



Collation of measures and Indicators

Indicator: Any other drug than cannabis – lifetime use

RICHE Code 455

Originating project: ESPAD

Operational definition

Variable derived from survey questions: “On how many occasions (if any) have you used ecstasy?”, “On how many occasions in your lifetime (if any) have you used any of the following drugs? - Amphetamines, LSD or some other hallucinogens, Crack, Cocaine, Heroin”

Background

The European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs (ESPAD) project was established because of the lack of comparable data on substance use among European teenagers. In order to collect data, a common methodological protocol was established in the early 1990s, including a master questionnaire.

The overall aim of the ESPAD project is to collect comparable data on substance use among 15-16 year olds in as many European countries as possible. The most important objectives are to monitor trends and to compare trends between countries and groups of countries. In order to do so, the surveys are repeated every four years, with 1995 as the starting point. www.espad.org

Technical criteria

The survey is conducted among students in class rooms. Students’ participation is voluntary and anonymous. No results are presented for individuals or single classes. In general, countries draw random samples that are representative of the whole country, and not only of regions, cities and so on. The net sample (returned questionnaires) must include answers from at least 2400 students. Apart from using a common questionnaire on a commonly defined target population, the data collection period, field work practices as well as capture, cleaning, delivery and analysis of the data are carried out in standardised fashion. www.espad.org

Data sources

www.espad.org

The 2007 ESPAD Report: Substance use among students in 25 countries.

http://www.espad.org/documents/Espad/ESPAD_reports/2007/The_2007_ESPAD_Report-FULL_091006.pdf

Data availability

Since 2007 it is mandatory for all participating countries to deliver their national datasets centrally, so that they can be merged into joint ESPAD databases. This process was started on a voluntary basis after the 2003 data collection, and most countries delivered data for the first ESPAD database. The 2007 Database, however, covers all participating countries. The databases are stored in the ESPAD Databank, which is maintained by the Databank Manager. The databases are used to generate results to be included in the International Report. Once that a report has been published, ESPAD researchers may apply for access to the database in order to conduct further research, leading to the publication of books, reports and research articles. Applications to use ESPAD databases are sent to the Application Committee for review. Rules for the use of the databases and information about their application are available in a document entitled “Rules for the use of ESPAD databases”. For further information see www.espad.org.

The 2011 ESPAD report is to be published in Summer 2012.

References

www.espad.org

The ESPAD Handbook: section 2: (2010) Overview of the ESPAD project: background, methodology and organisation. September 2010.

http://www.espad.org/documents/Espad/Documents/Overview_of_the_ESPAD_Project.pdf

Hibell B, Guttormsson U, Ahlström S, Balakireva O, Bjarnason T, Kokkevi A, Kraus L (2009) The 2007 ESPAD Report: Substance use among students in 25 countries.

http://www.espad.org/documents/Espad/ESPAD_reports/2007/The_2007_ESPAD_Report-FULL_091006.pdf