EUDA
EUROPEAN UNION DRUGS AGENCY

June–July **2026**

EUDA Drug Survey



How people see drug-related issues in their area

This section looks at people's perceptions of drug use and drug trafficking where they live, and how these have changed over the past five years.

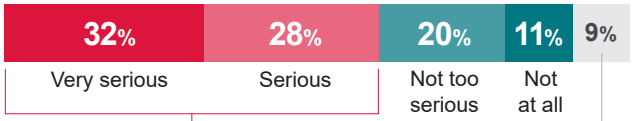
6 in 10 people say drug trafficking or the use of illicit drugs is a serious problem in their local area, a third calling it very serious

Base: EU27 | To what extent do you think that the following are a problem in your local area?



USE

'The use of illicit drugs'

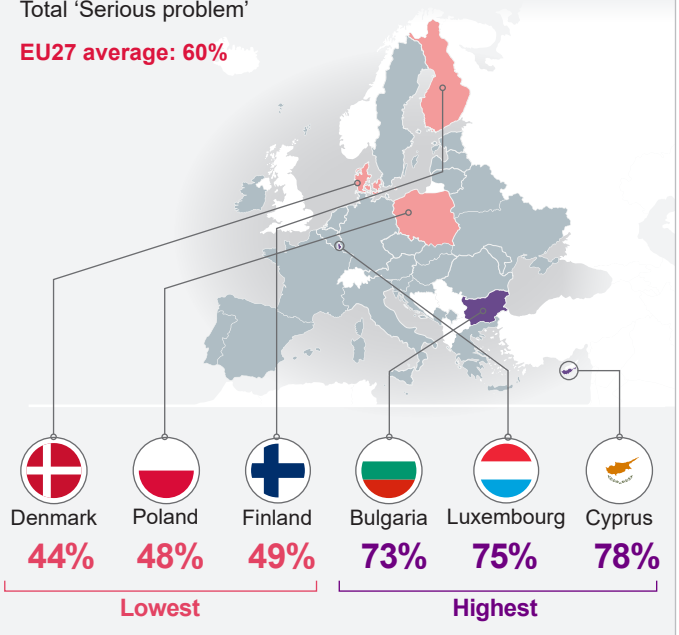


60%
Total 'Serious problem'

By country – share of respondents describing 'the use of illicit drugs' as a serious problem in their local area (%)

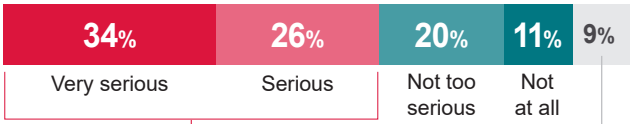
Total 'Serious problem'

EU27 average: 60%



TRAFFICKING

'The trafficking and distribution of drugs'

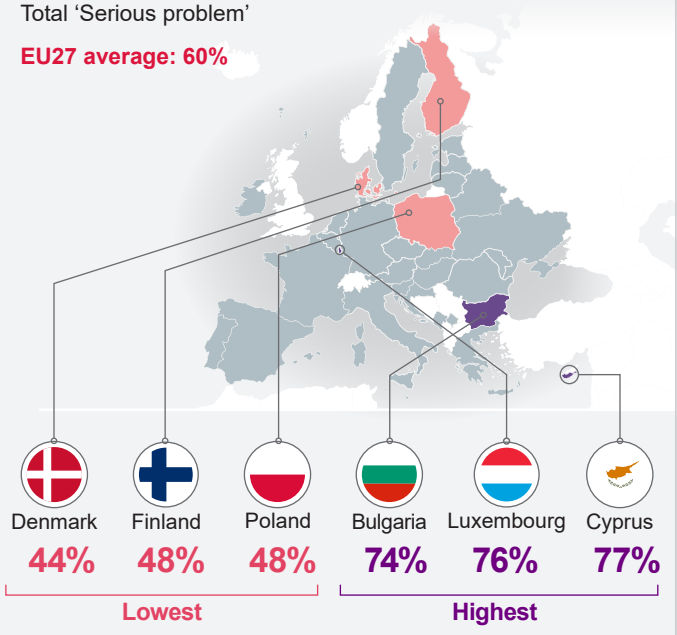


60%
Total 'Serious problem'

By country – share of respondents describing 'the trafficking and distribution of drugs' as a serious problem in their local area (%)

Total 'Serious problem'

EU27 average: 60%



The same countries show up in the same proportions for both items: these figures reflect how residents perceive their own local area, not national prevalence of drug use. Drug use and drug trafficking remain distinct issues (personal use vs. organised trafficking), even though perceptions of the two track each other closely.

EUDA Drug Survey

Half of people say drug use and trafficking problems in their local area have worsened over the past five years; 27% say they have become a lot worse

Base: EU27 | Compared with five years ago, do you think the following problems in your local area have increased, decreased or stayed about the same?



This perception that local problems have worsened is even more widespread among the partners surveyed (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Moldova, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia and Türkiye).

How drug-related issues affect health and safety in people's daily lives

PUBLIC HEALTH **Mental health is the top public health concern linked to drug use in people's local area, ahead of the effects of new synthetic drugs**

39% cite mental health issues (e.g. suicide, psychosis) as one of the most pressing PUBLIC HEALTH issues related to drug use in their local area

Base: EU27 - max. 3 answers | In your opinion, what are the most pressing public health issues related to drug use in your local area?

Mental health issues (e.g. suicide, psychosis)	**39%**
Harms related to the use of new potent synthetic drugs (e.g. synthetic opioids)	30%
Long-term health conditions (e.g. cardiovascular diseases, cancer, respiratory issues)	26%
Overdose, non-fatal and fatal	24%
Harms related to cocaine use	23%
Strain on emergency medical services	16%
Infectious diseases (e.g. HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis)	15%
Access to treatment services for persons using drugs	14%
The use of drugs does not cause public health issues in my local area	10%
Don't know / No answer	10%

PUBLIC SAFETY **Youth involvement, drug-related violence and driving under the influence top public safety concerns linked to trafficking in people's local area**

30% cite youth involvement (minors using/dealing drugs, recruitment by dealers, school-related issues) as one of the most pressing PUBLIC SAFETY issues

Base: EU27 - max. 3 answers | In your opinion, what are the most pressing public safety issues related to drug trafficking and distribution in your local area?

Youth involvement (e.g. minors using/ dealing drugs, recruitment by dealers, school-related issues)	**30%**
Drug-related violence and crime (e.g. turf wars, robbery and assault committed to get money for drugs, weapons offences in drug trade)	27%
Driving under the influence of drugs	26%
Property crime (e.g. theft, burglary, shoplifting committed to fund drug purchases)	21%
Organised crime and trafficking networks (e.g. large-scale distribution, money laundering, corruption)	20%
Public disorder and nuisance (e.g. being under the influence of drugs in public)	19%
Street-level dealing and open drug markets (e.g. visible drug transactions, corner dealing, drug houses)	19%
Community impact (e.g. neighbourhood deterioration, fear among residents, economic effects)	18%
Health and safety hazards (e.g. discarded needles, overdoses, environmental damage)	16%
Drug trafficking and distribution do not cause public safety issues in my local area	10%
Don't know / No answer	9%

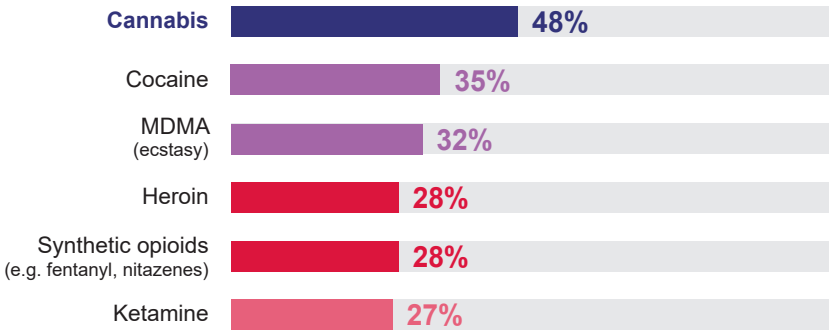
How accessible drugs are, and what people think about banning them



This section looks at how easy people think it is to obtain drugs, and their views on whether drugs should be banned, regulated or freely available

In the EU, cannabis is by far the easiest illicit drug to obtain: close to one in two people think it would be easy for them to get hold of it

Base: EU27 - Total 'Easy' | 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?



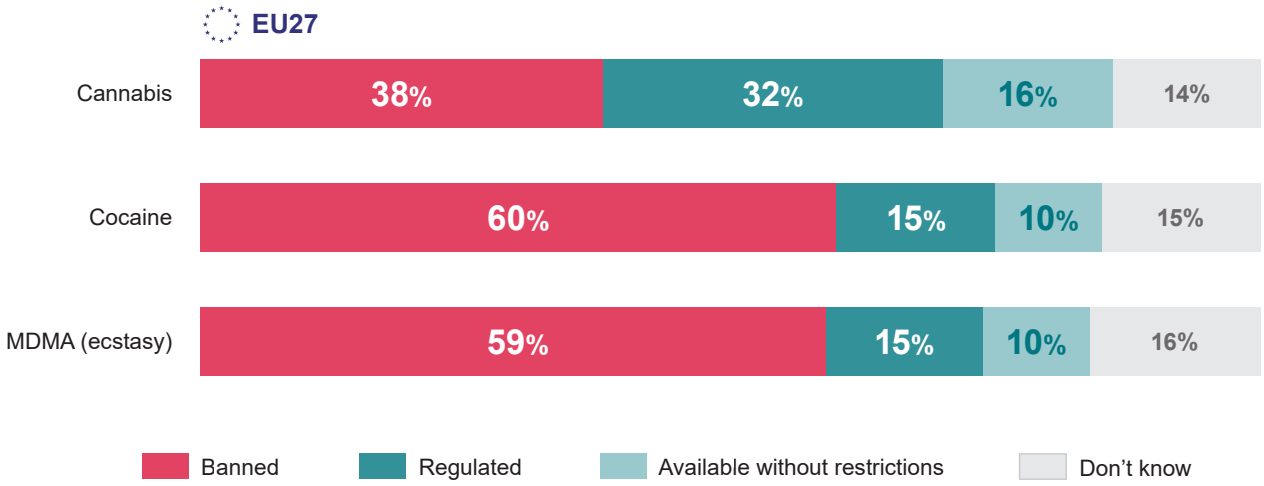
48%

think it would be easy to obtain cannabis within 24 hours

Very easy: **28%**
Fairly easy: **20%**

For cannabis, cocaine and MDMA, legalisation and regulation are less frequently selected than enforcement, prevention and support measures

Base: EU27 | The supply of drugs such as cannabis, cocaine and MDMA for recreational use is officially banned in nearly all EU Member States. Do you think the supply of the following substances should be banned for recreational use, regulated or available without restrictions? Restrictions means, for example, that there is a minimum age limit for obtaining such substances through home growing (cannabis), or through specialised shops or other outlets.





How society should respond to drug-related issues

Less than a third of people across the EU would accept a person who uses drugs as a neighbour; one in five would accept them marrying into their family

Base: EU27 | How willing or unwilling would you be to accept the following situations?

Have a person who uses drugs as a neighbour?

Willing **31%** | Unwilling **51%** | Don't know **18%**

Have a person who uses drugs marry into your family?

Willing **19%** | Unwilling **61%** | Don't know **20%**

Tougher measures against traffickers and stronger police action are the most frequently selected ways to reduce problems linked to trafficking and drug use

Reducing problems linked to drug trafficking

Base: EU27 - max. 3 answers | What do you think are the best ways to reduce problems posed by the production, trafficking and distribution of drugs?

Tougher measures against drug traffickers/sellers	**39%**
Break up criminal networks involved in the production, trafficking and distribution of drugs	37%
Stronger police presence in areas affected by trafficking/markets	28%
Tougher controls at borders, ports and airports	26%
Education and awareness activities to prevent people from becoming involved in the drug production, trafficking and distribution	24%
Tackling corruption in society linked to drug trafficking	22%
Reducing poverty and unemployment in areas most affected by the production, trafficking and distribution of drugs	20%
Better cross-border cooperation between police forces and judicial authorities	18%
Making drugs legal and regulating them	13%

Reducing problems linked to drug use

Base: EU27 - max. 3 answers | In your opinion, which of the following approaches are the best ways to reduce problems linked to drug use?

Strengthening police action against drug trafficking and distribution	**45%**
Helping people with drug addiction return to work and everyday life	43%
Preventing drug use through education and awareness campaigns	39%
Providing treatment and support for people who use drugs	34%
Providing services that reduce health harms linked to drug use	21%
Making some drugs legal and regulating them	20%

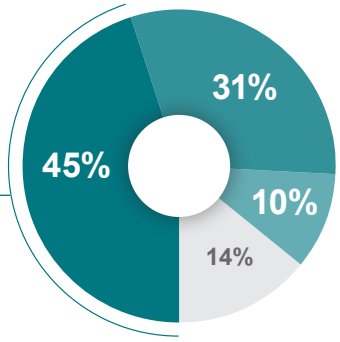
43% point to **helping people with drug addiction return to work and everyday life** – the second most cited measure, right behind stronger police action (**45%**) and well ahead of legalisation (**20%**).

The leading opinion favours supporting and helping people who use drugs rather than punishing them

Base: EU27 | People who use drugs sometimes come in contact with the justice system. From the following, what is, in your opinion, the most appropriate way to deal with people who use drugs?

45%

say people who use drugs should receive treatment and support rather than a criminal conviction or a prison sentence.





- **45%** Treatment and support
- **31%** Criminal conviction / prison
- **10%** Minor punishment (fines)
- **14%** Don't know

Source: EUDA Drug Survey (commissioned by the European Union Drugs Agency – EUDA)
Fieldwork: 24.06.2026 – 16.07.2026 – Data collection mode: online interviews (CAWI); telephone interviews (CATI) among Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Moldova).
The representativeness of the sample was ensured using a stratified random sampling approach, using interlocking or marginal strata (quotas) on gender, age groups and region of residence.
Target population: general public aged 15+ – 95 883 interviews across 36 countries (27 EU Member States + Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, Moldova, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Türkiye).
* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.
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