).

There are no significant differences for this question by level of education. Overall, a socio-demographic analysis of the data suggests that the perception that various problems in the local community are related to drug use are widespread across all socio-demographic groups.

**Q2** Which of the following would you say are a problem in your local area associated with people using or dealing drugs? (% 'yes' by socio-demographics)

	Traffic accidents related to drug use or combined alcohol and drug use	Poverty and unemployment related to drug use	Conflict and violence in the community related to drug use	Domestic violence related to drug use	Drug dealers or users being intimidating to local people
EU27	71	55	54	53	42
 <b>Gender</b>					
Men	70	53	53	50	42
Women	71	56	55	56	42
 <b>Age</b>					
15-24	70	53	51	49	39
25-39	69	52	52	51	41
40-54	71	56	54	53	43
55+	72	56	56	55	43
 <b>Education</b>					
Up to 15	71	55	54	52	43
16-19	71	55	54	52	42
20+	71	55	54	53	42
Still studying	69	53	51	52	40
 <b>Place of residence</b>					
Rural area or village	72	52	51	52	41
Small/medium-sized town	70	54	53	51	40
Large town/city	70	59	59	57	46

Base: respondents who regard drug use or dealing as very serious, somewhat serious or not too serious problem in their local area (n=19 483)

## Section 3. Drugs and crime

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It is popularly accepted that there is a link between illicit drug use and crime. Within the research literature this link is described using three explanatory categories:<sup>24</sup>

- Firstly, a psycho-pharmacological link between drug use and crime arises as a result of the effect of the drugs themselves on the user.
- Secondly, crimes are committed by dependent drug users as they need to generate income to support their drug habit.
- Thirdly, drug-related crime results from the activities associated with the illegal drug market (e.g. fights over organisational issues and disputes over transaction).

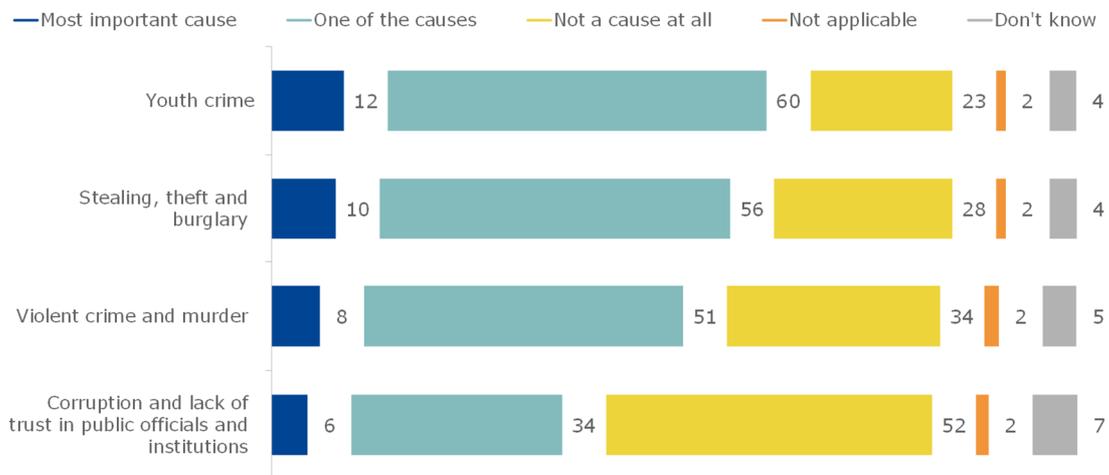
This Flash Eurobarometer confirms that **people think that drug use and crime are interlinked**. A majority of respondents think that drug use is a cause of at least some types of crime in their local area: almost three quarters (72%) think it is **a cause of youth crime**; 66% think it is **a cause of stealing, theft or burglary**; and 58% think it is **a cause of violent crime or murder**. A lower, but still significant, proportion (39%) **think drug use is implicated in corruption and a lack of trust in public officials or institutions**. Historically this problem has been most associated with producer countries outside of the EU or specific geographical locations within the EU where organised crime groups are particularly active. The data from this Flash Eurobarometer suggest that this association is now more widely made. The results of this question, however, also show that, although a majority of respondents think that drug use is a cause of at least some types of crime in their local area, few think that drug use is the most important cause. The proportion selecting this response varies between 6% for corruption and a lack of trust in public officials or institutions, and 12% for youth crime.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> See, for example: Connolly J and Buckley L (2016) Demanding money with menace: drug-related intimidation and community violence in Ireland. Dublin, Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign.

<sup>25</sup> Due to rounding, the percentages shown in the charts do not always exactly add up to the totals mentioned in the text.

**Q3** Is drug use the most important cause, one of the causes or not a cause at all of the following types of crime in your local area? (% - EU27)



Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

**A majority of respondents in all EU Member States regard drug use as a cause of youth crime.** The figure is especially high in Slovakia (87%), Cyprus (86%), Finland (84%), Estonia (82%), Bulgaria (81%) and Croatia (81%). Although it is notably lower in Denmark (57%) and Portugal (57%), the figure remains a majority.

**A majority in all Member States similarly see drug use as a cause of stealing, theft or burglary,** with the figure rising to three-quarters or more in Sweden (76%), Lithuania (76%), Bulgaria (78%), Czechia (78%), Greece (81%), Slovakia (81%), Croatia (82%), Estonia (83%), Finland (85%), Malta (85%) and Cyprus (88%). The figure is again much lower in Denmark (56%), in commons with the Netherlands (59%) and Poland (55%) – but notably, the figure remains a majority also for these countries.

**In 23 Member States, a majority see drug use as a cause of violent crime and murder,** with the figure rising to three-quarters or more in Slovakia (76%), Estonia (76%), France (78%), Cyprus (79%) and Finland (79%). The Member States where the proportion falls slightly short of a majority are Denmark (44%), Poland (46%), the Netherlands (50%) and Portugal (50%).

**At least half of respondents in five Member States regard drug use as a cause of corruption and a lack of trust in public officials or institutions:** Cyprus (59%), Greece (56%), Lithuania (54%), Croatia (53%) and Romania (50%).

**Q3** Is drug use the most important cause, one of the causes or not a cause at all of the following types of crime in your local area? (% 'Most important cause' + 'One of the causes', by country)

	Youth crime	Stealing, theft and burglary	Violent crime and murder	Corruption and lack of trust in public officials and institutions
EU27 	72	66	58	39
BE 	73	69	66	39
BG 	81	78	64	43
CZ 	78	78	64	43
DK 	57	56	44	23
DE 	75	66	54	40
EE 	82	83	76	23
IE 	71	69	58	38
EL 	74	81	65	56
ES 	65	69	52	33
FR 	78	62	78	44
HR 	81	82	72	53
IT 	72	66	51	44
CY 	86	88	79	59
LV 	69	71	63	32
LT 	79	76	73	54
LU 	63	68	62	43
HU 	69	61	59	29
MT 	70	85	62	49
NL 	61	59	50	33
AT 	70	66	56	45
PL 	67	55	46	24
PT 	57	65	50	38
RO 	63	62	57	50
SI 	67	70	52	43
SK 	87	81	76	47
FI 	84	85	79	33
SE 	77	76	71	35

Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

At the **socio-demographic level**, certain groups are more likely than others to perceive links between drug use and the crimes under consideration:

- Female respondents are slightly more likely to do so than males (73% versus 70% in the case of youth crime; 67% versus 65% in the case of stealing, theft or burglary; 60% versus 57% in the case of violent crime; and 42% versus 37% in the case of corruption).
- Highly educated respondents are more likely to do so than those with lower levels of education (73% of those who completed education at age 20 or older, associate drug taking with youth crime versus 66% of those who did so at age 15 or younger; 67% versus 62% for stealing theft or burglary; and 60% versus 52% for violent crime). Nonetheless, it is those with lower levels of education who are more likely perceive links between drug use and corruption (47% of those who completed education at age 15 or younger versus 35% of those who did so at age 20 or older).
- Respondents living in large towns or cities are more likely to do so than those in rural areas (75% versus 67% for youth crime; 69% versus 63% for stealing, theft or burglary; and 64% versus 54% for violent crime). At the same time, it is respondents living in small or medium sized towns, rather than those in larger towns or cities, who are the most likely to perceive links between drug use and corruption (41% versus 38% in both small/medium-sized towns and rural areas).
- Older respondents are more likely than younger ones to perceive links between drug taking and stealing, theft or burglary (for example, 71% of people aged 55 and over versus 52% of those aged 15-24).

**Q3** Is drug use the most important cause, one of the causes or not a cause at all of the following types of crime in your local area? (% 'Most important cause' + 'One of the causes', by socio-demographics)

	Youth crime	Stealing, theft and burglary	Violent crime and murder	Corruption and lack of trust in public officials and institutions
EU27	72	66	58	39
 <b>Gender</b>				
Men	70	65	57	37
Women	73	67	60	42
 <b>Age</b>				
15-24	73	52	60	42
25-39	71	60	60	37
40-54	72	70	57	35
55+	72	71	58	43
 <b>Education</b>				
Up to 15	66	62	52	47
16-19	72	68	56	43
20+	73	67	60	35
Still studying	74	53	61	44
 <b>Place of residence</b>				
Rural area or village	67	63	54	38
Small/medium-sized town	73	66	58	41
Large town/city	75	69	64	38

Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

Respondents who think that **drug taking is a problem in their local area** are consistently the most likely to think that there is a link between drug taking and different types of crime. For example, 84% of respondents who think that drug taking is a very serious problem in their local area regard drug use as a cause of youth crime; this figure drops to 49% for respondents who say that there are no problems at all with drugs in their local area.

**Q3** Is drug use the most important cause, one of the causes or not a cause at all of the following types of crime in your local area? (% 'Most important cause' + 'One of the causes', by perceived seriousness of drugs as an issue)

	Youth crime	Stealing, theft and burglary	Violent crime and murder	Corruption and lack of trust in public officials and institutions
EU27	72	66	58	39
<b>Perceived seriousness of drugs as an issue</b>				
A very serious problem	84	80	75	55
A somewhat serious problem	82	76	66	43
Not too serious a problem	63	55	47	28
Not a problem at all	49	45	38	28

Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

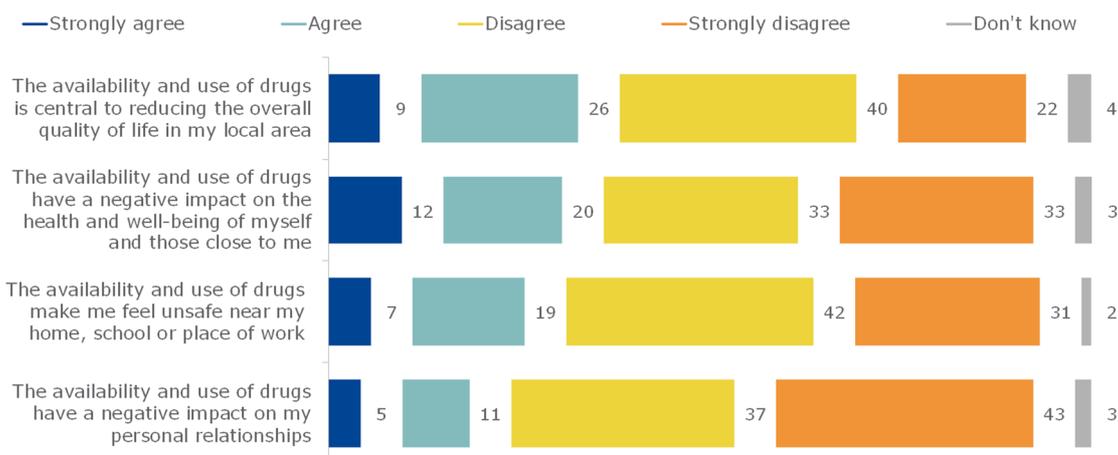
## Section 4. The impact of drugs on safety, health and well-being

Drug-related activities and drug-related violence can have a profound effect on general feelings of public safety in local communities, but it is not always easy to separate clearly in feelings of insecurity those that are linked primarily with crime and delinquency in general from those that are linked directly to drugs and drug-related activities.

This Flash Eurobarometer measures EU citizens' perception of drug-related problems and their feelings of safety caused by the availability and use of drugs. About a quarter (26%) of respondents agree that the availability and use of drugs make them **feel unsafe near their home, school or place of work**.

Around a third (35%) of respondents agree that the **availability and use of drugs is central to reducing the overall quality of life in their local area**. A similar proportion (32%) agree that it has a negative impact on their own health or that of those close to them. One in six respondents agree that the availability and use of drugs impacts negatively on their personal relationships.<sup>26</sup>

**Q6** For each of the following statements could you say if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree: (% - EU27)



Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

At the country level, the proportion agreeing that the availability and use of drugs **reduces the quality of life in their area** approaches half or more in Bulgaria (48%), Croatia (48%), Portugal (51%), Ireland (52%), Malta (52%) and Italy (58%). The proportion agreeing that the problem negatively impacts their **own well-being or that of those close to them** sits at a similar level in Cyprus (49%), Romania (49%), Greece (51%) and Spain (52%).

Agreement with the statement 'the availability and use of drugs makes me **feel unsafe...**' is particularly high in Bulgaria (43%), Romania (43%), Cyprus (51%) and Greece (52%), while agreement that the problem 'has a negative impact on my **personal relationships**' is highest in Portugal (34%), Greece (33%), Cyprus (31%) and Spain (28%).

<sup>26</sup> Due to rounding, the percentages shown in the charts do not always exactly add up to the totals mentioned in the text.

**Q6** For each of the following statements could you say if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree: (% 'Strongly agree' + 'Agree', by country)

		The availability and use of drugs is central to reducing the overall quality of life in my local area	The availability and use of drugs have a negative impact on the health and well-being of myself and those close to me	The availability and use of drugs make me feel unsafe near my home, school or place of work	The availability and use of drugs have a negative impact on my personal relationships
EU27		35	32	26	17
BE		34	28	31	15
BG		48	33	43	21
CZ		42	29	27	12
DK		33	20	14	13
DE		15	21	12	10
EE		21	18	38	10
IE		52	30	37	26
EL		46	51	52	33
ES		44	52	31	28
FR		41	31	27	16
HR		48	33	27	24
IT		58	44	36	19
CY		45	49	51	31
LV		26	17	30	7
LT		43	23	32	10
LU		39	36	34	25
HU		25	29	16	15
MT		52	41	39	25
NL		21	17	17	5
AT		25	29	21	16
PL		20	19	15	9
PT		51	43	36	34
RO		37	49	43	26
SI		29	34	18	15
SK		43	27	27	17
FI		25	19	30	16
SE		25	17	23	11

Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

Agreement with these statements about the negative impact of drugs on feelings of safety and personal well-being is consistently much higher among those who think **drug use and dealing is a problem in their area** than among those who do not. For example, 22% of respondents who say that drugs are not at all a problem in their local area agree that the availability and use of drugs negatively affects the quality of life in their area; this figure increases to 58% for respondents who think that drug taking is a very serious problem in their local area.

**Q6** For each of the following statements could you say if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree: (% 'Strongly agree' + 'Agree', by perceived seriousness of drugs as an issue)

	The availability and use of drugs is central to reducing the overall quality of life in my local area	The availability and use of drugs have a negative impact on the health and well-being of myself and those close to me	The availability and use of drugs make me feel unsafe near my home, school or place of work	The availability and use of drugs have a negative impact on my personal relationships
EU27	35	32	26	17
<b>Perceived seriousness of drugs as an issue</b>				
A very serious problem	58	53	45	32
A somewhat serious problem	46	43	32	25
Not too serious a problem	22	29	12	13
Not a problem at all	22	30	17	18

Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

In terms of **socio-demographics**, it is seen that agreement with *all* of the statements is higher among the least educated respondents than among those with higher levels of education. For example, 44% of those who completed education at age 15 or younger agree that the availability and use of drugs negatively affects the quality of life in their area, compared to 32% of those who completed education at age 20 or older.

Respondents living in towns or cities are more likely than those in rural locations to agree that the availability and use of drugs negatively affects the quality of life in their area (36% in large towns or cities and 37% in small and medium-sized towns, versus 30% in rural areas). They are also slightly more likely to agree that it negatively impacts their well-being or that of those close to them (33% and 34%, respectively, versus 29%), and makes them feel unsafe near their home, school or place of work (28% and 27%, respectively, versus 22%).

There are further differences by gender and age. Agreement with *all* of the statements is higher among female respondents aged 15 to 24 than among male respondents of the same age. For example, 31% of young women agree that the availability and use of drugs makes them feel unsafe near their home, school or place of work, compared to 21% of young men. It can also be seen, for example, that more respondents aged 15-24 than older age groups agree that drug use negatively impacts their personal relationships (24% of young men and 27% of young women agree with this

statement versus 15% of respondents aged 40-54) and their well-being or that of those close to them (46% of young women and 38% of young men, compared to 29% of those aged 55 and over).

**Q6** For each of the following statements could you say if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree: (% 'Strongly agree' + 'Agree', by socio-demographics)

		The availability and use of drugs is central to reducing the overall quality of life in my local area	The availability and use of drugs have a negative impact on the health and well-being of myself and those close to me	The availability and use of drugs make me feel unsafe near my home, school or place of work	The availability and use of drugs have a negative impact on my personal relationships
EU27		35	32	26	17
 <b>Age by Gender</b>					
	15-24 Male	33	38	21	24
	Female	39	46	31	27
25-39	Male	33	33	23	18
	Female	32	30	25	17
40-54	Male	34	33	26	15
	Female	35	32	27	15
55+	Male	36	29	25	14
	Female	37	29	28	15
 <b>Education</b>					
Up to 15		44	42	37	24
16-19		38	34	27	17
20+		32	28	24	14
Still studying		36	40	25	24
 <b>Place of residence</b>					
Rural area or village		30	29	22	16
Small/medium-sized town		37	34	27	17
Large town/city		36	33	28	18

Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

People who have **never taken cannabis** are ten percentage points more likely than those who have to say the availability and use of drugs negatively impacts the quality of life in their area (38% versus 28%) and makes them feel unsafe (29% versus 19%).

The table on the following page presents, **for each country**, the proportion of respondents who agree that the availability and use of drugs makes them feel unsafe near their home, school or place of work **by gender and age groups**. The EU average results show that 28% of females, compared to 24% of males, agree with this statement, while differences across age groups are somewhat smaller.

In some countries, differences in feelings of (un)safety are minor when comparing male and female respondents, but in other countries, larger differences are observed. For example, in Bulgaria, 47% of women agree that the availability and use of drugs makes them feel unsafe near their home, school or place of work, compared to 39% of men. Similarly, in Luxembourg, this applies to 39% of women, compared to 29% of men.

There are also differences across countries in the patterns observed by age groups. For example, in Lithuania, 40% of over 54 year-olds agree that the availability and use of drugs makes them feel unsafe near their home or place of work, while among 25-39 year-olds, this view is shared by only half as many respondents (19%). In Finland, on the other hand, respondents aged 40 to 54 are the most likely to feel unsafe with 38% agreeing with this statement, compared to 29% of over 54 year-olds, and 15% of 15-24 year-olds.

**Q6** For each of the following statements could you say if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree:

**The availability and use of drugs make me feel unsafe near my home, school or place of work** (% 'Strongly agree' + 'Agree', by country)

		Males	Females	15 - 24 year-olds	25-39 year-olds	40-54 year-olds	55+ year-olds
EU27		24	28	26	24	26	27
BE		29	33	34	34	30	28
BG		39	47	36	40	46	45
CZ		25	29	35	27	29	24
DK		13	14	13	18	14	11
DE		11	13	13	12	11	12
EE		38	38	45	43	37	33
IE		37	37	33	41	34	38
EL		50	53	55	55	52	49
ES		29	34	36	24	33	33
FR		27	27	26	22	31	27
HR		24	29	17	23	27	32
IT		35	38	39	36	30	40
CY		48	54	37	48	56	56
LV		23	36	22	30	34	30
LT		28	36	23	19	36	40
LU		29	39	29	28	37	38
HU		13	18	19	16	12	17
MT		37	42	47	37	43	35
NL		14	20	17	14	20	17
AT		21	21	20	19	23	22
PL		12	17	6	10	18	19
PT		37	35	40	36	34	35
RO		39	46	42	39	43	47
SI		16	19	19	12	17	21
SK		23	31	26	26	25	30
FI		25	35	15	33	38	29
SE		21	26	26	26	21	22

Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

A logistic regression was also performed to shed more light on the **socio-demographic profile of those agreeing that the availability and use of drugs make them feel unsafe near their home, school or place of work** (Q6).

As shown in the table and figure overleaf, the logistic regression model (run at the EU27 level) shows that respondents who have experience with cannabis use are less likely to feel unsafe near their home, school or place of work. Controlling for other characteristics, compared to someone who has never used cannabis, the probability of agreeing that the availability and use of drugs make them feel unsafe near their home, school or place of work goes down by 9.3 percentage points for someone who has used cannabis more than a year ago, by 17.2 percentage points for someone who has used drugs in the past year and by 14.6 percentage points for someone who has used cannabis in the past month.

In the logistic regression models presented in sections 1.1 and 1.3, level of education and place of residence were not identified as important predictors; this, however, is different in the current model. Controlling for other characteristics, the probability of agreeing that the availability and use of drugs make them feel unsafe near their home, school or place of work is highest in large towns and decreases by 2.4 percentage points for respondents in small and medium-sized towns and by 9.3 percentage points for respondents living in rural areas. Similarly, the probability of agreeing that the availability and use of drugs make them feel unsafe near their home, school or place of work is highest for respondents who completed education at age 15 or younger (14.3 percentage points higher than for respondents who completed education at age 20 or older), followed by respondents who completed education between ages 16 to 20 (3.1 percentage points higher, respectively).

Finally, the analysis shows that, controlling for other characteristics, younger males, and also elderly respondents (aged 65 and over), are the least likely to feel unsafe near their home, school or place of work. Differences between males and females tend to be small, except in the youngest age group. Controlling for other characteristics, the probability of agreeing that the availability and use of drugs make them feel unsafe near their home, school or place of work is 10.6 percentage points higher for females aged 15 to 24, compared to males aged 15 to 24 (base category).

**Table** Log odds, the net percentages and net difference of agreeing that **the availability and use of drugs make them feel unsafe near their home, school or place of work** (Q6) by socio-demographic groups (EU27)

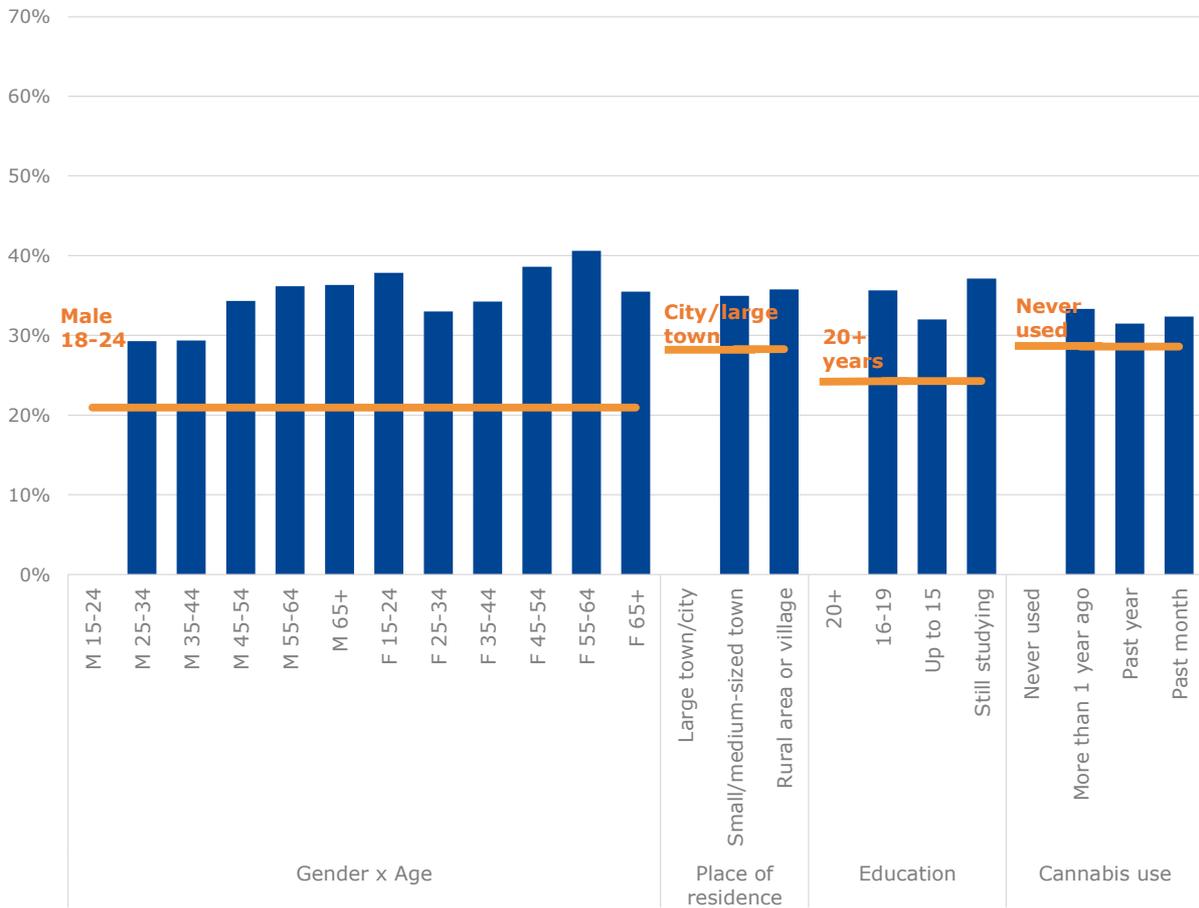
	Log odds of regarding drug use or dealing as a serious problem	(NET percentages)	NET difference (in percentage points) compared to base category
<b>Gender x Age</b>			
M 15-24	(base)	27.4%	
M 25-34	1.107	29.5%	2.1
M 35-44	1.243*	32.0%	<b>4.5</b>
M 45-54	1.336***	33.6%	<b>6.1</b>
M 55-64	1.288**	32.7%	<b>5.3</b>
M 65+	0.968	26.8%	-0.6
F 15-24	1.623***	38.0%	<b>10.6</b>
F 25-34	1.226*	31.7%	<b>4.2</b>
F 35-44	1.204*	31.3%	<b>3.8</b>
F 45-54	1.367***	34.1%	<b>6.6</b>
F 55-64	1.441***	35.3%	<b>7.8</b>
F 65+	1.085	29.1%	1.7
<b>Place of residence</b>			
Large town/city	(base)	33.6%	
Small/medium-sized town	0.896***	31.2%	<b>-2.4</b>
Rural area or village	0.635***	24.3%	<b>-9.3</b>
<b>Education</b>			
20+	(base)	36.3%	
16-19	1.140***	39.4%	<b>3.1</b>
Up to 15	1.795***	50.6%	<b>14.3</b>
Still studying	1.041	37.2%	0.9
<b>Cannabis use</b>			
Never used	(base)	36.9%	
Used more than 12 months ago	0.652***	27.6%	<b>-9.3</b>
Used in the past 12 months	0.418***	19.6%	<b>-17.2</b>
Used in the past month	0.490***	22.2%	<b>-14.6</b>

Note: \* p<0.05; \*\* p<0.01; \*\*\* p<0.001

**Model evaluation (LR test)**

Chi <sup>2</sup>	(df)	p
580.731	19	0.000

**Plot** Agreeing that the availability and use of drugs make them feel unsafe near their home, school or place of work, **NET percentages showing the NET difference in percentage points compared to a base category** within each socio-demographic characteristic after controlling for the effects of the other variables in the model (EU27)

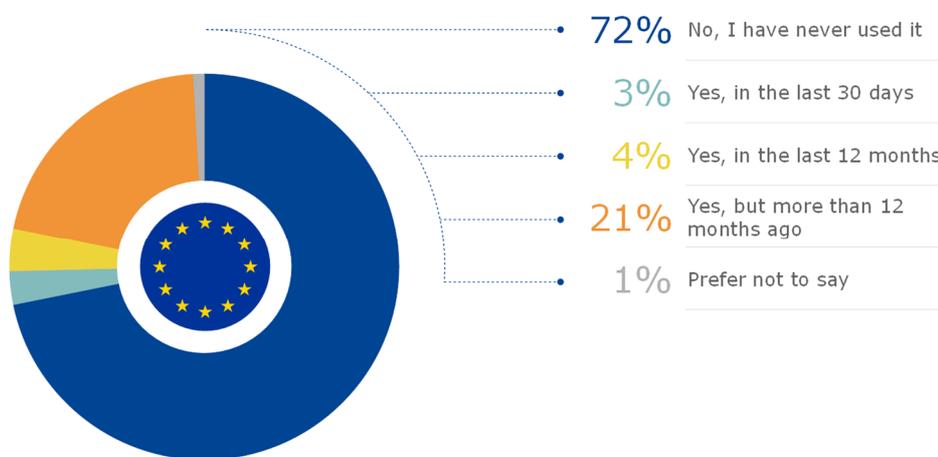


## Section 5. Use of cannabis and health effects

### 5.1. Cannabis use

**Almost three-quarters (72%) of respondents say they have never used cannabis.** About one in five (21%) say they have used the drug but more than a year ago, while 3% say they have used it in the last 30 days and 4% in the last 12 months.

**Q10** Have you ever used cannabis yourself? (% - EU27)



Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

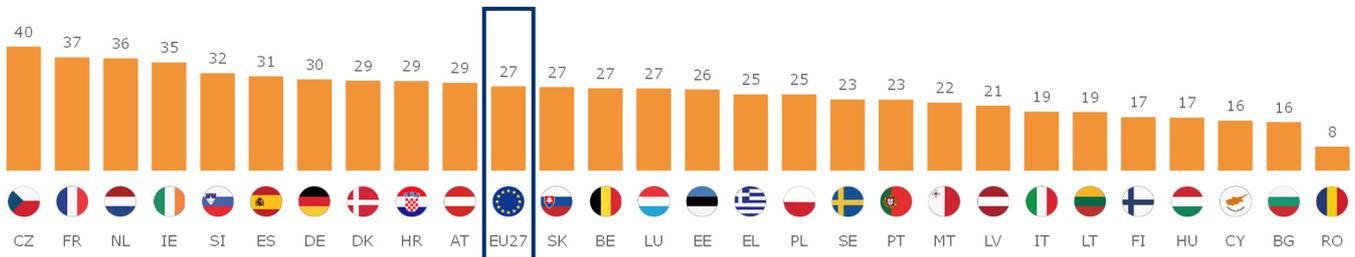
**Cannabis use** (having used cannabis in the past 30 days, in the past 12 months or more than 12 months ago)

Across the EU, 27% of respondents say they have used cannabis. This figure is the sum of the response options for having used cannabis in the past 30 days, in the past 12 months and more than 12 months ago. At the Member State level, the proportion of respondents who have 'ever' used cannabis peaks at 40% in Czechia and is also relatively high in France (37%), the Netherlands (36%) and Ireland (35%). In contrast, the figure is comparatively low in Hungary (17%), Finland (17%), Bulgaria (16%), Cyprus (16%) and Romania (8%).

The prevalence figures for cannabis use observed in this Flash Eurobarometer are broadly in line with EMCDDA's latest analysis of cannabis use in Europe.<sup>27</sup> For example, based on data from 26 countries that undertook a survey between 2015 and 2020, last year cannabis use among EU inhabitants aged 15-64 was estimated at 27%, ranging from 4% in Malta, 6% in Hungary and Romania and 8% in Bulgaria to 38% in Spain and Denmark and 45% in France.

<sup>27</sup> European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (2021), European Drug Report 2021: Trends and Developments, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg.

**Q10** Have you **ever** used cannabis yourself? (% having used cannabis in the past 30 days, in the past 12 months or more than 12 months ago, by country)



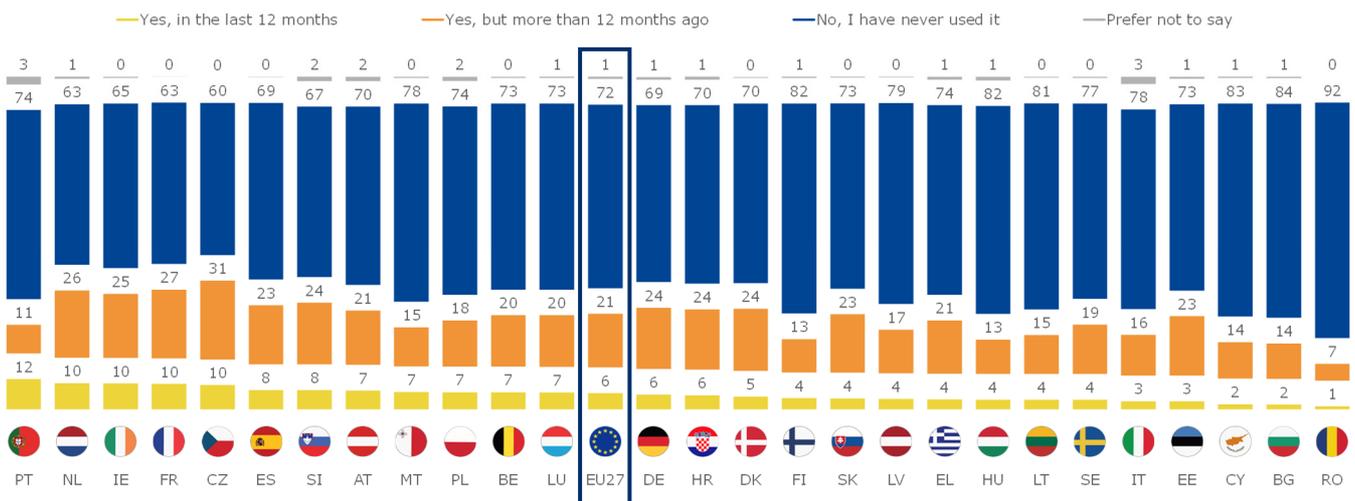
Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

**Recent use of cannabis** (having used cannabis in the last 12 months<sup>28</sup>)

Across the EU27, 6% of respondents have used cannabis in the past year (*note*: this is the sum of respondents who have used cannabis in the past month and those who have used cannabis in the past year).<sup>29</sup>

The proportion of respondents who have recently used cannabis ranges from 1% in Romania to 12% in Portugal. Recent use of cannabis is also reported by 10% of respondents in Czechia, France, Ireland and the Netherlands. It should be noted that fieldwork for this Flash Eurobarometer took place in June-July 2021 when the COVID-19 pandemic was still ongoing. The observations on reported recent (last year) cannabis use may be untypical as they reflect behaviour during the COVID period.

**Q10** Have you ever used cannabis yourself? (% by country)



Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

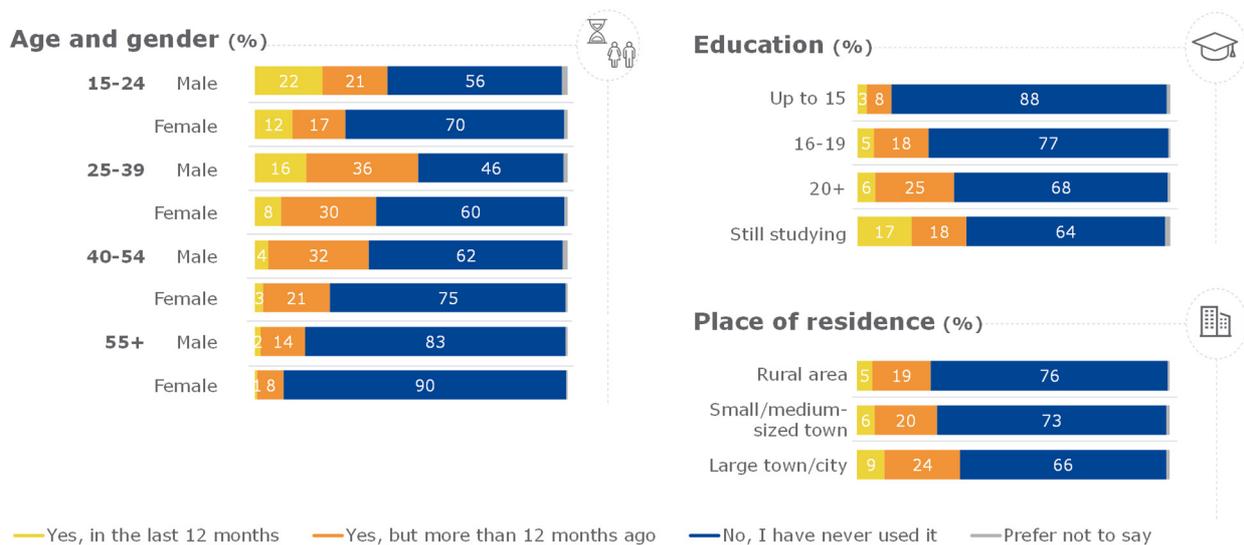
<sup>28</sup> In this analysis, 'last 12 months' includes having used cannabis 'in the last 30 days'.

<sup>29</sup> Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures.

At the **socio-demographic level**, more males than females say they have **ever used cannabis** (34% versus 21%) and more younger than older respondents say they have done so (36% of those aged 15 to 24 and 46% of those aged 25 to 39 versus 30% of respondents aged 40 to 54 and 12% of those aged 55 and over).

**Recent (last year) use of cannabis**<sup>30</sup> is reported by 6% of respondents and is higher among males (9%) than females (4%). Those aged 15 to 24 are most likely to report recent cannabis use (17%).<sup>31</sup> There are also notable differences according to gender in the prevalence of recent cannabis use among those aged 15 to 24 and aged 25 to 34, with a higher proportion of males reporting recent use compared with females (22% versus 12% for 15-24 year-olds and 16% versus 8% for 25-34 year-olds).

**Q10** Have you ever used cannabis yourself? (% by socio-demographics)



*Note: In this chart, 'last 12 months' includes having used cannabis 'in the last 30 days'*  
Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

There is also variation by education: The most highly educated respondents and those who are still studying are more likely to have used cannabis than those with lower levels of education (31% of those who completed education at age 20 or over and 35% of those who are still studying compared to 23% of those who completed education at age 16 to 19 and 11% of those who did so at age 15 or younger).

At the same time, slightly more respondents living in larger towns and cities than in other types of areas have ever used cannabis (33% versus 26% in small- or medium-sized towns and 24% in rural areas). Prevalence of recent cannabis use is also highest in large towns and cities (9% versus 6% in small- or medium-sized towns and 5% in rural areas).

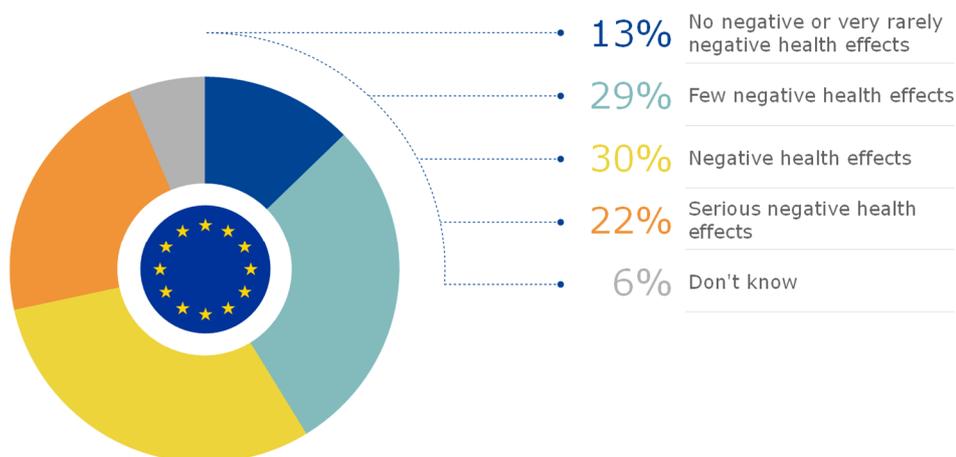
<sup>30</sup> In this analysis, 'in last 12 months' includes having used cannabis 'in the last 30 days'.

<sup>31</sup> EMCDDA's latest analysis of cannabis use in Europe shows that 19% (9.1 million) of 15-24 year-olds have used cannabis in the last year and 10% (4.9 million) in the last month. Source: European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (2021), European Drug Report 2021: Trends and Developments, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg.

## 5.2. Perception of health impact

**There is a divergence of views on the negative health effects of cannabis:** just over half (53%) think it causes negative health effects – including 22% who think it causes *serious* negative effects. Meanwhile, 29% think it causes few negative health effects and a further 13% think it causes no such effects or causes such effects only rarely. Six per cent are unsure.<sup>32</sup>

**Q8** To what extent do you think cannabis causes health problems? (% - EU27)



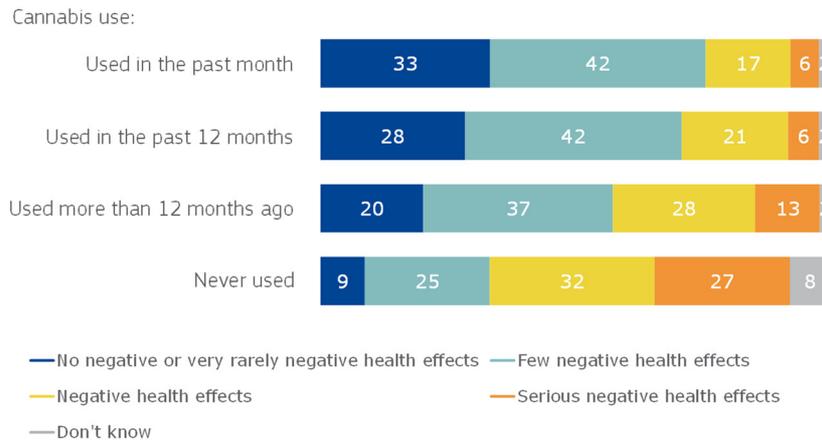
Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

Among respondents who have used cannabis in the past month, 42% think cannabis causes few negative health effects and a further 33% think it causes no such effects or causes such effects only rarely. A similar picture emerges for respondents who have used cannabis in the past 12 months: 42% think cannabis causes few negative health effects and 28% that it causes no such effects or causes such effects only rarely.

In sharp contrast, among respondents who have never used cannabis, 59% perceive cannabis use to be associated with negative health effects – including 27% who think it causes *serious* negative effects. Among respondents who had used cannabis more than 12 months ago, 41% think there are negative health effects from using cannabis, compared to 37% who think it causes few negative health effects and 20% who think it causes no such effects or causes such effects only rarely.

<sup>32</sup> Due to rounding, the percentages shown in the charts do not always exactly add up to the totals mentioned in the text.

**Q8** To what extent do you think cannabis causes health problems? (% by cannabis use)

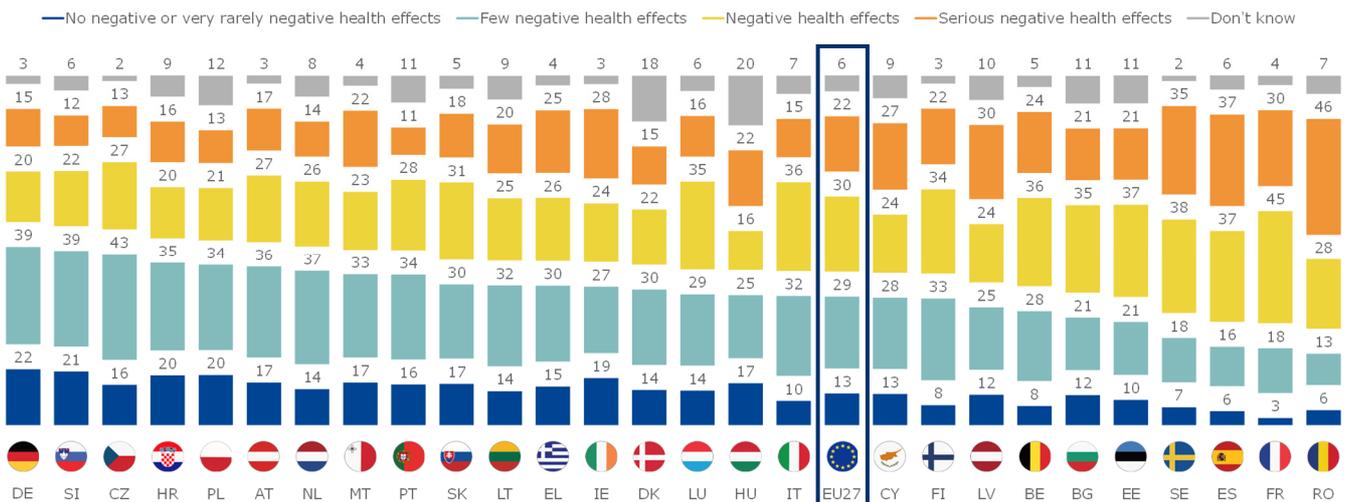


Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

In 12 **Member States**, a majority of respondents think cannabis causes negative or serious negative health effects, with the figure rising to around three-quarters in Sweden (73%), Spain (73%), Romania (74%) and France (76%). In these four countries, between around a third and half of respondents think the negative health effects of cannabis are *serious* (35%, 37%, 46% and 30%, respectively).

In nine other Member States, by contrast, at least half of respondents think there are few or no negative health effects associated with cannabis use. The figure is highest in Germany (62%), Slovenia (60%) and Czechia (59%).

**Q8** To what extent do you think cannabis causes health problems? (% by country)



Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

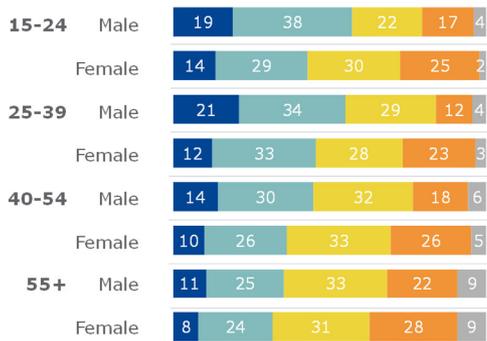
In terms of **socio-demographic differences**, it can be seen that young men are less likely than young women to think that cannabis causes negative or serious negative health effects (for example, 39% of young men aged 15-24 share this view versus 55% of young women in this age group). Moreover, the older the respondents are, the more likely they are to think that cannabis causes negative or serious negative health effects (for example, 39% of young men aged 15 to 24 share this view versus 55% of men aged 54 and over).

The perception that cannabis causes negative or serious negative health effects is also higher among:

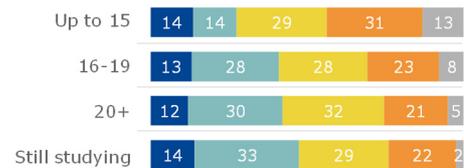
- those with the lowest level of education compared to more educated groups (59% of those who completed education at age 15 or younger versus, for example, 53% of those who did so at age 20 or older)
- those living in rural areas compared to those in more urban areas (56% versus 49% in large towns and cities)

**Q8** To what extent do you think cannabis causes health problems? (% by socio-demographics)

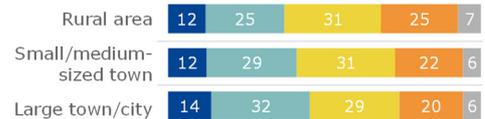
**Age and gender (%)**



**Education (%)**



**Place of residence (%)**

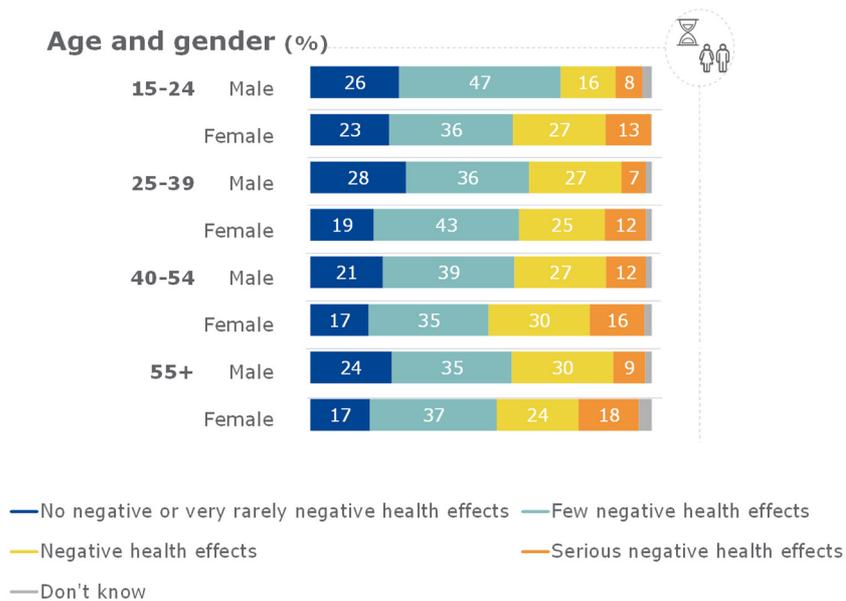


- No negative or very rarely negative health effects
- Few negative health effects
- Negative health effects
- Serious negative health effects
- Don't know

Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

The figure below focusses solely on **respondents who have 'ever' used cannabis**.<sup>33</sup> It can be seen, for example, that among young men, aged 15 to 24, 26% think cannabis causes few negative health effects and a further 47% think it causes no such effects or causes such effects only rarely; among women in the same age group, the corresponding figure are lower (23% and 36%, respectively).

**Q8** To what extent do you think cannabis causes health problems? (% by age and gender)  
**Base: respondents who have used cannabis in the past 30 days, in the past 12 months or more than 12 months ago**



Base: respondents who have used cannabis (n=6 913)

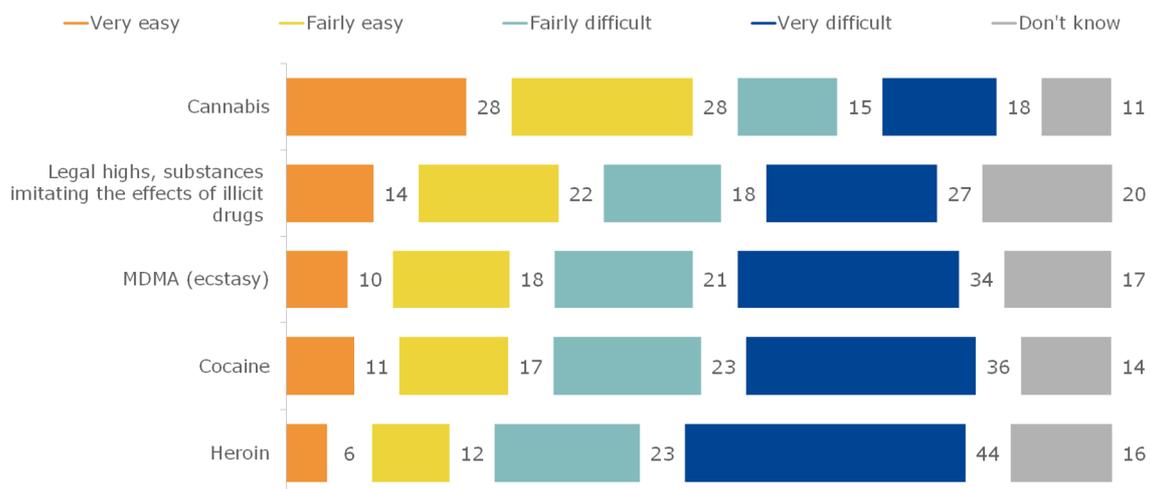
<sup>33</sup> i.e. those having used cannabis in the past 30 days, in the past 12 months or more than 12 months ago

## Section 6. The availability of drugs

### 6.1. Perceived ease with which drugs can be obtained

Views are mixed on the ease with which different types of drugs can be obtained for personal use. On the one hand, **a majority of respondents (56%) think it would be easy to obtain cannabis** if they wanted some, with 28% saying it would be *very easy*. On the other hand, around **a third of respondents (35%) think it would be easy to obtain 'legal highs'** (substances imitating the effects of illicit drugs), with 45% saying this would be difficult and a further 20% saying they are unsure. Smaller proportions think it would be easy to obtain MDMA (28%), cocaine (27%) or heroin (18%).<sup>34</sup>

**Q11** How difficult or easy do you think it would be for you personally to obtain the following substances within 24 hours if you wanted some? (% - EU27)



Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

The proportion of respondents who think it would be easy to obtain cannabis rises to 63% in Spain, 64% in Belgium, 66% in Denmark, 74% in France and 76% in the Netherlands. In contrast, the figure is comparatively low in Latvia (28%), Romania (29%) and Lithuania (30%). Across all but one of the Member States, respondents are most likely to think it would be easy to obtain **cannabis**; in Romania, the proportion saying this for 'legal highs' is the same as for cannabis.

The proportion who think it would be easy to obtain **'legal highs'** is highest in Sweden (47%), Germany (41%), Greece and Portugal (40% in both cases); while the proportion who think it would be easy to obtain **MDMA** is highest in the Netherlands (46%), France (40%), Denmark (37%), Ireland (37%) and Belgium (36%).

<sup>34</sup> Due to rounding, the percentages shown in the charts do not always exactly add up to the totals mentioned in the text.

**Q11** How difficult or easy do you think it would be for you personally to obtain the following substances within 24 hours if you wanted some? (% 'Very easy' + 'Fairly easy', by country)

		Cannabis	Legal highs	MDMA	Cocaine	Heroin
EU27		56	35	28	27	18
BE		64	33	36	34	22
BG		45	32	27	24	19
CZ		61	11	23	16	9
DK		66	35	37	40	26
DE		51	41	21	16	12
EE		35	8	14	10	7
IE		62	38	37	43	28
EL		59	40	25	27	25
ES		63	30	30	41	25
FR		74	34	40	42	24
HR		47	27	25	20	14
IT		52	39	26	31	24
CY		51	35	30	32	23
LV		28	25	15	9	6
LT		30	17	16	12	11
LU		59	38	28	30	22
HU		37	28	28	15	9
MT		43	21	24	24	18
NL		76	37	46	42	22
AT		55	33	22	19	13
PL		46	39	19	14	10
PT		52	40	26	24	20
RO		29	29	20	17	13
SI		50	26	23	20	15
SK		49	35	23	13	11
FI		52	20	24	20	12
SE		58	47	33	35	21

Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

In five Member States, about two in five respondents think it would be easy to obtain **cocaine**: Denmark (40%), Spain (41%), France (42%), the Netherlands (42%) and Ireland (43%). In three of these countries, roughly a quarter of respondents also think it would be easy to obtain **heroin**: Ireland (28%), Denmark (26%), Spain (25%). The same result emerges in Greece (25%).

The results for all types of drugs combined show that, in some countries, respondents are consistently **more likely** to believe obtaining drugs would be easy; this is the case, for example, in Ireland. In this country, 62% of respondents say it would be easy to obtain cannabis, 43% say the same about cocaine, 38% about 'legal highs', 37% about MDMA and 28% about heroin. In other countries, such as Estonia, respondents are consistently **less likely** to believe obtaining drugs would be easy. In Estonia, 35% of respondents think it would be easy to obtain cannabis, followed by 14% who say they can obtain MDMA, 10% say the same about cocaine, 8% about 'legal highs' and 7% about heroin. There are, however, also countries that present a more mixed picture. For example, in Czechia, respondents are among the most likely to say that it would be easy for them to obtain cannabis (61%), but they are consistently less likely to say the same about the other types of drugs (23% for MDMA, 16% for cocaine, 11% for 'legal highs' and 9% for heroin).

Respondents who have **used cannabis** are generally more likely than other respondents to believe obtaining drugs would be easy. While 87% respondents who have used cannabis in the past month and 79% of those who have used cannabis in the past year, say cannabis would be easy to obtain, this figure drops to 49% for those who have never used cannabis. For the remaining drugs, it is especially those who have used cannabis in the past month who are more likely to believe obtaining the drug would be easy (for example, 51% say so about obtaining cocaine, compared to 33% of those who have used cannabis in the past 12 months or more than 12 months ago and 25% of those who have never used cannabis).

**Q11** How difficult or easy do you think it would be for you personally to obtain the following substances within 24 hours if you wanted some? (% 'Very easy' + 'Fairly easy', by cannabis use)

	Cannabis	Legal highs	MDMA	Cocaine	Heroin
EU27	56	35	28	27	18
<b>Cannabis use</b>					
Used in the past month	87	51	50	51	24
Used in the past 12 months	79	38	35	33	13
Used more than 12 months ago	72	39	31	33	18
Never used	49	33	26	25	19

Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

The **socio-demographic** tables show that respondents living in large towns and cities are consistently somewhat more likely than those in other areas to believe obtaining different types of drugs would be easy – for example, 60% of them think obtaining cannabis would be easy compared to 53% of those in rural areas.

There are also differences by gender, age and education:

- Slightly more males than females think it would be easy to obtain cannabis (60% versus 53%), ‘legal highs’ (37% versus 34%) and cocaine (29% versus 26%).
- More younger than older respondents think it would be easy to obtain cannabis (for example, 70% of 15 to 24 year-olds versus 44% of those aged 55 and over) and ‘legal highs’ (43% versus 29%, respectively).
- The most educated respondents and those still studying are similarly more likely than other groups to think that obtaining cannabis and ‘legal highs’ would be easy (70% of those still studying think it would be easy to obtain cannabis and 59% of those who completed education at age 20 or older compared to 38% of those who completed education at age 15 or younger).

**Q11** How difficult or easy do you think it would be for you personally to obtain the following substances within 24 hours if you wanted some? (% ‘Very easy’ + ‘Fairly easy’, by socio-demographics)

	Cannabis	Legal highs	MDMA	Cocaine	Heroin
EU27	56	35	28	27	18
 <b>Gender</b>					
Men	60	37	29	29	19
Women	53	34	27	26	18
 <b>Age</b>					
15-24	70	43	31	30	17
25-39	66	40	31	32	18
40-54	58	37	30	29	21
55+	44	29	24	23	17
 <b>Education</b>					
Up to 15	38	23	20	20	16
16-19	52	32	27	27	20
20+	59	37	29	28	18
Still studying	70	45	29	30	16
 <b>Place of residence</b>					
Rural area or village	53	33	26	26	17
Small/medium-sized town	55	34	27	26	17
Large town/city	60	39	31	31	21

Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

Alongside these differences, respondents who think that **drug use or dealing is a problem in their area** are consistently more likely than those who do not to believe obtaining drugs would be easy. Indeed, they are around two times more likely to think it would be easy to obtain cocaine (30% versus 17%), MDMA (31% versus 18%) and heroin (21% versus 10%).

Finally, **among respondents who have ‘ever’ used cannabis**,<sup>35</sup> certain groups are more likely to believe obtaining different types of drugs would be easy. For example, more younger cannabis users than older ones think it would be easy to obtain cannabis (83% of 15 to 24 year-olds versus 65% of those aged 55 and over), ‘legal highs’ (47% versus 36%, respectively), MDMA (41% versus 27%, respectively) and cocaine (35% versus 28%, respectively).

**Q11** How difficult or easy do you think it would be for you personally to obtain the following substances within 24 hours if you wanted some? (% ‘Very easy’ + ‘Fairly easy’, by socio-demographics)

**Base: respondents who have used cannabis in the past 30 days, in the past 12 months or more than 12 months ago**

	Cannabis	Legal highs	MDMA	Cocaine	Heroin
EU27	75	40	33	35	18
 <b>Gender</b>					
Men	76	41	35	37	20
Women	73	38	30	31	15
 <b>Age</b>					
15-24	83	47	41	35	15
25-39	78	39	34	37	17
40-54	72	39	31	35	20
55+	65	36	27	28	17
 <b>Education</b>					
Up to 15	71	34	40	37	25
16-19	73	39	32	34	21
20+	74	39	33	35	17
Still studying	83	49	37	35	12
 <b>Place of residence</b>					
Rural area or village	74	37	29	33	15
Small/medium-sized town	73	39	32	33	18
Large town/city	77	42	38	38	20

Base: respondents who have used cannabis (n=6 913)

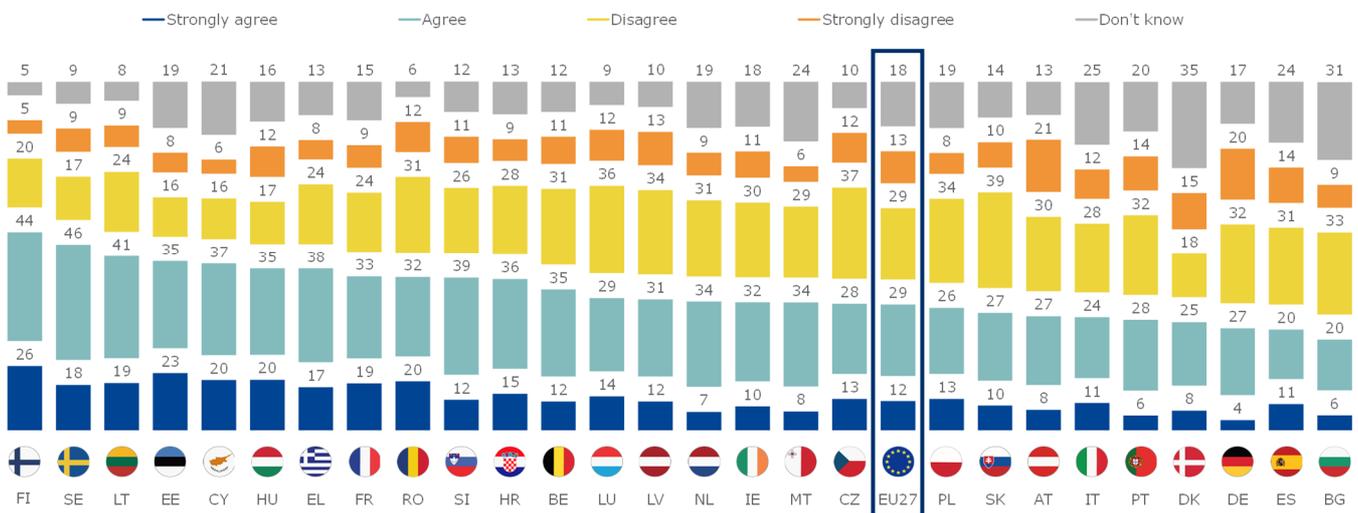
<sup>35</sup> i.e. those having used cannabis in the past 30 days, in the past 12 months or more than 12 months ago

## 6.2. Perceived impact of the online sale of drugs

**Two in five respondents across the EU agree that the online sale of drugs is increasing drug problems in their local area.** A similar proportion (42%) disagree and 18% are unsure.<sup>36</sup>

The proportion agreeing that the online sale of drugs is increasing drug problems in their local area rises to a majority in 11 Member States: Croatia (51%), Romania (51%), Slovenia (51%), France (52%), Greece (55%), Hungary (55%), Cyprus (57%), Estonia (58%), Lithuania (60%), Sweden (65%) and Finland (70%). The figure is lower in other Member States, especially, Bulgaria (26%), Spain (30%) and Germany (31%).

**Q7** These days drugs are sometimes sold online and shipped via postal services. Do you think that online sales of drugs are increasing drug problems in your local area? (% by country)



Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

<sup>36</sup> Due to rounding, the percentages shown in the charts do not always exactly add up to the totals mentioned in the text.

In terms of **socio-demographic differences**, agreement that the online sale of drugs is increasing drug problems locally is somewhat higher among:

- females than males (43% versus 38%)
- respondents aged 55 and over than among younger groups (43% versus, for example, 39% of people aged 15 to 24)
- those with the highest level of education and those still studying compared to other educational groupings (42% in both cases versus, for example, 34% of those who completed education at age 15 or younger).

There are no significant differences observed by place of residence; across urban and rural areas, four in ten respondents (40%-41%) agree that the online sale of drugs is increasing drug problems in their local area.

Alongside these socio-demographic differences, **those who consider drug use and dealing a problem** in their area are more likely than those who do not to agree that online sale of drugs is increasing drug problems in their local area (44% versus 27%). A difference in agreement is also observed between respondents who have **never taken cannabis** compared to those who have (43% versus 35%).

**Q7** These days drugs are sometimes sold online and shipped via postal services. Do you think that online sales of drugs are increasing drug problems in your local area? (% by socio-demographics)



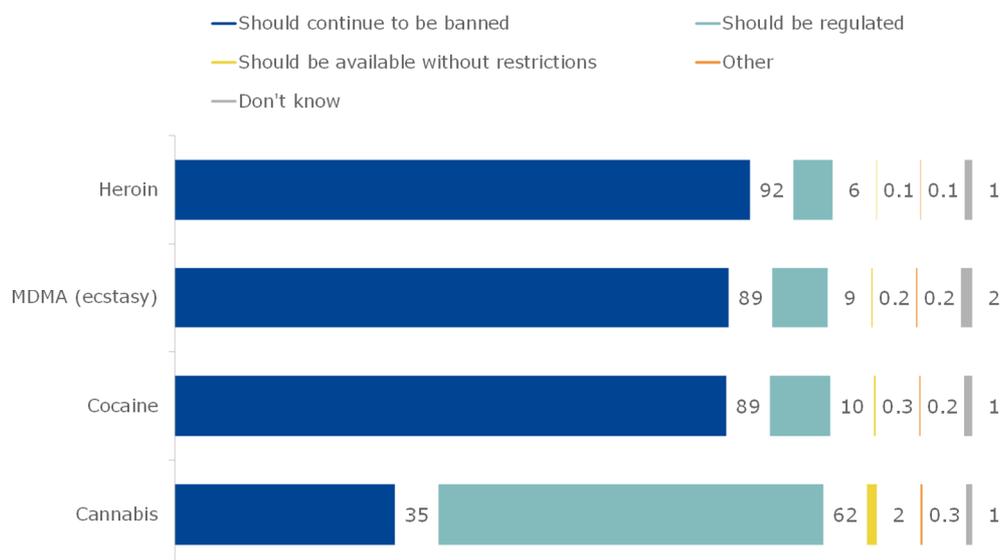
Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

## Section 7. Support for the banning and regulation of drugs

### 7.1. Banning or regulating illicit drugs

A large majority of respondents support the current EU-wide ban on the sale of heroin (92%), MDMA (89%) and cocaine (89%). Around a third of respondents (35%) support the ban on the sale of cannabis, while 62% favour the regulation of this substance instead. Very few respondents believe that any of the drugs should be available without restriction.

**Q12** The sale of drugs such as cannabis and cocaine are officially banned in all EU Member States. Do you think the following substances should continue to be banned or should they be regulated? (% - EU27)



Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

The **individual country results** show that there is widespread support across the EU to continue the current EU-wide ban on the sale of heroin, MDMA and cocaine:

- The proportion saying that **heroin** should continue to be banned ranges from 85% in Ireland to 96% in Finland, Slovakia and Sweden.
- Between 71% of respondents in the Netherlands and 94% in Finland answer that the sale of **MDMA** should continue to be banned in all EU Member States.
- Support for continuing the EU-wide ban on the sale of **cocaine** varies between 77% in Ireland and 94% in Slovakia.

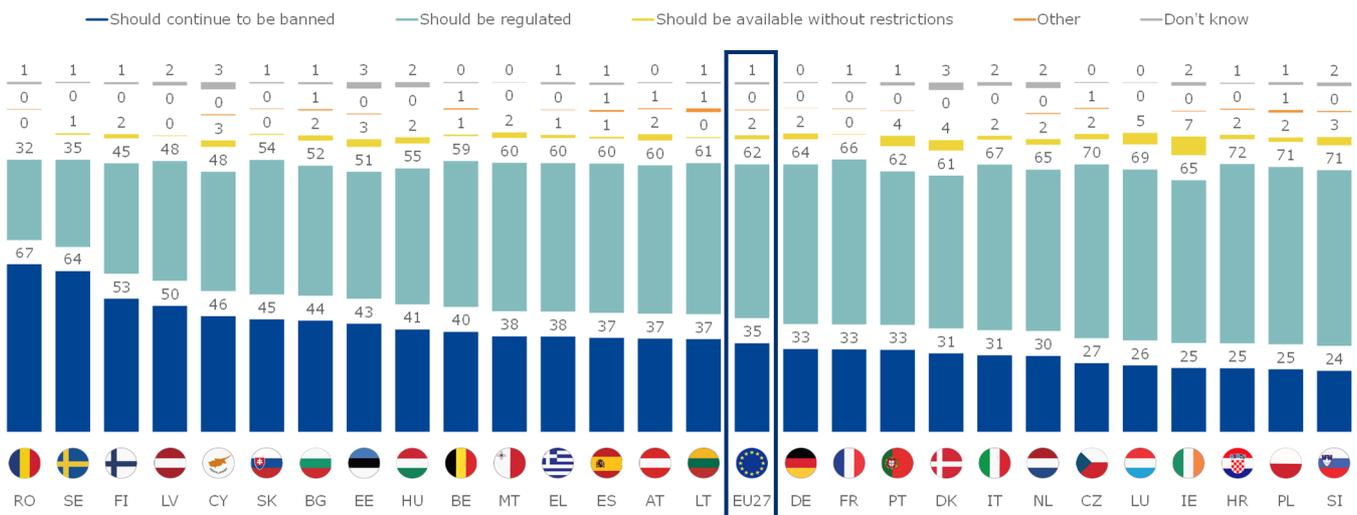
**Q12** The sale of drugs such as cannabis and cocaine are officially banned in all EU Member States. Do you think the following substances should continue to be banned or should they be regulated? (% by country)

	Heroin		MDMA		Cocaine		Cannabis	
	Ban	Regulate	Ban	Regulate	Ban	Regulate	Ban	Regulate
EU27 	92	6	89	9	89	10	35	62
BE 	92	8	90	10	88	12	40	59
BG 	92	6	90	7	89	9	44	52
CZ 	95	4	90	10	92	7	27	70
DK 	90	7	89	7	89	7	31	61
DE 	94	6	91	8	90	9	33	64
EE 	93	3	91	5	91	6	43	51
IE 	85	13	78	19	77	20	25	65
EL 	95	5	91	7	89	10	38	60
ES 	90	8	88	10	86	12	37	60
FR 	94	6	90	8	90	9	33	66
HR 	94	4	91	7	90	9	25	72
IT 	92	7	92	7	89	9	31	67
CY 	94	3	92	5	90	6	46	48
LV 	93	5	90	7	88	9	50	48
LT 	95	3	92	5	92	6	37	61
LU 	89	9	85	11	84	13	26	69
HU 	95	3	91	6	89	8	41	55
MT 	86	11	85	12	80	18	38	60
NL 	88	8	71	23	80	17	30	65
AT 	92	7	87	11	89	10	37	60
PL 	90	7	86	11	85	11	25	71
PT 	89	7	86	10	86	12	33	62
RO 	95	4	92	7	93	6	67	32
SI 	86	10	83	13	84	13	24	71
SK 	96	3	93	5	94	4	45	54
FI 	96	3	94	5	93	6	53	45
SE 	96	4	91	8	93	6	64	35

Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

In 22 Member States, a majority support the **regulation of cannabis**, with the figure rising to at least 70% in Czechia (70%), Poland (71%), Slovenia (71%) and Croatia (72%). In four other Members States, by contrast, half of respondents or more think that the sale of cannabis should continue to be **banned**: Latvia (50%), Finland (53%), Sweden (64%) and Romania (67%).

**Q12** The sale of drugs such as cannabis and cocaine are officially banned in all EU Member States. Do you think the following substances should continue to be banned or should they be regulated?  
**Cannabis** (% by country)



Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

At the **socio-demographic level**, support for the regulation of cannabis falls short of a majority only among respondents with the lowest level of education (46%). It is also somewhat lower among people aged 55 and over (55%) and those living in rural areas (57%). Support for the regulation of cannabis is higher among males (65%), younger respondents (67% for 15-24 year-olds and 69% of 25-39 year-olds), the highest educated respondents (66%) and those living in urban areas (66%).

For the other drugs, subgroup differences are more limited in scale: Female respondents are a little more likely than males to favour the ban on the sale of these drugs (90% versus 87% for cocaine; 90% versus 88% for MDMA; and 93% versus 91% for heroin). Younger respondents are a little more likely to support the regulation of MDMA (13% of those aged 15 to 24, versus 7% of people aged 55 or over).

**Q12** The sale of drugs such as cannabis and cocaine are officially banned in all EU Member States. Do you think the following substances should continue to be banned or should they be regulated? (% by socio-demographics)

	Heroin		MDMA		Cocaine		Cannabis	
	Ban	Regulate	Ban	Regulate	Ban	Regulate	Ban	Regulate
EU27	92	6	89	9	89	10	35	62
 <b>Gender</b>								
Men	91	7	88	10	87	11	32	65
Women	93	5	90	8	90	8	38	59
 <b>Age</b>								
15-24	92	7	85	13	87	11	29	67
25-39	92	6	88	11	88	10	28	69
40-54	93	6	91	8	90	9	35	63
55+	92	6	90	7	88	10	42	55
 <b>Education</b>								
Up to 15	91	6	88	8	89	9	50	46
16-19	93	6	90	7	89	9	40	58
20+	92	6	89	9	89	10	32	66
Still studying	92	7	86	13	87	12	29	69
 <b>Place of residence</b>								
Rural area or village	92	6	90	7	89	9	40	57
Small/medium-sized town	93	6	90	8	89	9	35	62
Large town/city	92	7	87	11	87	11	31	66

Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

Respondents who think that **drug use and dealing is a problem in their area** are consistently more in favour of a ban on the sale of drugs than those who do not; the largest such difference is observed for cannabis. For example, 92% of respondents who describe drug use as a very serious problem in their local area support the EU-wide ban on the sale of cocaine, compared to 84% of respondents who think drugs are not a problem at all in their area. By comparison, the difference in support for the ban of cannabis between these two groups is 48% versus 34%, respectively.

**Q12** The sale of drugs such as cannabis and cocaine are officially banned in all EU Member States. Do you think the following substances should continue to be banned or should they be regulated? (% by perceived seriousness of drugs as an issue)

	Heroin		MDMA		Cocaine		Cannabis	
	Ban	Regulate	Ban	Regulate	Ban	Regulate	Ban	Regulate
EU27	92	6	89	9	89	10	35	62
<b>Perceived seriousness of drugs as an issue</b>								
A very serious problem	95	4	93	5	92	7	48	50
A somewhat serious problem	93	6	91	7	91	9	34	64
Not too serious a problem	91	7	86	12	86	12	26	71
Not a problem at all	90	8	84	13	84	13	34	62

Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

Respondents who have **never used cannabis** are generally more likely to support the current EU-wide ban on the sale of heroin, MDMA, cocaine and cannabis. The results for cannabis show that among respondents who have used cannabis in the past month those who have used cannabis in the past year, about nine in ten support regulation of cannabis (92% and 87%, respectively), while respondents who have never taken cannabis are divided in their opinion with 54% supporting regulating and 44% being in favour of a continued ban on cannabis.

**Q12** The sale of drugs such as cannabis and cocaine are officially banned in all EU Member States. Do you think the following substances should continue to be banned or should they be regulated? (% by cannabis use)

	Heroin		MDMA		Cocaine		Cannabis	
	Ban	Regulate	Ban	Regulate	Ban	Regulate	Ban	Regulate
EU27	92	6	89	9	89	10	35	62
<b>Cannabis use</b>								
Used in the past month	87	13	69	29	72	27	4	92
Used in the past 12 months	88	10	74	22	78	19	8	87
Used more than 12 months ago	92	7	87	11	87	11	16	80
Never used	93	6	91	7	90	8	44	54

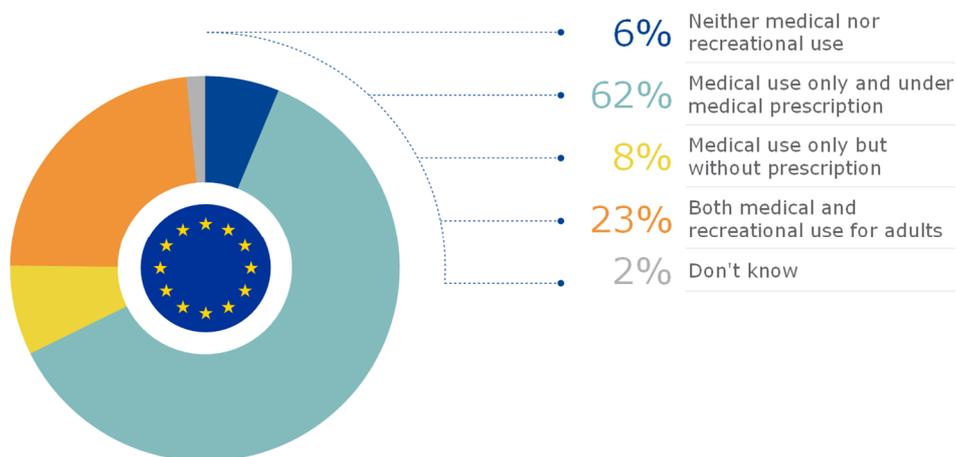
Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

## 7.2. Attitudes towards permitting cannabis use

There has been much debate around the liberalisation of cannabis laws, and many EU Member States now allow, or are considering allowing, the medical use of cannabis or cannabinoids in some form.<sup>37</sup> The approach followed, however, varies widely between countries, both in terms of the products permitted and the regulatory frameworks governing their provision.<sup>38</sup>

Despite respondents' mixed views on the health impacts of cannabis (see section 5.2), **seven in ten think the drug should be available for medical use.** This includes 62% who think cannabis should be available under medical prescription and 8% who think it should be available even without such a prescription. A further 23% of respondents think cannabis should be available for medical use *and* for recreational use for adults, while just 6% think it should not be available for either purpose.

**Q9** In your opinion, should cannabis be allowed for: (% - EU27)



Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

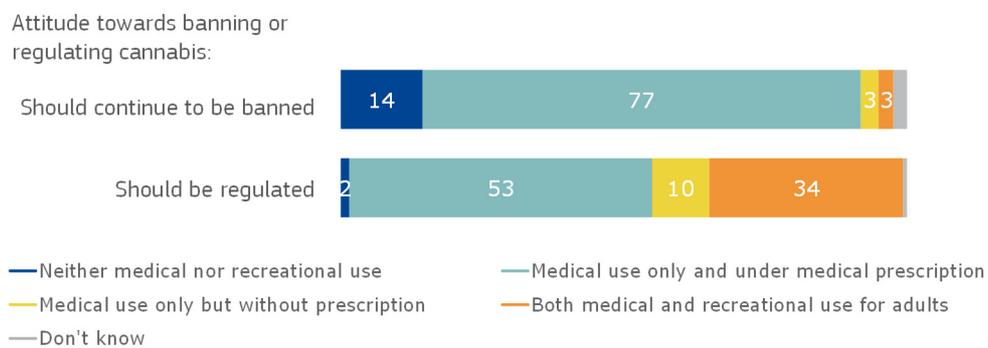
<sup>37</sup> EMCDDA (2018), Medical use of cannabis and cannabinoids: questions and answers for policymaking, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg.

<sup>38</sup> Medicinal products containing cannabinoids are authorised for use in some EU countries, but it is uncommon in the EU for the use of raw herbal cannabis for medical purposes to be permitted. Some countries allow patients to access standardised cannabis preparations, while other countries give patients access to cannabis for medicinal purposes in the form of magistral preparations. Source: EMCDDA (2018), Medical use of cannabis and cannabinoids: questions and answers for policymaking, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg.

The next figure shows that there is indeed a broad level of support for permitting cannabis for medical use with a prescription. Even among respondents who agree that cannabis should continue to be banned (35% of all respondents – see previous section), a large majority would accept that cannabis is available under **medical prescription** (77% versus 14% who say it should be completely banned).

Among respondents who support regulation of cannabis (62% of all respondents), 53% think cannabis should be available under medical prescription and 10% think it should be available even without such a prescription. The remaining 34% would take the regulation even further and would allow cannabis for **recreational use** among adults.

**Q9** In your opinion, should cannabis be allowed for: (% by attitude towards banning of regulating cannabis)



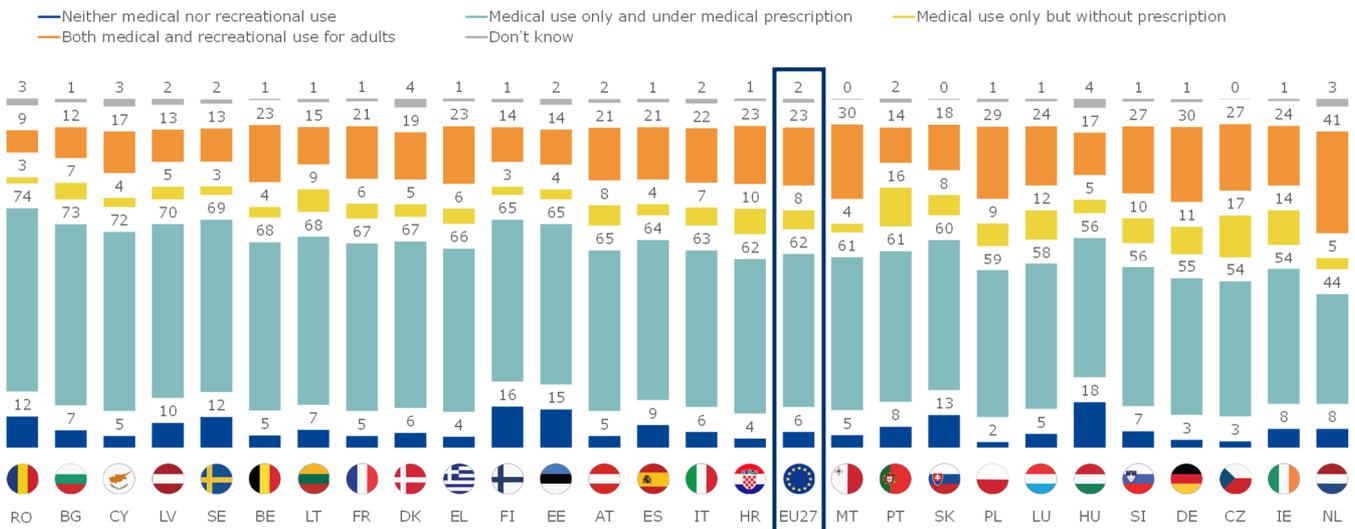
Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

**In all Member States, a majority of respondents are in favour of cannabis being available for medical use** – though the dominant perspective is that it should be available **only with a prescription**.

The proportion saying this ranges from 70% or higher in Romania (74%), Bulgaria (73%), Cyprus (72%) and Latvia (70%) to around five in ten or fewer in Czechia (54%), Ireland (54%) and the Netherlands (44%). In Czechia, 17% of respondents say that cannabis should be available even without a prescription; this figure is 14% in Ireland. In the Netherlands, 41% think cannabis should be allowed for medical use *and* for recreational use. Other Member States where a relatively high proportion of respondents share this more liberal view on cannabis use are Germany (30%), Malta (30%) and Poland (29%).

In six Member States, more than 10% of respondents think that cannabis should not be available for either purpose. These are Romania (12%), Sweden (12%), Slovakia (13%), Estonia (15%), Finland (16%) and Hungary (18%).

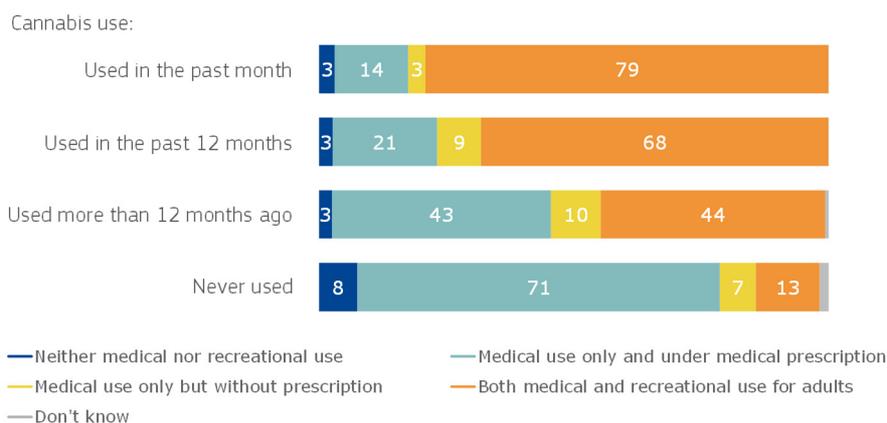
**Q9** In your opinion, should cannabis be allowed for: (% by country)



Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

Among respondents who have used cannabis in the past month, 79% think that cannabis should be allowed for both medical and recreational use; this figure is 68% those who have used cannabis in the past year. Respondents having used cannabis more than 12 months ago are divided in their response to this question: 44% think that cannabis should be allowed for recreational use and 43% say it should only be allowed for medical use with a prescription. Among respondents who have never used cannabis, 71% would permit cannabis for medical use with a prescription, compared to 8% who say it should not be made available for either purpose (medical or recreational).

**Q9** In your opinion, should cannabis be allowed for: (% by cannabis use)



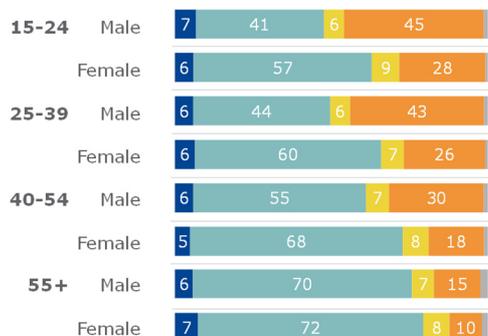
Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

As with the country-level results, the view that cannabis should be available for medical use with a prescription emerges as the dominant perspective among almost all **socio-demographic sub-groups**. The figure is highest among older respondents (for example, 71% of those aged 55 and over), those with the lowest level of education (70%), females (67%) and those living in rural areas (65%).

The only sub-groups among which a majority are *not* of the view that cannabis should be available for medical use with a prescription are 15-24 year-old males (41%), 25-39 year-old males (44%) and, relatedly, those still studying (49%). Among these groups a relatively high proportion of respondents think that cannabis should be allowed for both medical and recreational use (between 37% and 43%).

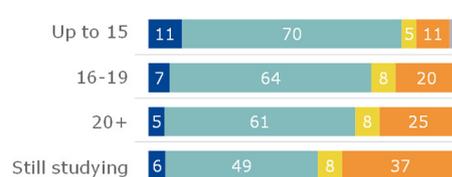
**Q9** In your opinion, should cannabis be allowed for: (% by socio-demographics)

**Age and gender (%)**

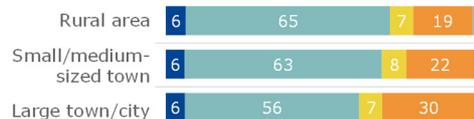


— Neither medical nor recreational use  
— Medical use only but without prescription  
— Don't know

**Education (%)**



**Place of residence (%)**



— Medical use only and under medical prescription  
— Both medical and recreational use for adults

Base: all respondents (n=25 713)

## Technical specifications

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Between 30 June and 10 July 2021, Ipsos European Public affairs carried out Flash Eurobarometer 493 at the request of the European Commission, Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs. It is a general public survey coordinated by the Directorate-General for Communication, "Media monitoring and Eurobarometer" Unit. Flash Eurobarometer 493 covers the population of EU citizens, aged 15 years and over, residents in one of the 27 EU Member States.

All interviews were carried via Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI). In each country, respondents were called both on landlines and mobile phones. The telephone numbers sampled and contacted were generated via Random Digit Dialling (RDD) methods. The basic sample design applied in all countries is a random (probability) design. In households contacted via a landline phone, the respondent was drawn at random from all household members (aged 15 years and over) following the "most recent birthday rule".

		Number of interviews	Fieldwork dates	Population 15+ (absolute number)	Population 15+ (as % of EU27 population)
EU27		<b>25 713</b>	<b>30.6.2021-10.7.2021</b>	<b>379 697 871</b>	<b>100%</b>
BE		1 001	30.6.2021-10.7.2021	9 580 326	2.52%
BG		1 041	30.6.2021-8.7.2021	5 949 224	1.57%
CZ		1 000	30.6.2021-9.7.2021	8 983 737	2.37%
DK		1 010	30.6.2021-8.7.2021	4 869 645	1.28%
DE		1 001	30.6.2021-6.7.2021	71 775 452	18.90%
EE		1 000	30.6.2021-8.7.2021	1 110 274	0.29%
IE		1 002	30.6.2021-7.7.2021	3 958 375	1.04%
EL		1 004	30.6.2021-6.7.2021	9 191 046	2.42%
ES		1 000	30.6.2021-7.7.2021	40 455 461	10.65%
FR		1 018	30.6.2021-7.7.2021	55 281 445	14.56%
HR		1 002	30.6.2021-7.7.2021	3 476 694	0.92%
IT		1 007	30.6.2021-7.7.2021	51 913 934	13.67%
CY		506	30.6.2021-6.7.2021	745 621	0.20%
LV		1 002	30.6.2021-9.7.2021	1 602 487	0.42%
LT		1 008	30.6.2021-9.7.2021	2 371 346	0.62%
LU		512	30.6.2021-6.7.2021	526 031	0.14%
HU		1 020	30.6.2021-6.7.2021	8 348 190	2.20%
MT		505	30.6.2021-7.7.2021	445 406	0.12%
NL		1 003	30.6.2021-10.7.2021	14 681 486	3.87%
AT		1 002	30.6.2021-7.7.2021	7 618 004	2.01%
PL		1 000	30.6.2021-8.7.2021	32 096 067	8.45%
PT		1 006	30.6.2021-8.7.2021	8 898 924	2.34%
RO		1 007	30.6.2021-7.7.2021	16 297 460	4.29%
SI		1 026	30.6.2021-6.7.2021	1 780 059	0.47%
SK		1 027	30.6.2021-8.7.2021	4 594 153	1.21%
FI		1 000	30.6.2021-7.7.2021	4 654 256	1.23%
SE		1 003	30.6.2021-6.7.2021	8 492 768	2.24%

## Margin of error

Survey results are subject to sampling tolerances. The “margin of error” quantifies uncertainty about (or confidence in) a survey result. As a general rule, the more interviews conducted (sample size), the smaller the margin of error. A sample of 500 will produce a margin of error of not more than 4.4 percentage points, and a sample of 1,000 will produce a margin of error of not more than 3.1 percentage points.

### Statistical margins due to sampling tolerances (at the 95% level of confidence)

various sample sizes are in rows

various observed results are in columns

	5%	10%	25%	50%	75%	90%	95%
n=50	±6.0	±8.3	±12.0	±13.9	±12.0	±8.3	±6.0
n=100	±4.3	±5.9	±8.5	±9.8	±8.5	±5.9	±4.3
n=200	±3.0	±4.2	±6.0	±6.9	±6.0	±4.2	±3.0
n=500	±1.9	±2.6	±3.8	±4.4	±3.8	±2.6	±1.9
n=1000	±1.4	±1.9	±2.7	±3.1	±2.7	±1.9	±1.4
n=1500	±1.1	±1.5	±2.2	±2.5	±2.2	±1.5	±1.1
n=2000	±1.0	±1.3	±1.9	±2.2	±1.9	±1.3	±1.0

## Questionnaire

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	ASK ALL	
<b>Q1</b>	<b>Do you think that, in your local area, people using or dealing drugs are a very serious problem, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not a problem at all?</b>	
	(ONE ANSWER ONLY)	
	A very serious problem	1
	A somewhat serious problem	2
	Not too serious a problem	3
	Not a problem at all	4
	Don't know (DO NOT READ OUT)	998
	ASK IF Q1=1, 2 or 3	
<b>Q2</b>	<b>Which of the following would you say are a problem in your local area associated with people using or dealing drugs?</b>	
	(READ OUT; ONE ANSWER PER LINE) (RANDOMISE 1-9)	
Q2_1	Drugs being too easily available	
Q2_2	People taking hard drugs (e.g. crack, heroin, cocaine)	
Q2_3	People smoking cannabis in public places	
Q2_4	Children and teenagers taking drugs	
Q2_5	Drug dealers or users being intimidating to local people	
Q2_6	Conflict and violence in the community related to drug use	
Q2_7	Domestic violence related to drug use	
Q2_8	Traffic accidents related to drug use or combined alcohol and drug use	
Q2_9	Poverty and unemployment related to drug use	
	(RESPONSE SCALE)	
	Yes	1
	No	2
	Don't know (DO NOT READ OUT)	998

	ASK ALL	
<b>Q3</b>	<b>Is drug use the most important cause, one of the causes or not a cause at all of the following types of crime in your local area?</b>	
	(READ OUT; ONE ANSWER PER LINE) (RANDOMISE 1-4)	
Q3_1	Youth crime	
Q3_2	Stealing, theft and burglary	
Q3_3	Violent crime and murder	
Q3_4	Corruption and lack of trust in public officials and institutions	
	(RESPONSE SCALE)	
	Most important cause	1
	One of the causes	2
	Not a cause at all	3
	Not applicable (SPONTANEOUS)	997
	Don't know (DO NOT READ OUT)	998
	ASK ALL	
<b>Q4</b>	<b>In your local area, do you think that in the past few years problems caused by drugs have:</b>	
	(READ OUT; ONE ANSWER ONLY)	
	Gone up a lot	1
	Gone up a little	2
	Stayed about the same	3
	Gone down a little	4
	Gone down a lot	5
	Don't know (DO NOT READ OUT)	998
	ASK ALL	
<b>Q5</b>	<b>For each of the following statements could you say if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree:</b>	
	(READ OUT; ONE ANSWER PER LINE)	
Q5_1	The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in higher use of illegal drugs in my local area	
Q5_2	The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in more drug problems in my local area	
	(RESPONSE SCALE)	
	Strongly agree	1
	Agree	2
	Disagree	3
	Strongly disagree	4
	Don't know (DO NOT READ OUT)	998

ASK ALL

**Q6 For each of the following statements could you say if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree:**

(READ OUT; ONE ANSWER PER LINE) (RANDOMISE 1-4)

Q6\_1 The availability and use of drugs make me feel unsafe near my home, school or place of work

Q6\_2 The availability and use of drugs have a negative impact on my personal relationships

Q6\_3 The availability and use of drugs have a negative impact on the health and well-being of myself and those close to me

Q6\_4 The availability and use of drugs is central to reducing the overall quality of life in my local area

(RESPONSE SCALE)

Strongly agree	1
Agree	2
Disagree	3
Strongly disagree	4
Don't know (DO NOT READ OUT)	998

ASK ALL

**Q7 These days drugs are sometimes sold online and shipped via postal services. Do you think that online sales of drugs are increasing drug problems in your local area?**

(READ OUT; ONE ANSWER ONLY)

Strongly agree	1
Agree	2
Disagree	3
Strongly disagree	4
Don't know (DO NOT READ OUT)	998

ASK ALL

**Q8 To what extent do you think cannabis causes health problems?**

(READ OUT; ONE ANSWER ONLY)

No negative or very rarely negative health effects	1
Few negative health effects	2
Negative health effects	3
Serious negative health effects	4
Don't know (DO NOT READ OUT)	998

	ASK ALL	
<b>Q9</b>	<b>In your opinion, should cannabis be allowed for:</b>	
	(READ OUT; ONE ANSWER ONLY)	
	Neither medical nor recreational use	1
	Medical use only and under medical prescription	2
	Medical use only but without prescription	3
	Both medical and recreational use for adults	4
	Don't know (DO NOT READ OUT)	998
	ASK ALL	
<b>Q10</b>	<b>Have you ever used cannabis yourself?</b>	
	(READ OUT; ONE ANSWER ONLY)	
	No, I have never used it	1
	Yes, in the last 30 days	2
	Yes, in the last 12 months	3
	Yes, but more than 12 months ago	4
	Prefer not to answer (DO NOT READ OUT)	999
	ASK ALL	
<b>Q11</b>	<b>How difficult or easy do you think it would be for you personally to obtain the following substances within 24 hours if you wanted some?</b>	
	(READ OUT ITEMS AND RESPONSE SCALE; ONE ANSWER PER LINE)	
Q11_1	Cannabis	
Q11_2	Cocaine	
Q11_3	MDMA (ecstasy)	
Q11_4	Heroin	
Q11_5	Legal highs, substances imitating the effects of illicit drugs	
	(RESPONSE SCALE)	
	Very difficult	1
	Fairly difficult	2
	Fairly easy	3
	Very easy	4
	Don't know (DO NOT READ OUT)	998

ASK ALL  
**Q12 The sale of drugs such as cannabis and cocaine are officially banned in all EU Member States. Do you think the following substances should continue to be banned or should they be regulated?  
Regulation means, for example, that there is a minimum age limit for buying such substances or licensed sales through specialised shops or pharmacies.**

(READ OUT; ONE ANSWER PER LINE)

Q12\_1 Cannabis

Q12\_2 Cocaine

Q12\_3 MDMA (ecstasy)

Q12\_4 Heroin

(RESPONSE SCALE)

Should continue to be banned 1

Should be regulated 2

Should be available without restrictions (DO NOT READ OUT) 3

Other (DO NOT READ OUT) 4

Don't know (DO NOT READ OUT) 998

# Data annex

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Q1 Do you think that, in your local area, people using or dealing drugs are a very serious problem, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not a problem at all?

		A very serious problem	A somewhat serious problem	Not too serious a problem	Not a problem at all	Don't know
EU27		25	29	24	18	4
BE		20	25	31	21	3
BG		34	29	19	9	9
CZ		36	20	21	20	3
DK		9	19	26	33	14
DE		22	28	28	20	2
EE		17	22	26	22	14
IE		27	26	23	20	4
EL		29	35	28	7	2
ES		19	32	27	19	3
FR		39	36	16	6	3
HR		59	21	12	5	3
IT		20	43	25	10	3
CY		37	25	17	13	8
LV		16	19	35	26	4
LT		27	27	22	17	6
LU		22	22	31	22	4
HU		18	18	21	37	7
MT		21	22	25	30	2
NL		7	21	33	34	4
AT		28	25	20	24	3
PL		11	16	27	31	15
PT		34	21	20	21	4
RO		50	16	13	19	3
SI		18	31	27	18	5
SK		27	30	23	12	8
FI		9	41	37	11	2
SE		22	36	21	18	4

Q2\_1 Which of the following would you say are a problem in your local area associated with people using or dealing drugs? Drugs being too easily available

	Yes	No	Don't know
EU27 	67	23	10
BE 	69	23	8
BG 	66	19	15
CZ 	63	28	9
DK 	69	14	17
DE 	63	28	9
EE 	54	25	21
IE 	61	35	4
EL 	79	20	1
ES 	73	17	10
FR 	78	14	8
HR 	80	13	8
IT 	70	22	8
CY 	85	8	7
LV 	50	34	16
LT 	53	33	14
LU 	66	27	8
HU 	51	26	23
MT 	58	36	6
NL 	61	28	12
AT 	63	28	8
PL 	46	38	16
PT 	48	45	6
RO 	59	30	11
SI 	80	14	5
SK 	65	25	10
FI 	69	24	7
SE 	78	14	8

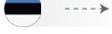
Q2\_2 Which of the following would you say are a problem in your local area associated with people using or dealing drugs? People taking hard drugs (e.g. crack, heroin, cocaine)

	Yes	No	Don't know
EU27 	53	38	9
BE 	52	38	10
BG 	53	32	15
CZ 	57	39	4
DK 	42	35	23
DE 	61	36	3
EE 	30	36	34
IE 	52	42	6
EL 	53	41	6
ES 	47	42	11
FR 	77	17	6
HR 	67	24	9
IT 	44	43	13
CY 	67	18	15
LV 	25	55	20
LT 	50	32	18
LU 	62	32	7
HU 	35	54	11
MT 	52	37	11
NL 	34	57	9
AT 	56	36	8
PL 	29	56	15
PT 	37	55	8
RO 	44	39	17
SI 	55	40	5
SK 	65	28	7
FI 	42	46	11
SE 	43	48	9

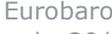
Q2\_3 Which of the following would you say are a problem in your local area associated with people using or dealing drugs? People smoking cannabis in public places

	Yes	No	Don't know
EU27 	45	50	6
BE 	49	48	3
BG 	47	42	11
CZ 	53	45	2
DK 	56	34	10
DE 	42	56	3
EE 	40	44	17
IE 	49	48	3
EL 	42	54	5
ES 	53	44	3
FR 	54	40	6
HR 	45	48	7
IT 	42	50	8
CY 	64	25	11
LV 	29	62	9
LT 	40	50	11
LU 	52	44	4
HU 	33	56	11
MT 	35	59	6
NL 	39	57	4
AT 	49	45	6
PL 	28	66	6
PT 	47	49	4
RO 	36	51	13
SI 	43	53	4
SK 	51	42	6
FI 	35	60	5
SE 	35	56	9

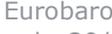
Q2\_4 Which of the following would you say are a problem in your local area associated with people using or dealing drugs? Children and teenagers taking drugs

	Yes	No	Don't know
EU27 	67	28	5
BE 	64	32	4
BG 	74	19	7
CZ 	68	29	3
DK 	61	24	15
DE 	72	26	3
EE 	65	23	12
IE 	60	37	3
EL 	77	22	1
ES 	65	32	4
FR 	85	11	4
HR 	79	18	4
IT 	55	38	7
CY 	86	9	6
LV 	61	32	7
LT 	68	25	7
LU 	65	31	3
HU 	51	41	9
MT 	61	35	4
NL 	47	45	8
AT 	67	28	5
PL 	54	37	8
PT 	39	58	3
RO 	67	29	4
SI 	67	30	3
SK 	77	20	4
FI 	70	27	2
SE 	72	24	4

Q2\_5 Which of the following would you say are a problem in your local area associated with people using or dealing drugs? Drug dealers or users being intimidating to local people

	Yes	No	Don't know
EU27 	42	53	5
BE 	45	51	4
BG 	55	35	10
CZ 	56	40	4
DK 	20	70	10
DE 	43	50	7
EE 	22	63	15
IE 	37	59	4
EL 	38	55	7
ES 	34	62	4
FR 	72	24	3
HR 	44	47	9
IT 	27	68	5
CY 	58	31	11
LV 	28	67	6
LT 	57	39	4
LU 	52	46	2
HU 	25	67	8
MT 	31	64	5
NL 	30	67	3
AT 	41	51	7
PL 	21	74	5
PT 	20	79	1
RO 	36	56	9
SI 	34	63	3
SK 	56	40	4
FI 	46	52	2
SE 	46	51	4

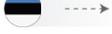
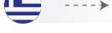
Q2\_6 Which of the following would you say are a problem in your local area associated with people using or dealing drugs? Conflict and violence in the community related to drug use

	Yes	No	Don't know
EU27 	54	42	4
BE 	57	39	4
BG 	54	38	8
CZ 	56	40	5
DK 	41	49	11
DE 	51	46	3
EE 	46	42	12
IE 	44	54	3
EL 	50	48	1
ES 	52	45	3
FR 	81	15	5
HR 	67	27	6
IT 	43	53	4
CY 	65	30	5
LV 	43	50	8
LT 	55	38	7
LU 	61	36	3
HU 	40	54	7
MT 	46	48	6
NL 	37	56	7
AT 	52	44	5
PL 	34	59	7
PT 	24	72	3
RO 	51	47	2
SI 	54	42	4
SK 	73	24	3
FI 	58	40	2
SE 	73	26	2

Q2\_7 Which of the following would you say are a problem in your local area associated with people using or dealing drugs? Domestic violence related to drug use

	Yes	No	Don't know
EU27 	53	38	9
BE 	51	40	9
BG 	49	38	14
CZ 	56	37	6
DK 	30	43	27
DE 	67	27	7
EE 	45	32	23
IE 	42	47	12
EL 	60	33	7
ES 	48	44	8
FR 	73	19	8
HR 	70	21	9
IT 	35	52	13
CY 	76	18	7
LV 	40	51	9
LT 	59	33	8
LU 	57	35	8
HU 	32	58	10
MT 	51	38	12
NL 	25	58	17
AT 	56	37	7
PL 	34	54	13
PT 	28	66	6
RO 	54	41	5
SI 	59	36	5
SK 	67	29	5
FI 	49	41	10
SE 	46	44	10

Q2\_8 Which of the following would you say are a problem in your local area associated with people using or dealing drugs? Traffic accidents related to drug use or combined alcohol and drug use

	Yes	No	Don't know
EU27 	71	25	5
BE 	67	27	6
BG 	78	17	5
CZ 	68	29	3
DK 	55	32	13
DE 	79	18	2
EE 	67	23	10
IE 	50	46	4
EL 	71	26	3
ES 	66	30	3
FR 	87	10	4
HR 	86	10	4
IT 	64	31	5
CY 	81	15	4
LV 	63	31	6
LT 	74	22	5
LU 	76	22	3
HU 	53	40	7
MT 	62	35	4
NL 	43	45	13
AT 	75	22	3
PL 	59	34	8
PT 	37	55	8
RO 	71	27	2
SI 	71	26	3
SK 	79	16	5
FI 	61	34	5
SE 	57	35	9

Q2\_9 Which of the following would you say are a problem in your local area associated with people using or dealing drugs? Poverty and unemployment related to drug use

	Yes	No	Don't know
EU27 	55	40	5
BE 	54	41	6
BG 	51	41	8
CZ 	57	40	3
DK 	38	45	17
DE 	68	29	3
EE 	41	44	15
IE 	57	41	2
EL 	54	44	2
ES 	52	44	4
FR 	60	33	6
HR 	62	33	6
IT 	47	46	6
CY 	59	35	6
LV 	45	48	8
LT 	57	38	5
LU 	61	34	6
HU 	48	44	8
MT 	54	41	5
NL 	35	54	12
AT 	65	31	4
PL 	35	55	10
PT 	44	53	4
RO 	52	44	4
SI 	55	42	3
SK 	69	28	3
FI 	60	34	6
SE 	55	40	6

Q3\_1 Is drug use the most important cause, one of the causes or not a cause at all of the following types of crime in your local area? Youth crime

		Most important cause	One of the causes	Not a cause at all	Not applicable	Don't know
EU27		12	60	23	2	4
BE		11	62	22	1	4
BG		14	67	14	1	4
CZ		15	63	16	2	4
DK		8	49	22	5	16
DE		10	65	19	2	4
EE		11	71	11	1	6
IE		14	58	24	1	4
EL		12	63	23	2	2
ES		11	54	30	3	2
FR		10	68	17	0	5
HR		12	69	14	1	4
IT		13	59	26	1	2
CY		21	66	9	2	3
LV		10	60	26	1	4
LT		14	65	17	0	4
LU		15	49	31	2	4
HU		13	57	22	2	7
MT		14	56	25	2	2
NL		9	52	26	2	11
AT		11	60	26	2	2
PL		10	57	21	2	10
PT		9	49	36	5	2
RO		16	46	33	1	4
SI		10	57	30	1	3
SK		13	74	10	0	3
FI		16	68	13	1	2
SE		19	59	19	1	3

Q3\_2 Is drug use the most important cause, one of the causes or not a cause at all of the following types of crime in your local area? Stealing, theft and burglary

		Most important cause	One of the causes	Not a cause at all	Not applicable	Don't know
EU27		10	56	28	2	4
BE		12	57	26	2	3
BG		13	64	18	1	4
CZ		15	63	17	2	3
DK		9	46	24	5	15
DE		9	57	28	2	5
EE		15	68	11	1	5
IE		17	52	25	2	4
EL		19	62	18	0	1
ES		13	56	28	2	2
FR		5	57	33	1	4
HR		13	69	15	1	2
IT		8	58	31	1	2
CY		27	60	10	1	1
LV		15	57	26	0	3
LT		16	61	19	1	4
LU		18	50	28	3	2
HU		9	52	29	3	7
MT		26	59	14	1	0
NL		9	51	28	2	10
AT		10	56	31	1	2
PL		5	50	31	2	11
PT		15	49	30	4	2
RO		18	44	34	1	3
SI		15	56	28	0	2
SK		11	70	15	0	3
FI		26	60	13	1	1
SE		20	56	19	1	4

Q3\_3 Is drug use the most important cause, one of the causes or not a cause at all of the following types of crime in your local area? Violent crime and murder

		Most important cause	One of the causes	Not a cause at all	Not applicable	Don't know
EU27		8	51	34	2	5
BE		9	57	28	2	5
BG		9	55	26	2	7
CZ		10	55	30	2	3
DK		6	38	32	7	18
DE		5	49	39	2	5
EE		10	67	15	2	7
IE		15	44	35	2	4
EL		9	56	32	1	2
ES		7	45	41	4	3
FR		7	70	17	0	5
HR		8	64	23	1	4
IT		6	45	44	2	3
CY		19	60	15	3	4
LV		11	52	33	0	4
LT		15	58	21	1	5
LU		15	48	31	4	2
HU		9	50	31	3	8
MT		7	55	32	4	2
NL		8	41	36	3	11
AT		7	49	39	3	3
PL		5	42	36	5	13
PT		7	42	39	9	2
RO		18	40	39	0	4
SI		7	45	44	1	4
SK		9	67	20	1	4
FI		17	62	18	1	2
SE		20	51	23	1	5

Q3\_4 Is drug use the most important cause, one of the causes or not a cause at all of the following types of crime in your local area? Corruption and lack of trust in public officials and institutions

		Most important cause	One of the causes	Not a cause at all	Not applicable	Don't know
EU27		6	34	52	2	7
BE		6	34	52	2	7
BG		9	34	47	1	9
CZ		5	37	50	3	5
DK		3	20	48	7	22
DE		5	35	51	3	6
EE		1	21	53	7	18
IE		11	27	53	3	5
EL		11	46	40	0	4
ES		5	28	60	1	5
FR		3	41	49	1	7
HR		11	42	40	2	5
IT		6	38	52	1	4
CY		15	45	31	5	5
LV		7	25	59	1	8
LT		14	40	38	1	6
LU		10	33	49	5	3
HU		6	22	56	4	11
MT		9	39	47	1	4
NL		4	29	51	3	13
AT		8	37	49	3	4
PL		3	21	56	4	16
PT		6	32	57	4	1
RO		18	31	46	1	4
SI		11	32	51	1	5
SK		7	39	46	1	7
FI		5	28	56	3	8
SE		5	30	56	1	8

Q4 In your local area, do you think that in the past few years problems caused by drugs have:

		Gone up a lot	Gone up a little	Stayed about the same	Gone down a little	Gone down a lot	Don't know
EU27		14	22	45	7	3	10
BE		17	24	41	5	3	10
BG		17	17	40	7	4	17
CZ		9	17	53	7	3	11
DK		6	16	51	6	2	18
DE		7	22	52	8	2	10
EE		1	10	42	17	6	24
IE		21	23	38	7	4	7
EL		18	20	48	7	3	4
ES		11	17	49	10	5	9
FR		32	30	28	2	0	8
HR		19	23	40	6	3	10
IT		12	20	52	7	3	5
CY		24	25	28	4	3	16
LV		3	11	50	11	7	17
LT		5	13	46	13	7	16
LU		21	27	37	4	3	9
HU		11	15	46	6	3	20
MT		16	20	46	10	2	6
NL		10	29	41	5	3	12
AT		11	23	47	6	4	9
PL		5	14	48	7	6	20
PT		6	11	55	13	8	7
RO		12	18	35	6	10	19
SI		8	22	54	6	2	8
SK		14	23	43	8	3	10
FI		17	37	38	3	1	5
SE		20	38	33	4	1	4

Q5\_1 For each of the following statements could you say if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree: The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in higher use of illegal drugs in my local area

		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
EU27		6	25	43	14	13
BE		7	34	40	8	12
BG		4	21	51	11	13
CZ		5	25	53	10	6
DK		2	14	35	18	30
DE		3	19	43	24	11
EE		4	15	32	26	23
IE		9	39	35	9	8
EL		12	41	33	8	6
ES		5	26	41	14	13
FR		10	31	38	6	14
HR		12	38	32	9	10
IT		5	26	43	12	14
CY		13	38	27	9	13
LV		2	15	54	19	10
LT		4	23	45	17	12
LU		8	33	43	12	4
HU		3	13	38	29	17
MT		7	39	39	4	11
NL		5	26	41	8	20
AT		7	26	36	21	10
PL		2	18	50	11	19
PT		7	21	50	11	11
RO		8	23	49	13	7
SI		8	32	41	10	9
SK		4	24	53	9	11
FI		7	33	37	10	14
SE		3	21	41	19	16

Q5\_2 For each of the following statements could you say if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree: The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in more drug problems in my local area

		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
EU27		5	25	44	15	11
BE		6	31	45	9	9
BG		4	21	53	10	12
CZ		4	21	58	11	7
DK		2	12	36	20	31
DE		2	20	44	25	10
EE		3	13	32	28	24
IE		10	32	39	12	7
EL		8	41	38	7	6
ES		6	24	45	16	10
FR		9	32	40	8	11
HR		9	35	37	9	10
IT		6	31	41	12	11
CY		11	41	27	8	13
LV		2	18	52	20	8
LT		3	23	47	16	11
LU		6	33	43	14	4
HU		3	10	38	33	17
MT		5	36	46	5	8
NL		3	20	49	11	18
AT		5	22	42	24	8
PL		2	17	53	12	17
PT		4	19	54	12	10
RO		6	24	49	17	5
SI		6	33	42	10	9
SK		3	22	56	9	9
FI		6	33	39	12	11
SE		2	20	46	19	14

Q6\_1 For each of the following statements could you say if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree: The availability and use of drugs make me feel unsafe near my home, school or place of work

		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
EU27		7	19	42	31	2
BE		9	22	42	26	1
BG		13	30	42	14	2
CZ		7	20	46	25	2
DK		3	11	37	45	5
DE		2	10	39	48	1
EE		13	25	23	32	7
IE		10	27	47	16	1
EL		19	33	32	16	1
ES		10	21	38	30	1
FR		10	17	40	32	1
HR		9	18	45	27	2
IT		8	28	42	20	1
CY		14	37	32	15	2
LV		7	23	42	27	1
LT		9	23	37	28	2
LU		8	26	40	26	1
HU		5	11	32	50	2
MT		10	29	46	13	2
NL		3	14	53	27	3
AT		7	15	40	38	1
PL		2	13	54	27	4
PT		8	28	47	17	1
RO		16	28	34	21	2
SI		3	15	47	34	2
SK		7	20	54	18	2
FI		8	22	37	33	0
SE		4	19	38	38	1

Q6\_2 For each of the following statements could you say if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree: The availability and use of drugs have a negative impact on my personal relationships

		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
EU27		5	11	37	43	3
BE		4	11	41	43	2
BG		6	15	47	27	5
CZ		5	7	41	45	1
DK		3	10	31	49	8
DE		2	8	33	57	1
EE		3	7	18	67	6
IE		8	18	50	24	0
EL		12	22	37	29	1
ES		14	15	30	40	2
FR		6	10	35	46	3
HR		7	17	42	29	4
IT		5	14	40	39	2
CY		8	24	36	28	5
LV		2	5	32	58	3
LT		3	8	35	52	3
LU		6	19	39	36	1
HU		6	10	23	57	5
MT		4	21	52	20	3
NL		1	5	50	41	4
AT		5	11	34	49	1
PL		2	7	52	31	8
PT		8	27	40	24	2
RO		10	16	38	32	3
SI		3	12	46	37	2
SK		5	12	49	32	2
FI		6	10	27	54	2
SE		3	8	37	51	2

Q6\_3 For each of the following statements could you say if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree: The availability and use of drugs have a negative impact on the health and well-being of myself and those close to me

		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
EU27		12	20	33	33	3
BE		10	19	37	32	3
BG		11	22	38	25	4
CZ		11	18	37	33	2
DK		7	14	27	44	9
DE		5	16	30	48	2
EE		6	12	20	57	6
IE		10	20	44	25	2
EL		22	28	31	18	1
ES		27	24	24	23	2
FR		13	18	32	34	3
HR		13	20	35	28	5
IT		18	27	30	24	2
CY		17	32	28	19	4
LV		5	13	34	46	2
LT		7	16	34	41	3
LU		12	25	31	32	1
HU		10	19	26	39	6
MT		12	29	44	13	2
NL		2	14	47	33	4
AT		8	20	31	39	1
PL		4	15	46	27	8
PT		11	32	36	20	1
RO		23	26	26	24	2
SI		9	25	38	27	2
SK		9	17	45	27	2
FI		6	13	32	48	1
SE		5	13	38	43	2

Q6\_4 For each of the following statements could you say if you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree: The availability and use of drugs is central to reducing the overall quality of life in my local area

		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
EU27		9	26	40	22	4
BE		8	27	44	17	5
BG		13	35	40	8	4
CZ		13	29	42	14	2
DK		7	26	30	24	13
DE		2	12	42	41	2
EE		5	16	30	38	12
IE		10	42	35	12	2
EL		13	33	37	16	1
ES		15	29	37	17	3
FR		12	28	39	17	3
HR		14	34	37	11	4
IT		14	44	29	10	3
CY		8	37	38	11	6
LV		5	21	47	23	4
LT		11	32	36	19	3
LU		7	31	42	18	2
HU		6	19	32	35	8
MT		8	45	35	7	7
NL		3	18	50	20	10
AT		7	19	37	35	2
PL		3	17	54	17	9
PT		8	43	36	12	2
RO		10	27	44	16	3
SI		5	24	47	21	4
SK		9	34	43	11	3
FI		4	21	46	26	3
SE		3	22	40	31	4

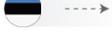
Q7 These days drugs are sometimes sold online and shipped via postal services. Do you think that online sales of drugs are increasing drug problems in your local area?

		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
EU27		12	29	29	13	18
BE		12	35	31	11	12
BG		6	20	33	9	31
CZ		13	28	37	12	10
DK		8	25	18	15	35
DE		4	27	32	20	17
EE		23	35	16	8	19
IE		10	32	30	11	18
EL		17	38	24	8	13
ES		11	20	31	14	24
FR		19	33	24	9	15
HR		15	36	28	9	13
IT		11	24	28	12	25
CY		20	37	16	6	21
LV		12	31	34	13	10
LT		19	41	24	9	8
LU		14	29	36	12	9
HU		20	35	17	12	16
MT		8	34	29	6	24
NL		7	34	31	9	19
AT		8	27	30	21	13
PL		13	26	34	8	19
PT		6	28	32	14	20
RO		20	32	31	12	6
SI		12	39	26	11	12
SK		10	27	39	10	14
FI		26	44	20	5	5
SE		18	46	17	9	9

Q8 To what extent do you think cannabis causes health problems?

		No negative or very rarely negative health effects	Few negative health effects	Negative health effects	Serious negative health effects	Don't know
EU27		13	29	30	22	6
BE		8	28	36	24	5
BG		12	21	35	21	11
CZ		16	43	27	13	2
DK		14	30	22	15	18
DE		22	39	20	15	3
EE		10	21	37	21	11
IE		19	27	24	28	3
EL		15	30	26	25	4
ES		6	16	37	37	6
FR		3	18	45	30	4
HR		20	35	20	16	9
IT		10	32	36	15	7
CY		13	28	24	27	9
LV		12	25	24	30	10
LT		14	32	25	20	9
LU		14	29	35	16	6
HU		17	25	16	22	20
MT		17	33	23	22	4
NL		14	37	26	14	8
AT		17	36	27	17	3
PL		20	34	21	13	12
PT		16	34	28	11	11
RO		6	13	28	46	7
SI		21	39	22	12	6
SK		17	30	31	18	5
FI		8	33	34	22	3
SE		7	18	38	35	2

Q9 In your opinion, should cannabis be allowed for:

		Neither medical nor recreational use	Medical use only and under medical prescription	Medical use only but without prescription	Both medical and recreational use for adults	Don't know
EU27		6	62	8	23	2
BE		5	68	4	23	1
BG		7	73	7	12	1
CZ		3	54	17	27	0
DK		6	67	5	19	4
DE		3	55	11	30	1
EE		15	65	4	14	2
IE		8	54	14	24	1
EL		4	66	6	23	1
ES		9	64	4	21	1
FR		5	67	6	21	1
HR		4	62	10	23	1
IT		6	63	7	22	2
CY		5	72	4	17	3
LV		10	70	5	13	2
LT		7	68	9	15	1
LU		5	58	12	24	1
HU		18	56	5	17	4
MT		5	61	4	30	0
NL		8	44	5	41	3
AT		5	65	8	21	2
PL		2	59	9	29	1
PT		8	61	16	14	2
RO		12	74	3	9	3
SI		7	56	10	27	1
SK		13	60	8	18	0
FI		16	65	3	14	1
SE		12	69	3	13	2

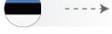
Q10 Have you ever used cannabis yourself?

	No, I have never used it	Yes, in the last 30 days	Yes, in the last 12 months	Yes, but more than 12 months ago	Prefer not to say
EU27 	72	3	4	21	1
BE 	73	3	4	20	0
BG 	84	1	1	14	1
CZ 	60	3	7	31	0
DK 	70	2	3	24	0
DE 	69	2	4	24	1
EE 	73	1	2	23	1
IE 	65	5	5	25	0
EL 	74	1	3	21	1
ES 	69	4	4	23	0
FR 	63	5	5	27	0
HR 	70	3	3	24	1
IT 	78	2	2	16	3
CY 	83	1	2	14	1
LV 	79	1	3	17	0
LT 	81	1	2	15	0
LU 	73	4	3	20	1
HU 	82	1	3	13	1
MT 	78	3	4	15	0
NL 	63	6	5	26	1
AT 	70	3	4	21	2
PL 	74	2	4	18	2
PT 	74	5	7	11	3
RO 	92	0	1	7	0
SI 	67	3	4	24	2
SK 	73	1	3	23	0
FI 	82	1	3	13	1
SE 	77	2	2	19	0

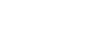
Q11\_1 How difficult or easy do you think it would be for you personally to obtain the following substances within 24 hours if you wanted some? Cannabis

		Very difficult	Fairly difficult	Fairly easy	Very easy	Don't know
EU27		18	15	28	28	11
BE		15	15	32	31	7
BG		23	11	27	19	21
CZ		18	18	27	34	3
DK		14	9	22	44	11
DE		22	21	27	24	6
EE		32	16	22	13	17
IE		14	13	25	37	12
EL		23	11	27	32	7
ES		14	12	27	37	10
FR		9	8	33	41	9
HR		23	20	22	25	11
IT		18	12	29	23	18
CY		23	8	21	31	18
LV		29	30	19	9	12
LT		31	28	20	10	11
LU		15	16	34	25	10
HU		23	15	23	15	25
MT		27	16	17	26	14
NL		6	7	27	49	12
AT		21	14	30	26	9
PL		19	21	29	17	14
PT		18	14	31	21	15
RO		35	28	18	11	9
SI		30	12	21	28	9
SK		22	19	30	19	10
FI		24	20	33	20	4
SE		14	21	34	24	7

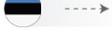
Q11\_2 How difficult or easy do you think it would be for you personally to obtain the following substances within 24 hours if you wanted some? Cocaine

		Very difficult	Fairly difficult	Fairly easy	Very easy	Don't know
EU27		36	23	17	11	14
BE		29	26	21	13	11
BG		33	16	14	10	27
CZ		56	24	11	5	5
DK		27	17	18	22	16
DE		46	29	10	6	9
EE		50	17	7	4	23
IE		25	20	21	22	13
EL		41	21	17	11	11
ES		26	22	24	18	12
FR		24	23	27	14	11
HR		44	22	10	10	14
IT		31	16	19	12	22
CY		34	12	17	16	22
LV		49	29	6	2	13
LT		53	21	8	4	13
LU		31	26	20	9	14
HU		40	17	9	6	28
MT		40	12	9	16	23
NL		19	21	24	18	19
AT		46	24	12	7	12
PL		41	27	10	4	19
PT		30	22	14	11	24
RO		52	22	12	4	9
SI		52	18	12	8	11
SK		50	25	9	4	11
FI		48	26	14	6	6
SE		27	28	22	14	10

Q11\_3 How difficult or easy do you think it would be for you personally to obtain the following substances within 24 hours if you wanted some? MDMA (ecstasy)

		Very difficult	Fairly difficult	Fairly easy	Very easy	Don't know
EU27		34	21	18	10	17
BE		28	26	23	12	11
BG		31	14	18	9	28
CZ		49	22	17	7	6
DK		28	16	18	19	20
DE		42	26	15	6	11
EE		49	15	9	5	23
IE		26	21	16	22	16
EL		43	19	16	9	13
ES		31	23	19	11	16
FR		23	22	26	14	15
HR		40	20	15	10	15
IT		34	15	17	9	25
CY		30	14	16	14	25
LV		43	28	11	3	15
LT		50	20	11	4	15
LU		26	26	20	8	20
HU		33	12	18	10	27
MT		39	13	11	13	24
NL		16	17	28	17	22
AT		43	18	14	7	17
PL		37	22	14	5	21
PT		26	22	16	10	26
RO		46	24	12	8	10
SI		51	16	14	9	11
SK		43	23	17	6	12
FI		45	24	17	6	8
SE		27	27	22	11	14

Q11\_4 How difficult or easy do you think it would be for you personally to obtain the following substances within 24 hours if you wanted some? Heroin

		Very difficult	Fairly difficult	Fairly easy	Very easy	Don't know
EU27		44	23	12	6	16
BE		38	29	15	7	11
BG		36	17	11	8	28
CZ		63	22	6	3	5
DK		34	19	14	12	20
DE		54	24	8	4	10
EE		54	15	4	3	24
IE		32	23	15	13	17
EL		46	19	15	10	10
ES		38	22	16	9	15
FR		35	27	17	7	14
HR		52	19	6	8	15
IT		37	16	16	8	24
CY		36	17	12	11	24
LV		56	25	5	1	13
LT		56	20	7	4	13
LU		35	26	17	5	17
HU		46	16	6	4	29
MT		42	14	8	11	26
NL		29	27	14	8	22
AT		51	20	8	5	17
PL		47	23	7	3	20
PT		31	24	12	8	26
RO		57	20	8	5	10
SI		57	17	8	6	12
SK		56	22	8	3	11
FI		56	25	9	3	7
SE		38	31	15	6	10

Q11\_5 How difficult or easy do you think it would be for you personally to obtain the following substances within 24 hours if you wanted some? Legal highs, substances imitating the effects of illicit drugs

		Very difficult	Fairly difficult	Fairly easy	Very easy	Don't know
EU27		27	18	22	14	20
BE		28	23	21	12	16
BG		27	14	21	11	27
CZ		61	19	7	3	10
DK		22	14	17	18	29
DE		26	20	24	17	14
EE		52	14	6	3	26
IE		25	19	21	18	18
EL		30	18	28	12	12
ES		28	22	19	11	20
FR		22	16	23	11	29
HR		35	21	15	13	18
IT		21	14	22	17	26
CY		23	13	21	14	29
LV		31	30	19	6	14
LT		41	26	12	6	15
LU		22	21	24	14	19
HU		30	12	16	12	30
MT		39	12	12	10	27
NL		18	15	24	13	31
AT		32	16	20	13	19
PL		25	18	24	15	18
PT		19	16	23	17	24
RO		40	22	19	10	9
SI		43	18	15	11	13
SK		29	22	25	10	14
FI		48	24	15	5	8
SE		18	23	31	16	12

Q12\_1 The sale of drugs such as cannabis and cocaine are officially banned in all EU Member States. Do you think the following substances should continue to be banned or should they be regulated? Cannabis

		Should continue to be banned	Should be regulated	Should be available without restrictions	Other	Don't know
EU27		35	62	2	0	1
BE		40	59	1	1	0
BG		44	52	2	1	1
CZ		27	70	2	1	0
DK		31	61	4	0	3
DE		33	64	2	0	0
EE		43	51	3	0	3
IE		25	65	7	0	2
EL		38	60	1	0	1
ES		37	60	1	1	1
FR		33	66	0	0	1
HR		25	72	2	0	1
IT		31	67	2	0	2
CY		46	48	3	0	3
LV		50	48	0	0	2
LT		37	61	0	1	1
LU		26	69	5	0	0
HU		41	55	2	0	2
MT		38	60	2	0	0
NL		30	65	2	0	2
AT		37	60	2	1	0
PL		25	71	2	1	1
PT		33	62	4	0	1
RO		67	32	0	0	1
SI		24	71	3	0	2
SK		45	54	0	0	1
FI		53	45	2	0	1
SE		64	35	1	0	1

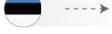
Q12\_2 The sale of drugs such as cannabis and cocaine are officially banned in all EU Member States. Do you think the following substances should continue to be banned or should they be regulated? Cocaine

		Should continue to be banned	Should be regulated	Should be available without restrictions	Other	Don't know
EU27		89	10	0	0	1
BE		88	12	0	0	0
BG		89	9	1	0	1
CZ		92	7	0	0	1
DK		89	7	1	0	3
DE		90	9	0	0	1
EE		91	6	1	0	2
IE		77	20	1	0	2
EL		89	10	0	0	1
ES		86	12	0	0	1
FR		90	9	0	0	1
HR		90	9	0	0	1
IT		89	9	0	0	2
CY		90	6	1	0	3
LV		88	9	0	0	2
LT		92	6	0	0	2
LU		84	13	2	0	1
HU		89	8	0	0	3
MT		80	18	1	0	1
NL		80	17	1	0	3
AT		89	10	0	0	1
PL		85	11	0	1	3
PT		86	12	1	0	2
RO		93	6	0	0	0
SI		84	13	2	1	1
SK		94	4	0	0	1
FI		93	6	0	0	1
SE		93	6	0	0	0

Q12\_3 The sale of drugs such as cannabis and cocaine are officially banned in all EU Member States. Do you think the following substances should continue to be banned or should they be regulated? MDMA (ecstasy)

		Should continue to be banned	Should be regulated	Should be available without restrictions	Other	Don't know
EU27		89	9	0	0	2
BE		90	10	0	0	1
BG		90	7	1	0	2
CZ		90	10	0	0	0
DK		89	7	1	0	3
DE		91	8	0	0	1
EE		91	5	1	0	2
IE		78	19	1	0	3
EL		91	7	0	0	2
ES		88	10	0	0	2
FR		90	8	0	0	2
HR		91	7	0	0	2
IT		92	7	0	0	2
CY		92	5	1	0	2
LV		90	7	0	0	3
LT		92	5	0	0	3
LU		85	11	1	0	2
HU		91	6	0	0	3
MT		85	12	1	0	3
NL		71	23	1	0	5
AT		87	11	0	0	1
PL		86	11	0	0	3
PT		86	10	1	0	2
RO		92	7	0	0	1
SI		83	13	2	1	2
SK		93	5	0	0	1
FI		94	5	0	0	1
SE		91	8	0	0	1

Q12\_4 The sale of drugs such as cannabis and cocaine are officially banned in all EU Member States. Do you think the following substances should continue to be banned or should they be regulated? Heroin

		Should continue to be banned	Should be regulated	Should be available without restrictions	Other	Don't know
EU27		92	6	0	0	1
BE		92	8	0	0	1
BG		92	6	1	0	1
CZ		95	4	0	0	0
DK		90	7	1	0	2
DE		94	6	0	0	1
EE		93	3	1	0	2
IE		85	13	1	0	1
EL		95	5	0	0	1
ES		90	8	0	0	2
FR		94	6	0	0	0
HR		94	4	0	0	1
IT		92	7	0	0	2
CY		94	3	1	0	2
LV		93	5	0	0	2
LT		95	3	0	0	2
LU		89	9	1	0	1
HU		95	3	0	0	2
MT		86	11	1	0	3
NL		88	8	0	1	3
AT		92	7	1	0	1
PL		90	7	0	0	2
PT		89	7	1	0	3
RO		95	4	0	0	1
SI		86	10	2	1	1
SK		96	3	0	0	1
FI		96	3	0	0	1
SE		96	4	0	0	0



