

COVID-19 Drug Market Survey

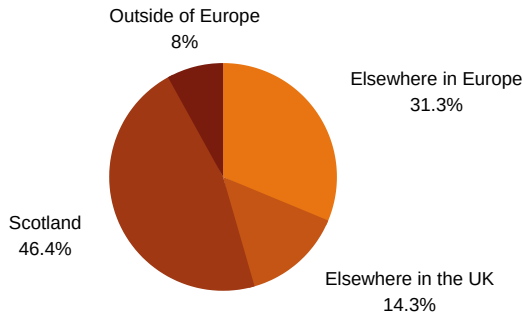
Week 3 summary - 22 April 2020



This data sheet summarises the responses from 112 people, including people who take drugs, drug service staff, support staff and other professionals, as well as members of the public. To take the survey please visit: www.crew.scot/covid-drug-market

In week 1 we surveyed an additional 58 people. A summary can be found here: www.crew.scot/covid-drug-markets-survey-week-one
 In week 2 we surveyed an additional 107 people. A summary can be found here: www.crew.scot/covid-drug-markets-survey-week-two

Where are you based?



Scotland locations include:

Edinburgh, Glasgow, Cumbernauld, Paisley, Dundee, Ayr, Troon, Aberdeen, Irvine, Kilmarnock, Blantyre, Inverary, Kirkwall, Melrose, Peterhead, Dumfries, Banff, Fraserburgh, Livingston, Buckie, Saltcoats, Kirkintilloch

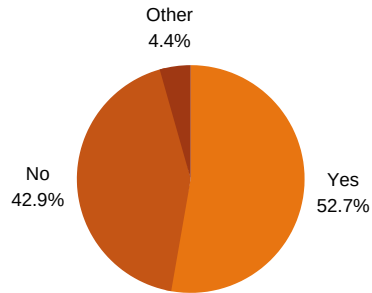
UK locations include:

London, Cramlington, Durham, Great Yarmouth, Pontypool, Worcester, Sheffield, Stoke on Trent

Other locations include:

Michigan, California, Berlin, Vienna, Brasilia, Montreal, Ontario, Cologne, New York, Paris, Mexico, Leipzig, Oslo, Nijmegen, Bremen, Porto, Ankara, Würzburg, Amsterdam, Lisboa, Munich, Zagreb

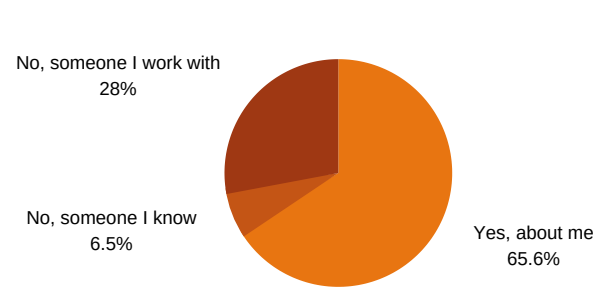
Have you noticed any changes to the supply of drugs since the outbreak of COVID-19 in Europe?



Comments include:

- No but I live in Ontario, Canada
- Not for me personally, but for others it has
- [Other] legal drugs [primarily tobacco]

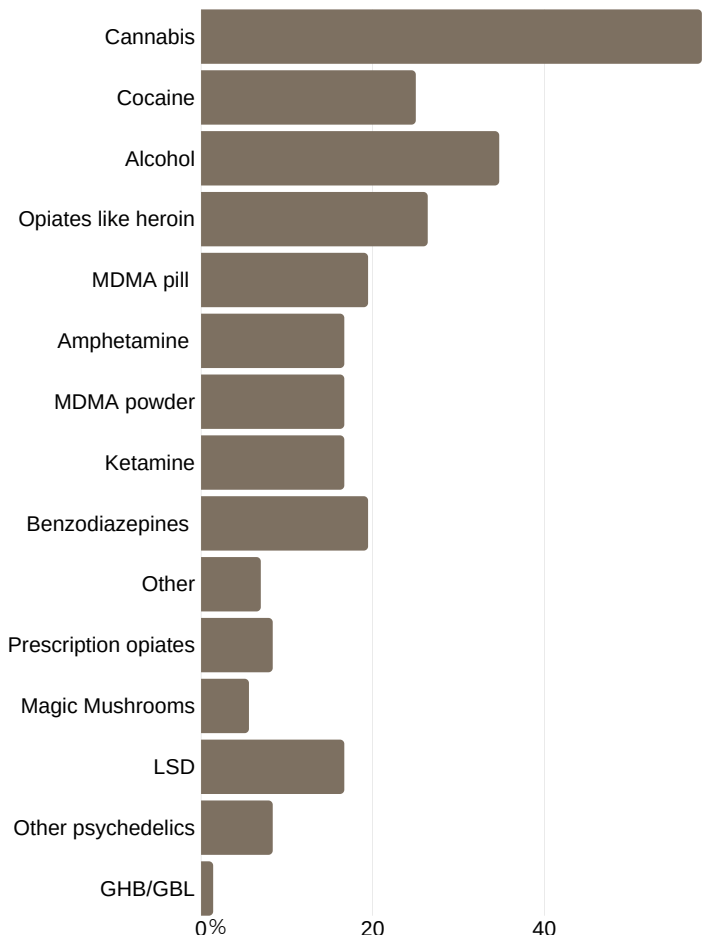
Are you filling this survey in about yourself or someone else?



Comments for "if worker please specify the type of organisation" include:

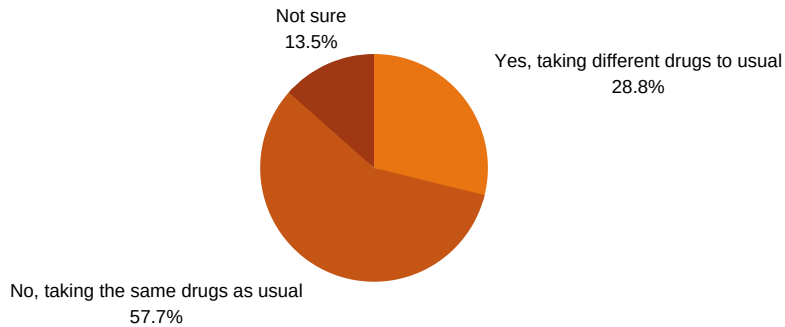
Youth worker, Drug and Alcohol 3rd Sector Support Service, Social work, Voluntary sector, Housing, Justice Services, Mental Health Nurse with NHS Specialist Drug and Alcohol Service, Criminal Justice, Substance misuse service, Treatment service, Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, Addiction advice, NHS Support Service, Young People's Substance Misuse Service, Peer recovery network, Alcohol and Drugs Recovery Service

What type of drugs are being taken?



Comments include: DMT, cigarettes, hash

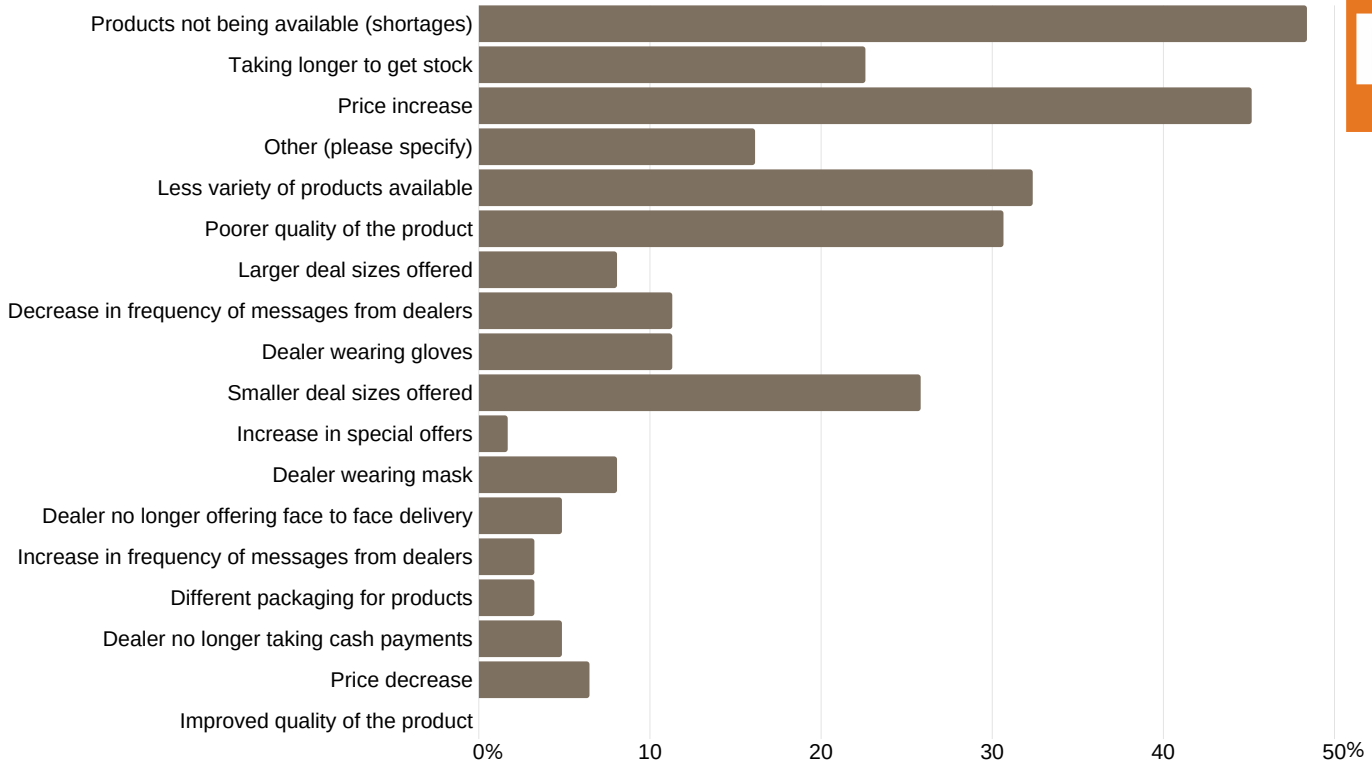
Has there been a change to the type of drugs (inc. alcohol) taken due to COVID-19?



Comments include:

- Out of edibles, which I prefer to smoking, so I'm using less cannabis; low on beer, more wine with dinner, maybe a bit more hard liquor but still 1-2 units per day.
- Just weed [cannabis]
- [No, taking the same drugs to usual] Heroin
- [Yes, taking different drugs to usual] Heroin
- More alcohol and speed, no more MDMA (because of downer after use), thinking about doing DMT
- More alcohol and weed less everything else
- I don't use substances
- Drinking more as drugs not as accessible
- More prescription drugs on the market - methadone, pregablin and gabapentin
- Due to smack [heroin] shortage I'm using other stuff
- Bought a case of wine and drinking increased
- Taking whatever is offered
- Less face to face contact with Service Users at present
- Vallies are more common
- Shortages of Cannabis in west of region [Dumfries, Scotland]
- More people r buying alcohol
- I haven't wanted to risk going to the cannabis store, so I'm out of edibles, and I haven't been to the grocery in a month so I'm low on beer, though we got a delivery order of dinner and mixed drinks from the pub and are drinking more wine with dinner.
- Because I dont go out so I dont use Emma [MDMA] or Pills [ecstasy], or Keta [ketamine]
- Taking whats offered if drug of choice unavailable also methadone pick up reduced so some taking drugs on other days
- If I have questions about this how does it get answered? [please email info@crew2000.org.uk]

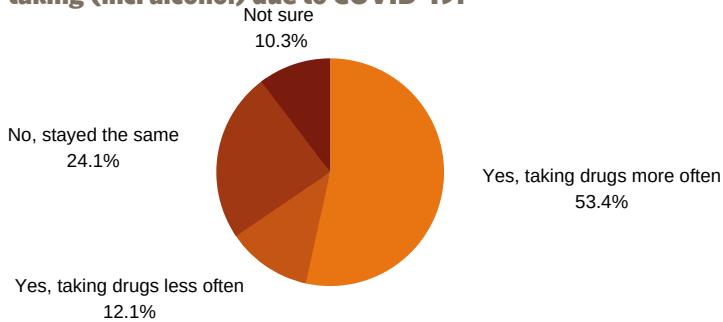
What changes have you noticed?



Comments include:

- Didn't buy anything/not buying anything
- Medical marijuana recommendation doctor texted me that she's still in business (since local government is restricting recreational sales except by delivery) [California]
- Increased stock of LSD because ppl like to take trips at home now with no obligations-nowhere to go-spare time.
- Delivery charges
- Think the situation will get worse regarding availability of drugs in general. Prices might go up and quality down.
- People are buying online more and also reaching to alcohol if they can't get their drugs
- People are selling prescribed drugs, methadone, gabapentin, pregabalin dihydrocodeine
- Want to grow my own and save money
- More care taken when meeting to grab (going inside apartments and staying inside longer so as not to attract too much attention to the traffic in and out); concerns about going out to meet people late at night (because fewer people are out and about on the street).
- I have heard of some dealers not coming out for less than £X you should follow/look at ShottaTexxts
- Quantity less, quality poor
- Dealer is dealing out of window to limit contact.
- I still meet with a dealer although this has become much more infrequent and has resulted in me purchasing larger quantities at a time to reduce time going outside
- It still face to face but through another person

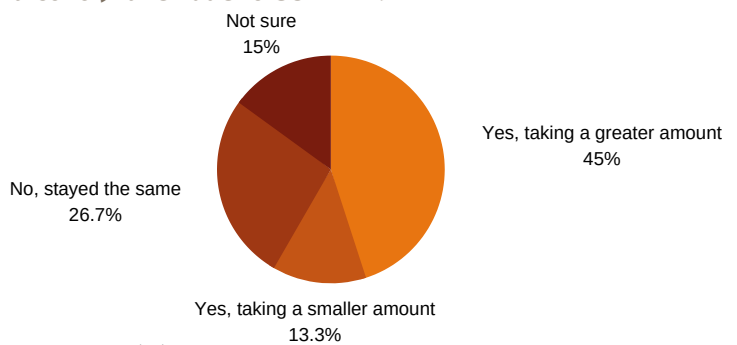
Has there been any changes in the frequency of drug taking (inc. alcohol) due to COVID-19?



Comments include:

- [Yes, taking drugs more often] Again time/Nothing else to do/More time and money/Nowhere to go, so I was bored and the weekends seemed like a good option to take drugs/more time for consumption.
- Alcohol and cocaine/alcohol/drinking more alcohol
- Isolation/boredom/stress
- Twice the normal amount
- There are more opportunities - it's boring, there's more time to do drugs! My friend has been using more drugs and I copied that behaviour.
- Restrictions in activities, passes time and blocks concerns
- I tend to smoke a zoot [cannabis joint] a day. Usually this period of smoking would subside after I've ran out but having purchased larger quantities at a time, I am able to smoke more for longer... There's a lot more time on my hands and now with no other work to be doing... It kills time for me, especially in the evenings. I don't get stupid with it, it's one zoot a day 99% of the time ... Smoking during the day is risk on two fronts; first, there are obviously still people around outside. Secondly, I don't wanna go and get high then have to come home and be surrounded by family.
- Trying to block out the fear
- A mix of both dependant and availability
- [Yes, taking drugs less often] I want to stay safe hence the reason reducing
- A general increase in using substances due to restrictions of healthier activities, ie gym
- Frequency: more time to do, and psychedelics are helpful to deal with the situation. so, "more in need" of healing-hours and meditate.
- Less frequent due to lockdown of yp [young people]
- I am in quarantine and have not much to do. Police is thinking about other stuff at the moment. Actually feeling little bit more safe from police than normally. [Munich]

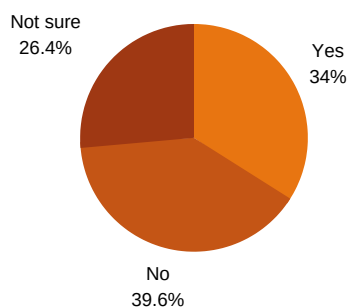
Has there been any changes to the quantity of drugs (inc. alcohol) taken due to COVID-19?



Comments include:

- [Yes, taking a larger amount] Lots of idle time/nothing else to do
- I'm out of cannabis edibles, which I prefer to smoking, and low on beer. Maybe drinking more wine with dinner.
- Alcohol increase
- Person sitting with own thought of past trauma, struggling
- Increased alcohol
- I'm smoking weed more, not because of any adverse reason, but more because I've got a larger quantity on me and therefore will smoke a greater amount at a time.
- I want to stay safe and hence the reason reducing
- Especially alcohol
- [Yes, taking a smaller amount] Because I don't party
- Alcohol use has increased
- Can only get grass [herbal cannabis] Pollen [a powdery type of cannabis resin] not available
- Some services users taking more, some less, some poly drug use or substituting alcohol
- Clients taking more than before with little or no effect
- Changes. it depends on how I feel, work, and family coping.
- Taking less because I can't go out (clubs) and be with friends
- [Yes, taking a greater amount] Tolerance build up
- Reduced amount, costing more
- Smaller amounts because now staying w/parents
- Cannabis use has gone up significantly to deal with stress and worry of the virus
- More often, helps to get the day done, boredom. Quality not as good so using more
- Trying to cut down so I don't need to go out as often.

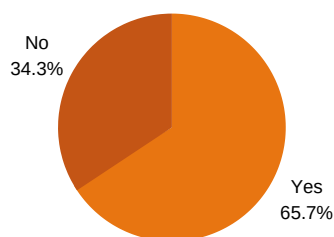
Has the changes to the the way drugs are bought, sold or taken caused any worry or feelings of anxiety?



Comments include:

- Concerns about drug shortages. So far it hasn't been too bad but I worry about the future. This includes concerns about the bigger drug dealers who usually come in from out of town to sell to the street drug dealers not wanting to travel (and thus quality and quantity being reduced).
- A bit more precautious when picking up.
- Masks, gloves, hand san, keeping a distance. Also the risk of going in to town when there's already a heightened police presence about.
- As a nurse unable to have face to face contact and at time unable to make phone contact you do worry about overdose
- Feel totally dependant on cannabis and alcohol
- Especially for service users who have no access to a phone or internet
- Cannot afford price increase
- Mental health and domestic violence/coercive control remain an issue
- Paranoid activity increase
- Boredom, anxiety
- Past trauma creeping back and no helpful method to cope
- Mental health, peer pressure

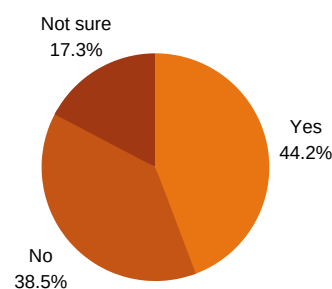
Has there been any difficulty in accessing prescriptions due to COVID-19?



Comments include:

- Methadone due to people self-isolating
- Just the queue
- Shortage of dispensing chemists
- I didn't needed one
- People struggling on methadone that are daily pick ups
- Our service has changed dispensing medications to try and assist and also added a named other for collection if need to all prescriptions
- I am unaware of difficulties apart from non-collection
- Long waits at pharmacies.

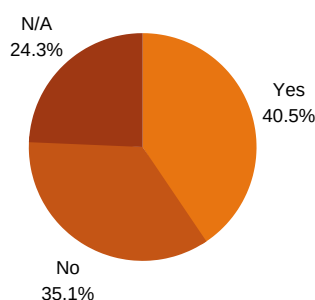
Did you (or they) stockpile any drug (including alcohol) due to COVID-19?



Comments include:

- [No] Oops :-)
- Weed/grass/cannabis
- A bottle of Aperol
- Second case of wine bought. Buying cannabis by the ounce
- Finances permitting, theft by shoplifting now more difficult as well as other acquisitive crimes
- Bought usually 5 time more ketamine than usual
- People are grabbing what they can and then self-isolating

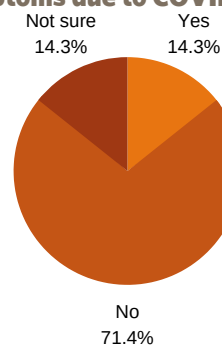
Has there been any difficulty in getting support related to drug use due to COVID-19?



Comments include:

- I'm not using things that require support (my drinking's not at an Alcoholics Anonymous level; I gather some meetings are going to Zoom.)
- Many/most addiction-based services are closed or not accepting new patients
- [Yes, difficulty accessing] one to one support
- Most places closed. Telephone support from my workers.
- Lack of face to face supports
- Services are still operational
- Supports closed, unable to contact drug workers, appointments cancelled, affecting mental health
- Missing face to face contact with workers, can't assess me properly and help me
- Telephone contact only, delay in assessments.
- Some are having issues contacting key workers
- No public safe spaces any more etc
- Due to isolation and not able to source around the city and lack of support has resulted in individual taking up to 20 viallies a day where they would take 10

Have you (or they) experienced any unintended withdrawal symptoms due to COVID-19?



Comments include:

- YP [young people] mood swings
- Benzo/alcohol withdrawal
- Withdrawals
- Heroin
- Methadone withdrawal due to prescription issues
- Generally relating to alcohol
- [Not sure] Perhaps some ill effects of alcohol use
- Service user was unable to source heroin and illicit highs