

European Web Survey on Drugs 2024: top-level findings, Western Balkans

Introduction

This data factsheet presents insights from the European Web Survey on Drugs 2024. It provides an overview of key data from 4 442 individuals aged 18 or older who use drugs and live in the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia). The survey was conducted across 24 EU and 11 non-EU countries between May and July 2024.

Kosovo*: 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.

Click here for [more information on the methodology of the European Web Survey on Drugs](#).

Last update: 25 February 2025



In summary

A total of 4 442 respondents participated from Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Kosovo*, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia. Analysis of respondents' answers revealed these key findings on their drug use in the past 12 months.

- Cannabis was the most commonly used drug over the previous 12 months (42 %), followed by benzodiazepines without prescription (22 %), and cocaine (21 %).
- Less than 3 % of respondents reported receiving treatment to manage or quit using any drug.

- Polysubstance use was the most commonly reported pattern for all drugs in respondents' last consumption. Cocaine powder and crack cocaine were the most frequently consumed drugs alongside at least one other substance, including tobacco and alcohol.
- To get 'high'/for fun and to relax were the most commonly reported reasons for using drugs.
- Home was the most frequently mentioned setting for drug use.

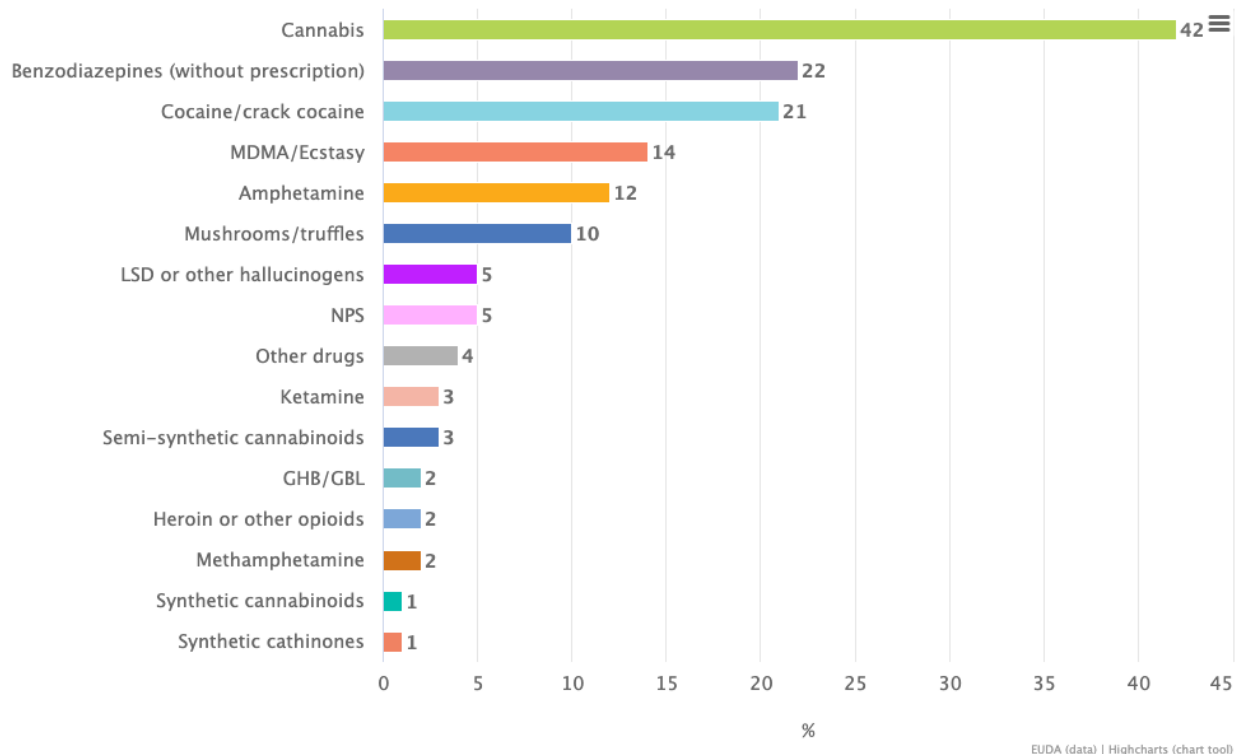
Drug use and treatment received in the last 12 months

The most commonly used drug over the past 12 months was cannabis, with 42 % of respondents reporting its use. This was followed by benzodiazepines without prescription, used by 22 % of respondents, and cocaine, used by 21 % of respondents.

A smaller percentage of respondents used MDMA/Ecstasy (14 %) and amphetamine (12 %) in the last 12 months.

Fewer than 3 % of the respondents indicated receiving treatment to manage or quit using a specific drug in the last 12 months. In particular, the drug for which the highest proportion of respondents sought treatment was cannabis (2 %), followed by cocaine (1.5 %) and heroin and other opioids (1.4 %).

Figure 1. Drug use in the last 12 months by substance (%)

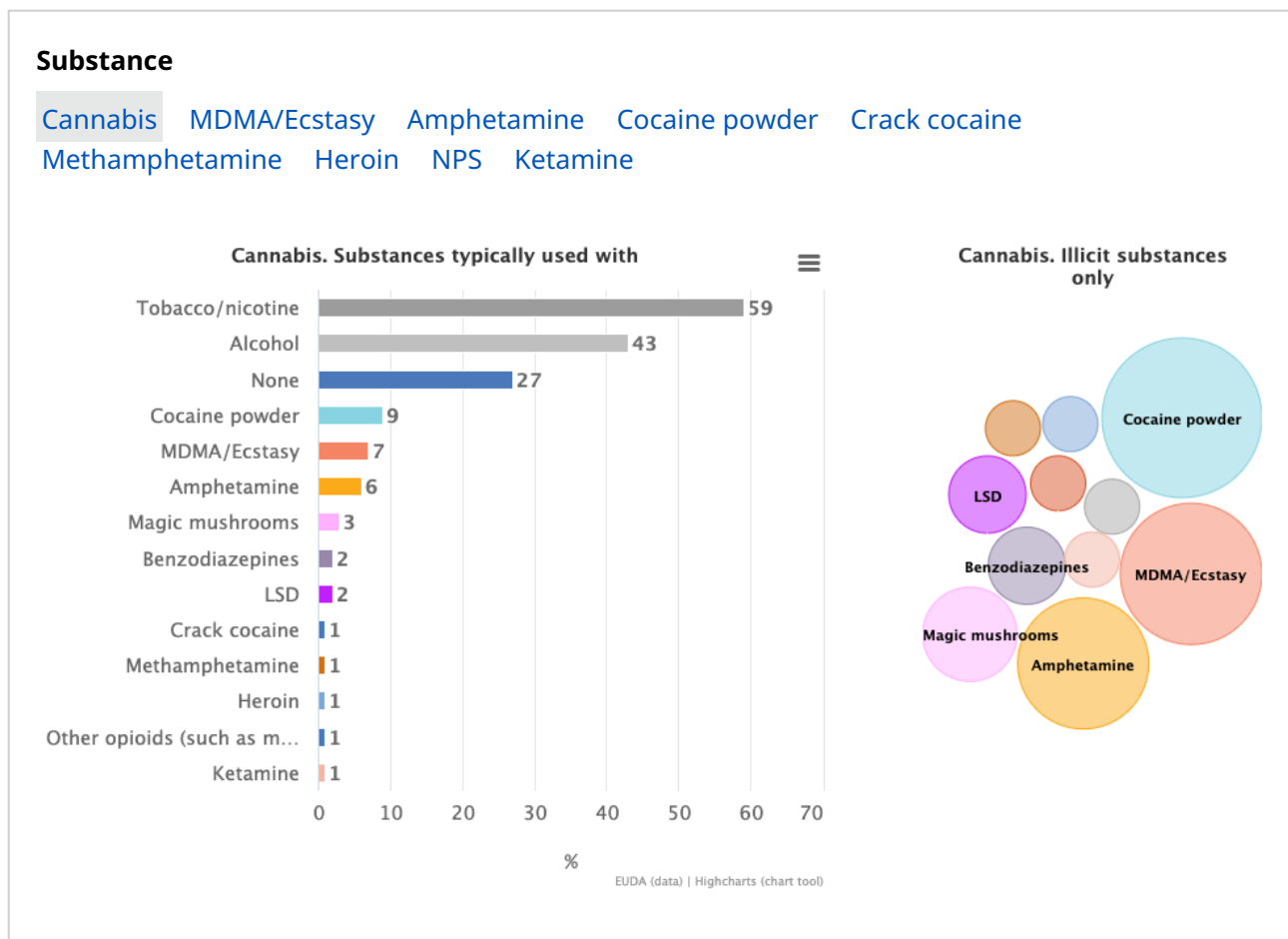


GHB/GBL: gamma-hydroxybutyric acid/gamma-butyrolactone
 NPS: new psychoactive substances

Polysubstance use in the last 12 months

Polysubstance use, the use of two or more substances in the same occasion, was reported across all drugs. Cocaine powder and crack cocaine were the drugs most frequently consumed alongside at least one other substance. Only 3 % of respondents indicated using them with no other substance during the last use, including tobacco and alcohol. On the other hand, cannabis and ketamine had the lowest proportion of polysubstance consumption pattern among drugs. A quarter of respondents answered that the last time they used cannabis and/or ketamine they did not use any other substances.

Figure 2. Substances typically co-used with each drug (%)



Motivation for drug use in the last 12 months

Around 84 % of the respondents who used MDMA/ecstasy specified they use the drug to get 'high'/for fun. Over half of the respondents using cocaine powder, amphetamine, ketamine and/or crack cocaine also noted that they use these substances for these motivations.

More than 65 % of those who used cannabis indicated that they use these substances to reduce stress or to relax. Additionally, 47 % of those who used new psychoactive substances (NPS) and/or heroin also reported the same reasons. Notably, around half of those who used heroin also disclosed that they use it due to dependence.

Figure 3a. Motivation for use of a substance in the last 12 months, by substance

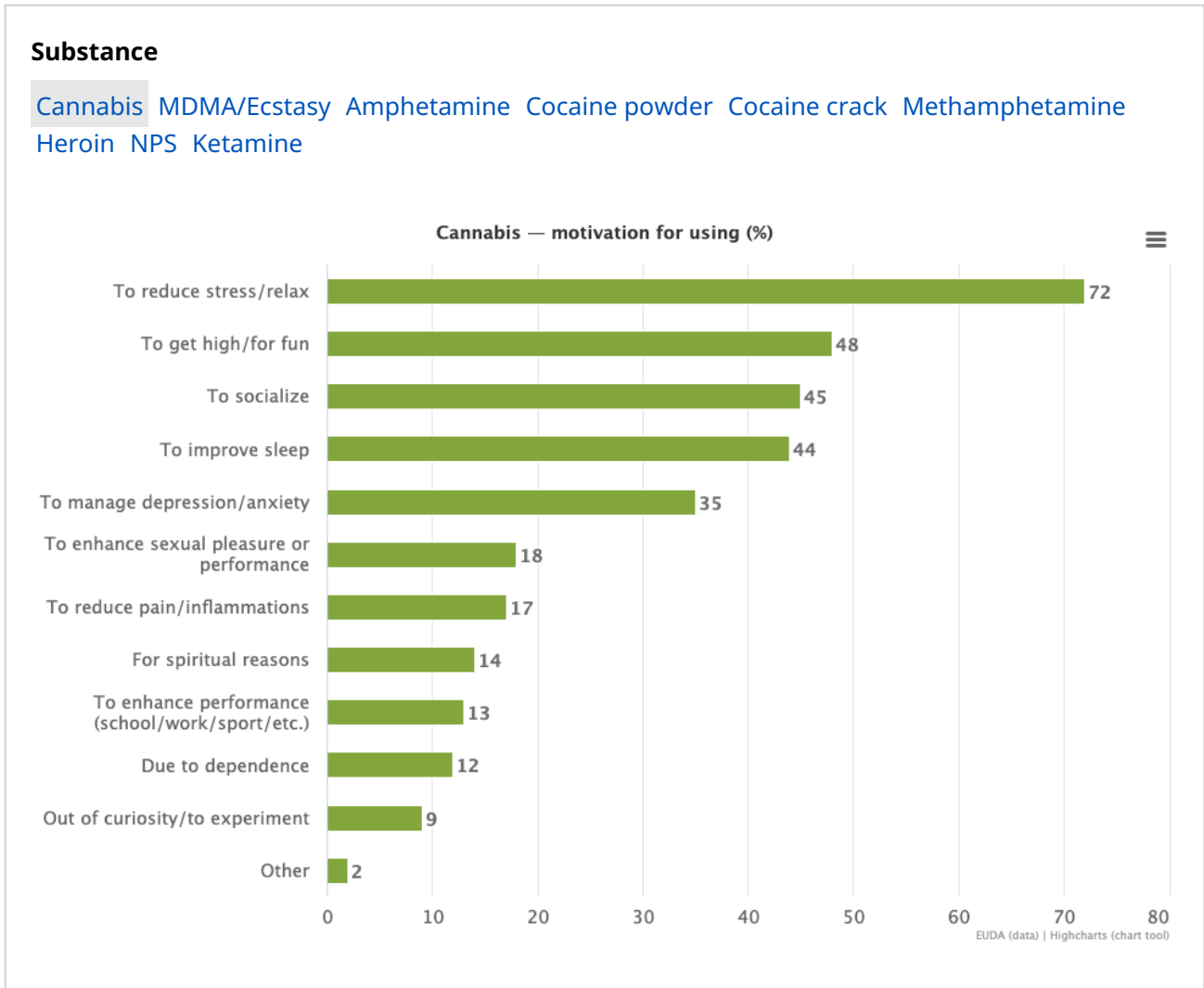
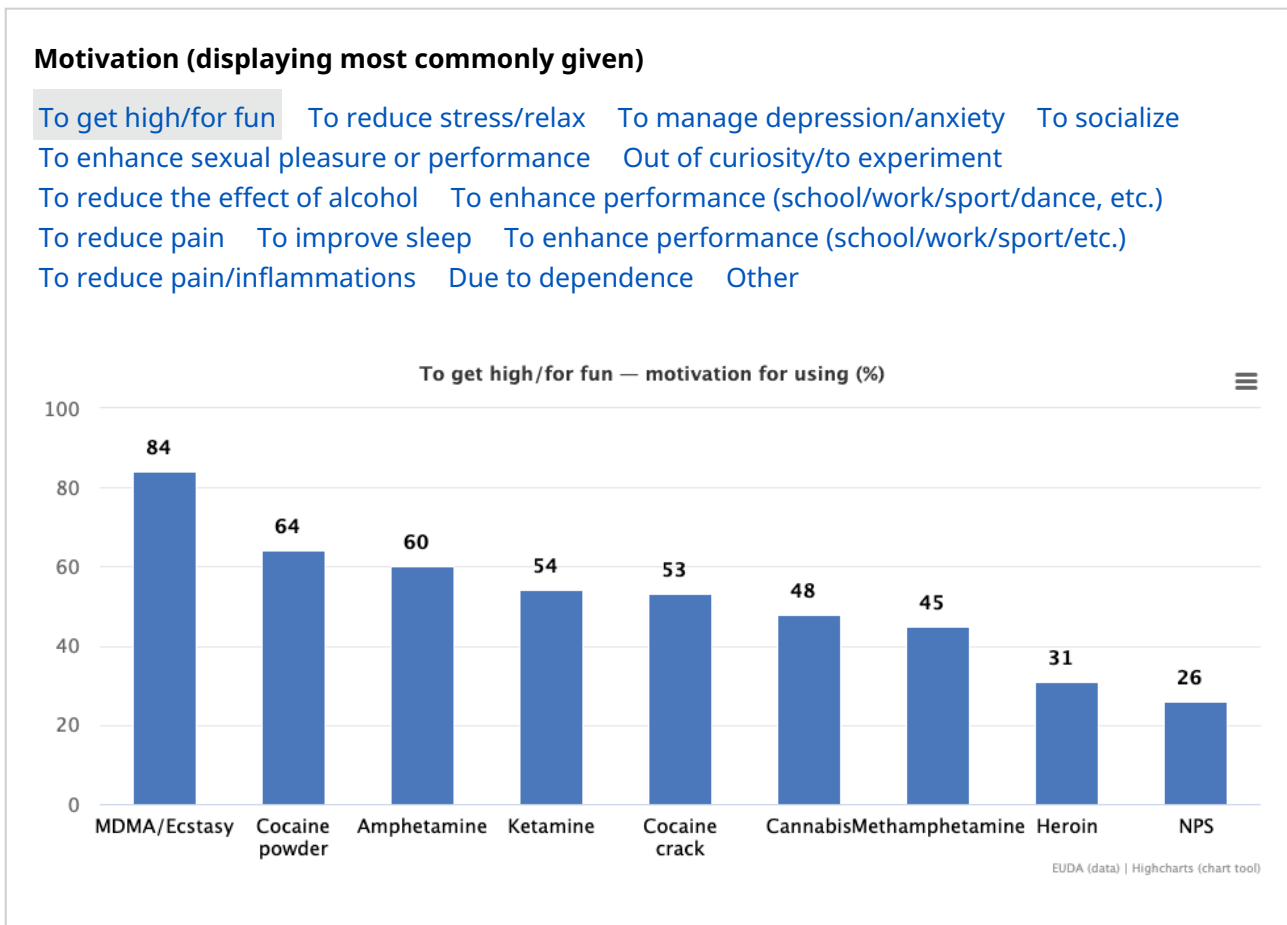


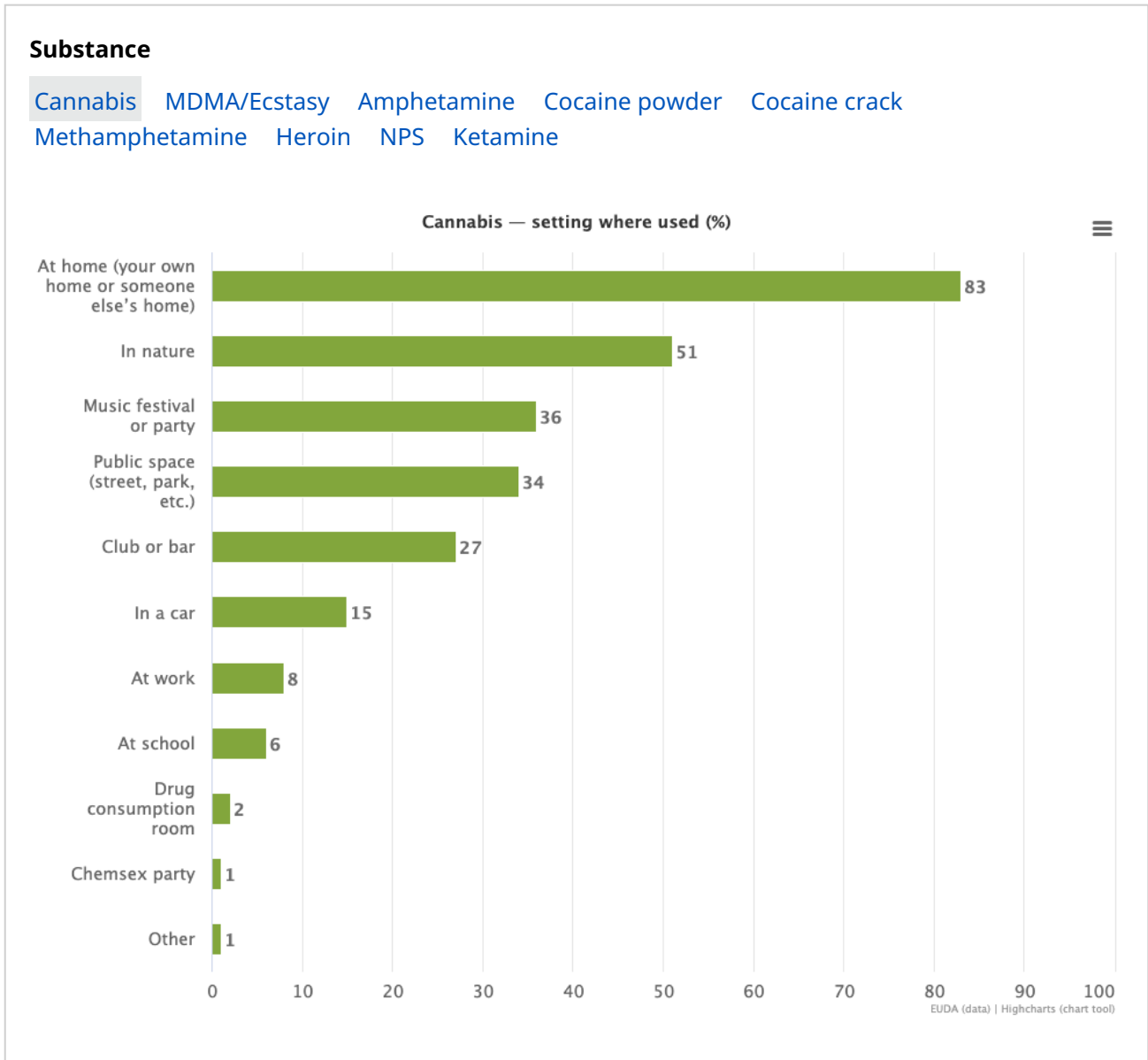
Figure 3b. Motivation for use of a substance in the last 12 months, by motivation



Setting for drug use in the last 12 months

While home was the most common setting for the use of most drugs during the previous 12 months, the preferred setting for MDMA use was at music festivals or parties (81 %) and cocaine powder was most commonly used at bars or clubs (71 %).

Figure 4. Settings for drug use in the last 12 months

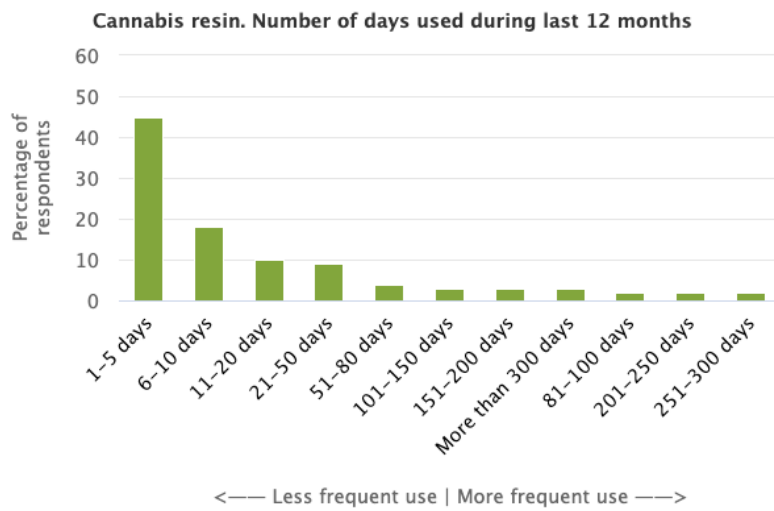


Patterns of use and sources of acquisition

Dashboard. Patterns of use and sources of acquisition

Substance

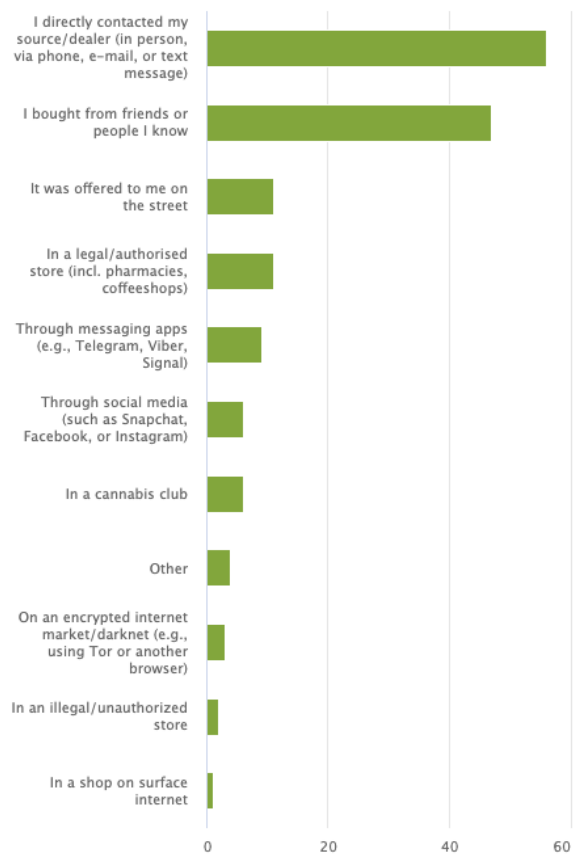
Cannabis resin Herbal cannabis MDMA/Ecstasy Amphetamine Cocaine powder
Crack cocaine Methamphetamine Heroin NPS Ketamine



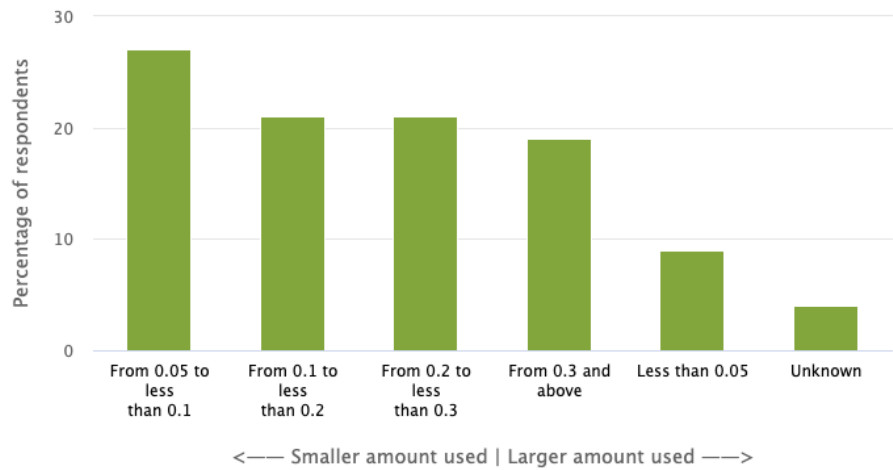
Cannabis resin. Route of administration (%)



Cannabis resin. Source of acquisition (%)



Cannabis resin. Typical amount (in grams) used per session



GHB/GBL: gamma-hydroxybutyric acid/gamma-butyrolactone

NPS: new psychoactive substances

Notes

- The analysis here covers Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Kosovo^{*}, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia as part of the EUDA IPA8 project.
- The analysis was also conducted in 24 EU countries: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, as well as Norway and Switzerland.
- In addition, the web survey was carried out in Ukraine, Lebanon and Palestine^{*} as part of the EUDA-EU4MD project.

Kosovo^{*}: 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.

Palestine^{*}: This designation shall not be construed as recognition of a State of Palestine and is without prejudice to the individual positions of the Member States on this issue.

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

For more detailed information on the project, please see our [dedicated page on the European Web Survey on Drugs](#).

Related resources

- [European Web Survey on Drugs 2024 landing page](#)
- [European Web Survey on Drugs 2024: top level findings, 24 EU countries and Norway](#)
- [European Web Survey on Drugs \(EWSD\) 2024: methodology](#)
- [European Web Survey on Drugs topic hub page \(outputs, news, etc.\)](#)
- [European Web Survey on Drugs project page](#)

Recommended citation

Recommended citation: European Union Drugs Agency (2025), *European Web Survey on Drugs 2024: top-level findings, Western Balkans*, <https://www.euda.europa.eu/publications/data-factsheet/european-web->

The **[complete set of source data for the European Web Survey on Drugs 2024: top level findings](#)**, including any additional metadata and methodological notes is available in our data catalogue.

[Download all files \(zip\)](#)

- [Table EWSD24-IPA-1. Drug use in the last 12 months by substance \(%\), European Web Survey on Drugs, Western Balkans, 2024](#)
- [Table EWSD24-IPA-2. Treatment for drug use in the last 12 months \(%\), Western Balkans, 2024](#)
- [Table EWSD24-IPA-3. Poly-substance use in the last 12 months \(%\), European Web Survey on Drugs, Western Balkans, 2024](#)
- [Table EWSD24-IPA-4. Motivation for drug use in the last 12 months \(%\), European Web Survey on Drugs, Western Balkans, 2024](#)
- [Table EWSD24-5. Settings for drug use in the last 12 months \(%\), European Web Survey on Drugs, Western Balkans, 2024](#)
- [Table EWSD24-IPA-6. Frequency of drug use in the last 12 months \(%\), European Web Survey on Drugs, Western Balkans, 2024](#)
- [Table EWSD24-IPA-7. Route of administration for drug use in the last 12 months \(%\), European Web Survey on Drugs, Western Balkans, 2024](#)
- [Table EWSD24-8. Source of acquisition by drug used in the last 12 months \(%\), European Web Survey on Drugs, Western Balkans, 2024](#)
- [Table EWSD24-IPA-9. Forms of drug used in the last 12 months \(%\), European Web Survey on Drugs, Western Balkans, 2024](#)
- [Table EWSD24-IPA-10. Typical number of tablets used by session in the last 12 months \(%\), European Web Survey on Drugs, Western Balkans, 2024](#)
- [Table EWSD24-IPA-11. Typical amount of drug used by session in the last 12 months \(%\), European Web Survey on Drugs, Western Balkans, 2024](#)

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