



EDADES

2024

SURVEY ON ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS IN
SPAIN (EDADES)

Executive summary

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INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES

In 2024, continuing with the series of biennial periodicity initiated in 1995, the Government Delegation for the National Plan on Drugs has carried out the fifteenth edition of the Survey on Alcohol and Drugs in Spain (EDADES). This survey is conducted throughout the national territory, in the general population residing in households (15-64 years old), and is carried out at home. In 2024 the sample was 26,878 people.

The general objective is to obtain information that will allow the design, development and evaluation of strategies and policies aimed at preventing drug use and addressing the negative consequences of drug use, misuse of technologies and other related behaviors.

The specific and common objectives of the entire series of surveys are to know:

- Prevalence of use of different psychoactive drugs and other related behaviors.
- The sociodemographic characteristics of consumers.
- Patterns of psychoactive substance use.
- The availability of drugs as perceived by the population and the perceived risk of various consumption behaviors.
- The visibility of drug problems where respondents live.
- Public opinion about the importance of drug problems and measures to reduce them.
- The evolution over time (since 1995) of the aspects described above.

2. MAIN RESULTS

The main results of the EDADES 2024 survey are presented below:

Prevalence of consumption and distribution by age and gender

- In the population aged 15-64 years, the drugs with the highest prevalence of use, in the last 12 months, are alcohol (76.5%), tobacco (36.8%) and cannabis (12.6%), followed by hypnotosedatives with or without prescription (12.0%) and cocaine powder and/or base (2.5%). Compared to 2022, the use of cannabis increases and the use of tobacco and hypnotosedatives decreases.
- The age of onset of consumption remained stable. The earliest onset is for alcohol (16.4 years) and tobacco (16.6 years). The latest onset continues to be for prescription and non-prescription opioid analgesics (33.9 years) and prescription and non-prescription hypnotosedatives (34.4 years).
- Prevalence of use in the last 12 months is higher in the 15-34 age group, except in the case of drugs with addictive potential (hypnotosedatives and opioid analgesics), whose use increases after the age of 35.
- As for differences by sex, the data (consumption in the last 12 months) confirm higher consumption among men (except for hypnotosedatives and opioid analgesics). The largest differences were found for alcohol, tobacco, cocaine and cannabis.

Consumption by type of drug

2.1. Alcoholic beverages

- Alcohol continues to be the most widely consumed psychoactive substance. Among 15-64 year olds, 76.5% have consumed alcohol in the past 12 months (76.4% in 2022), 63.5% in the past 30 days (64.5% in 2022) and 10.5% daily in the past 30 days (9.0% in 2022).

- In relation to heavy alcohol consumption, 14.7% of Spaniards aged 15 to 64 years say they have been drunk in the last year; this percentage is lower than in 2022 (16.7%). Binge drinking is most prevalent among young adults aged 15 to 34. In this age group, 29.0% of men and 19.8% of women say they have been drunk at some time in the last 12 months.
- *Binge drinking* is a risky drinking pattern that is more frequent in Spain today than it was years ago. 16.0% say they have consumed alcohol in the form of binge drinking in the last 30 days, a figure similar to that obtained in 2022 (15.4%), this form of risk consumption is concentrated in the 20-29 age group.
- The practice of “botellón” remains stable compared to last year (7.4% in 2022 and 7.3% in 2024).

2.2. Tobacco

- In 2024, 66.6% of the population aged 15 to 64 years had used tobacco at some time in their lives, 36.8% in the last year, 33.9% in the last month and 25.8% daily in the last month. Evolutionarily, all prevalences have decreased with respect to 2022.
- Among daily smokers, 67.7% have considered quitting smoking, and 44.1% have considered and tried to quit.

2.3. Electronic Cigarettes

- 19.0% of people aged 15 to 64 have consumed electronic cigarettes at some time in their lives, a higher percentage than in 2022 (12.1%), and almost double the 10.5% obtained in 2020. They are mostly consumed with nicotine or without nicotine and without cannabis.

2.4. Hypnosedatives

- The consumption of prescription and non-prescription hypnosedatives has increased again continuing the increasing trend started in 2018, to 27.4% in 2024. In 2024, 12.0% of people aged 15-64 years have consumed them in the last 12 months, and the proportion of consumption is higher among women (14.7%) than among men (9.3%).

- Regarding non-medical or over-the-counter consumption, 4.8% of the Spanish population aged 15-64 admits to having consumed them at some time in their lives, 1.8% admit to having consumed them in the last 12 months and, finally, less than 1% admit to having consumed them in the last 30 days.

2.5. Opioid Analgesics

- In 2024, 15.2% of people aged 15 to 64 years have consumed them at some time in their lives, 6.6% in the last 12 months and 3.9% in the last 30 days. There is a slight decrease in consumption with respect to the year 2022. The most commonly used opioid analgesics are codeine and tramadol. Women consume opioid analgesics in a higher proportion than men for all time periods, and consumption is also more frequent in older age groups.
- As for the use of opioid analgesics without prescription, 2.5% admit to having consumed them at some time in their lives without a prescription (2.6% among men and 2.3% among women). In evolutionary terms, an increase is observed in comparison with previous years. In the other time periods, the consumption of these analgesics remains residual.

2.6. Cannabis

- Cannabis is the illegal substance with the highest prevalence of use in Spain among the population aged 15-64 years. In 2024, 43.7% have used cannabis at some time in their lives, 12.6% in the last 12 months, and 10.5% in the last 30 days. In 2024, levels of occasional use have increased, but daily use has slightly decreased from 2.8% in 2022 to 2.5% in 2024.
- By age, the prevalence of use is higher in the 15-24 age group. 21.9% of young people in this age group consumed cannabis in the last 12 months (25.8% of boys and 17.7% of girls), 16.9% in the last 30 days (20.1% of boys and 13.5% of girls).
- The prevalence of problematic cannabis use ($CAST \geq 4$) in the population aged 15-64 years is 1.4% (2.2% of men and 0.7% of women). Among the population aged 15-64 years who has used cannabis in the past 12 months, it is 23.8% (25.8% of men and 19.1% of women).

2.7. Cocaine powder and/or base

- In 2024, 13.3% of the population has used powder and/or base cocaine in their lifetime, 2.5% of the population has used powder and/or base cocaine in the last 12 months and 1.4% in the last month. Data over time show stability.

2.8. Heroin

- In 2024, heroin use seems to have stabilized: in 2024, 0.7% of the population aged 15-64 years had tried it once in their lifetime and 0.1% in the last year.

2.9. Ecstasy, amphetamines, hallucinogens and volatile inhalants

- Use of ecstasy, amphetamines, hallucinogens and volatile inhalants are at low levels (use in the last 12 months: 0.7% ecstasy, 0.4% amphetamines, 0.6% hallucinogens and 0.2% volatile inhalants).

2.10. New Psychoactive Substances

- Since 2010, these substances have been asked about in the periodic OEDA surveys. In 2024, 70.8% of the population aged 15-64 years has never heard of them; this percentage was higher in 2022 (73.1%). 2.4% has ever tried them in their lives.

2.11. Polyconsumption

- Of the population aged 15 to 64 years, 16.8% has not consumed any legal or illegal psychoactive substance in the last 12 months, 44.3% reports the consumption of a single substance, and 39.0% reports polydrug use (two or more substances). Poly-drug use is more prevalent in men than in women in all age groups.
- Alcohol is present in at least 93.5% of polydrug users and cannabis in 63.1% of those who have used three psychoactive substances (practically all of them also use alcohol and tobacco).

2.12. Perception of risk

- Risk perception is higher for more frequent use, and also in women. Risk perception is generalized for the consumption of illegal substances, as well as tobacco, hypnotosedatives and opioid analgesics. Risk perception for alcohol consumption is relatively low, despite having increased again.
- 51.0% of the population between 15 and 64 years of age perceives the consumption of 5-6 beers/drinks on weekends as a risk.

2.13. Perception of availability.

- Contrary to what happened in 2022, there is a general increase in the perceived availability of drugs (cannabis, ecstasy, cocaine, heroin and hypnotosedatives). For all substances, men describe a higher perception of availability than women.
- The illegal substance perceived as most accessible is cannabis (59.0% believe they could get it easily or very easily within 24 hours). In second place is powder cocaine (40.6%). For the other substances, the perception is much lower.
- As for obtaining hypnotosedatives and opioid analgesics without a prescription, 30.9% and 26.6%, respectively, believe that they could easily/very easily obtain them within 24 hours.

2.14 Opinions on how to solve the drug problem

- Citizens consider that the most important measures to solve the drug problem are education (88.3%), voluntary treatment for users (81.3%), and publicity campaigns (79.7%). Among the least popular measures are the legalization of all drugs (23.1% consider this to be a very important measure) and the legalization of cannabis (35.5%).

2.15. Mental Health

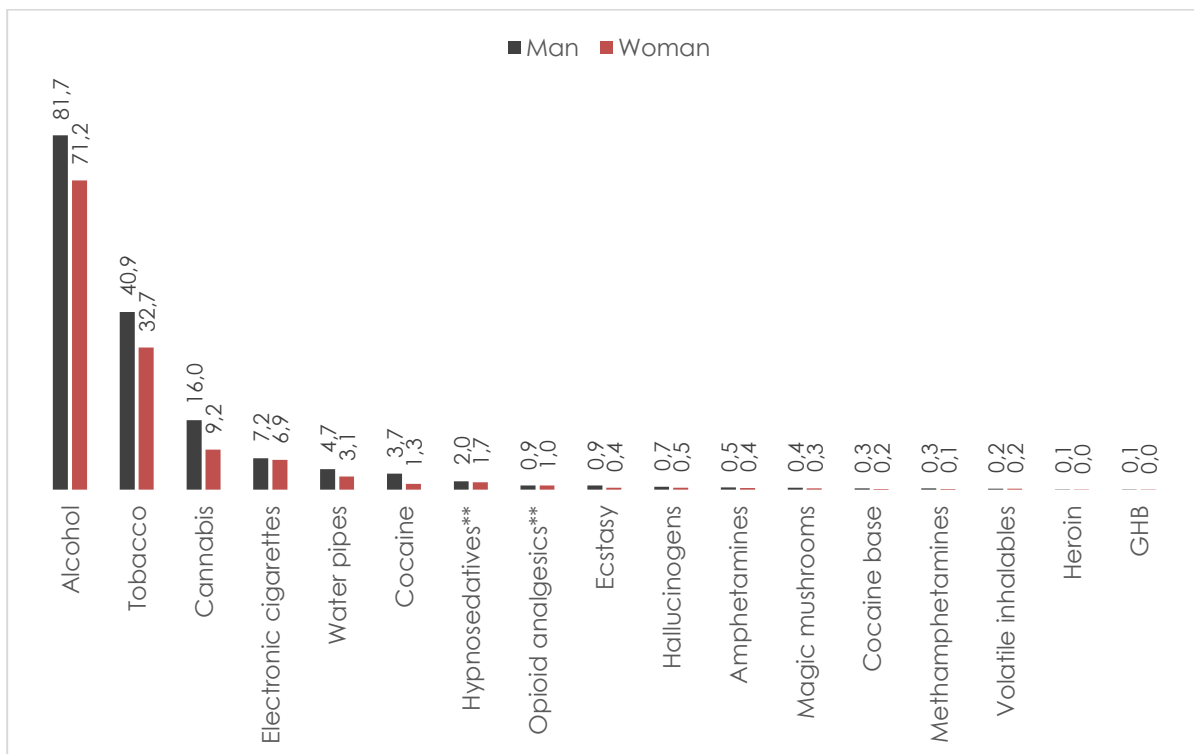
- The EDADES 2022 survey included a series of questions related to the risk of suicide, with the aim of improving knowledge of perceptions regarding this

problem in our society. On the other hand, with the questionnaire was included an information leaflet with telephone numbers and web pages of help for those people with problems with drugs or addictions or people who have had suicidal ideations.

- In 2024, 2.2% of the population aged 15 to 64 years has thought about committing suicide, 1.6% has planned it, and 0.5% says they have attempted it. The percentage is higher in women in terms of having thoughts of doing it and attempting it. An increase has been observed in all prevalences.
- Individuals with such risks consume all psychoactive substances to a greater extent than the general population, and are more likely to have had some type of psychiatric pathology.

2.16. Graph of Prevalence of consumption in the last 12 months, by sex

Prevalence of psychoactive substance use in the last 12 months in the population aged 15-64 years, by sex (%). Spain, 2024.



Source: OEDA.DGPNSD. Survey on Alcohol and Drugs in Spain (EDADES).

*powder and/or base

** With or without prescription