

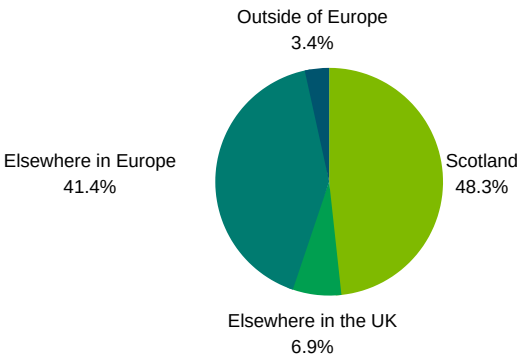
COVID-19 Drug Market Survey

Week 1 summary - 08 April 2020



This data sheet summarises the responses from 58 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

Where are you based?



Scotland locations include:

Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dumfermline, Fife, Glenrothes, Stirling, Livingston, Dundee, Kirkcaldy, Ayr

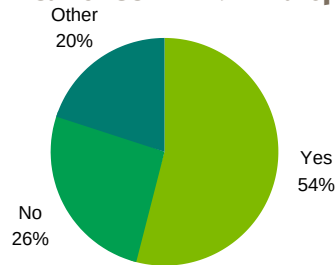
UK locations include:

Gateshead, Liverpool, Reading

Other locations include:

Berlin, Munic, Regensburg, Ljubljana, Turin, Vienna, Stockholm, Potsdam, Leipzig, Toronto

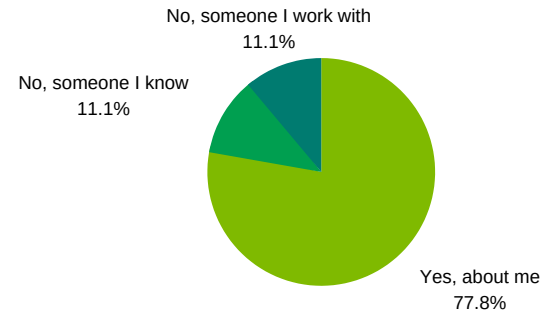
Have you noticed any changes to the supply of drugs since the outbreak of COVID-19 in Europe?



Comments include:

- I haven't bothered to take drugs at this time/I haven't been buying drugs
- Slow down in some things, people are hoarding cocaine, hear people talking about issues with weed but not experienced it - everything else seems pretty much constant. If anything people are just talking about growing their own
- I've certainly noticed, as I can imagine: it probably is changing

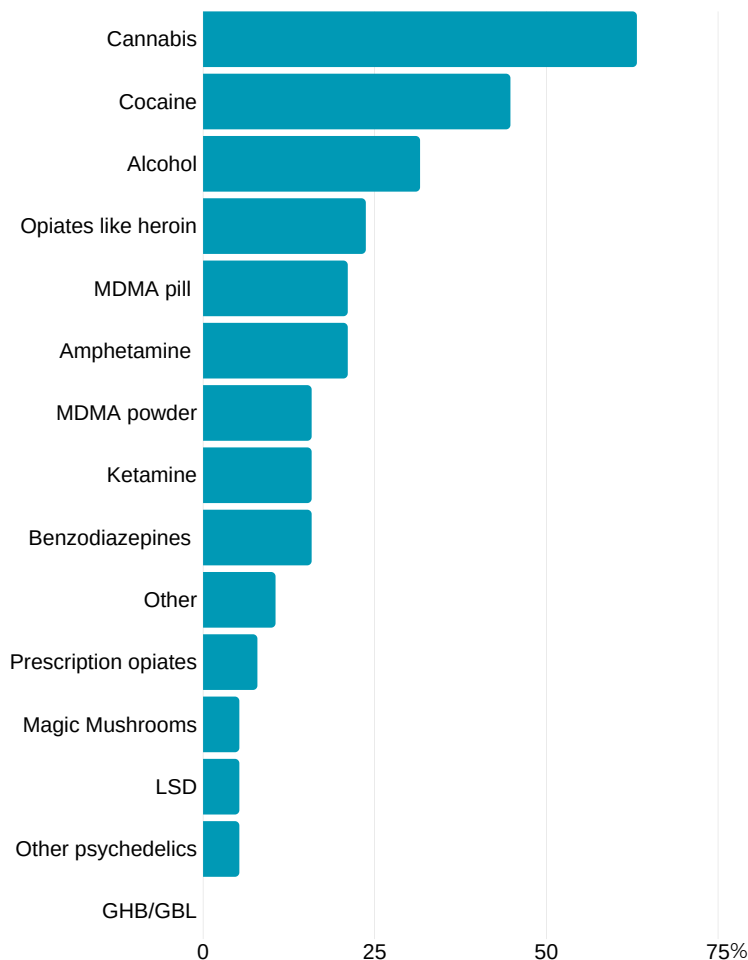
Are you filling this survey in about yourself or someone else?



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

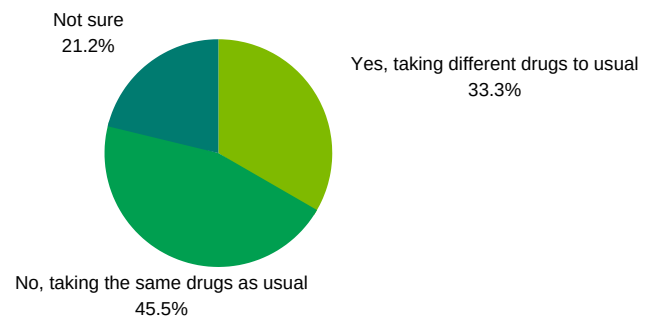
NHS, support worker, third sector working with teenagers, peer to peer accepting drug education, drug service, harm reduction organization, drug users union, drug information organisation, third sector, drug and alcohol service

What type of drugs are being taken?



Comments include: tobacco and vapour

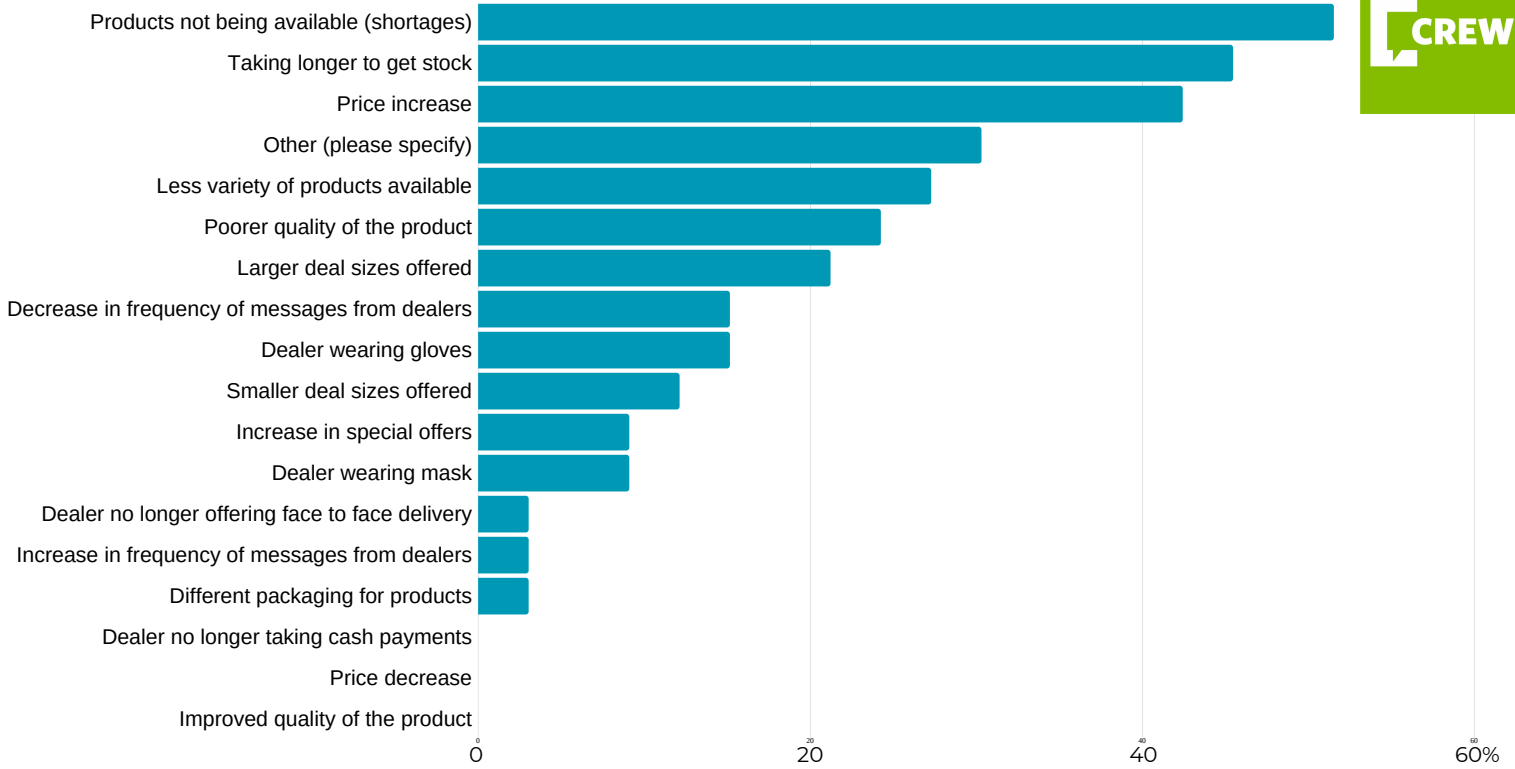
Has there been a change to the type of drugs (inc. alcohol) taken due to COVID-19?



Comments include:

- Alcohol, zero drugs atm
- Drinking alcohol more often/alcohol/more alcohol
- I am not taking drugs, I have avoided drinking alcohol but have some in the house - drank a small amount this week and haven't smoked the small amount of weed I have and have no intention to buy more at the moment
- Yes, not taking coke as much. Not taking any new drugs.
- Crack cocaine being used more
- Still no alcohol!
- More Cannabis, less party drugs
- I happen to have a stock...otherwise currently Es and mdma seem to be unavailable in my area,,,while meth is on the rise [comment from Germany]
- Using alcohol where there may be a shortage of supply of their usual drug of choice
- More alcohol as I had stocked up and it was available in my residence
- Just not available at all
- Alcohol is always going to be available so I'm drinking more frequently. Helps to switch off from stress
- Alcohol intake will increase further if I can't get weed.

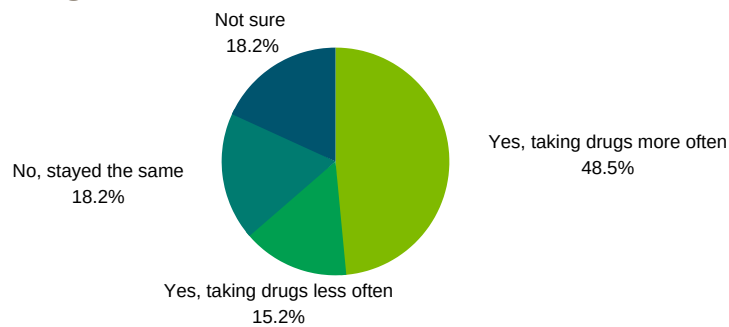
What changes have you noticed?



Comments include:

- Getting harder to contact dealer/dealer not answering/getting more difficult to access
- Dealers saying there is no stock for a few days so people waiting longer. can't get tenner bags anymore, starting at 0.5g [opiates like heroin]
- I bought 4 different strains of weed the other day but I have stocked up more than I usually would so haven't noticed changes to stock. Larger deal sizes offered by dealers to reduce their risk by completing fewer transactions. Not noticed any difference in quality - the quality always varies so its always going to be a different batch really. I haven't met anyone in a while so not sure about changes to dealers wearing gloves etc.
- No purchase/consumption (no parties/Clubs!)
- Less places..only [people] like me...people who are not addicts don't take the risk
- Hard to say after 2 weeks
- Dealers sanitising all packaging , price increase as drivers want more money, dealers now posting items
- It were laced
- Some of my dealers have shut down saying its not worth the risk. Others are operating like usual.
- Seems to depend on the user and where they are getting stuff from. less face to face dealing on the spot and def more organising it online and getting someone to come out and meet them outside the house or whatever. Snapchat is still a source and there has been a recent trend of older guys (in 20s, with cars) setting up snapchat pages and using the cars to drop off stuff.

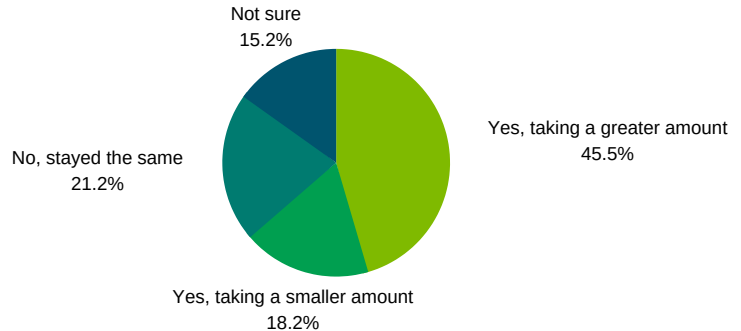
Has there been any changes in the frequency of drug taking (inc. alcohol) due to COVID-19?



Comments include:

- Drinking in the morning now/drinking much more/more alcohol/increased alcohol/higher amount of alcohol/more cocaine/more cannabis
- Theyre working less so filling there time by using drugs. Starting earlier
- Depends. under agers cant get alcohol as easily now as used to hang around outside the shops. Also, some YP seems to be getting cannabis as usual but others tell me their usual dealer has less
- Yes cause, there is nothing to do
- Yes, smoking more often but haven't taken any coke in a while (3 weeks now). When I take coke more often I usually smoke less as it doesn't feel as good. When I don't take coke for a long time I smoke more and drink less alcohol. (never used to drink a lot and just smoked a lot but as I got older alcohol became more of a feature mainly linked to being depressed and the monotony of daily life)
- Being more isolated is increasing drug use
- I try to take as little as possible,..no parties so...
- Bars and clubs are Closed, no Meetings with Friends leads to less consumption of alcohol and Party drugs. More hanging out at Home leads to more consumption of Cannabis.

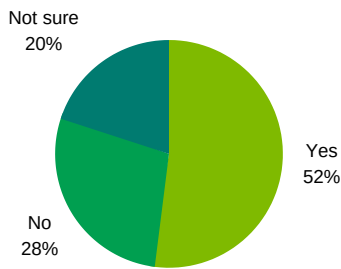
Has there been any changes to the quantity of drugs (inc. alcohol) taken due to COVID-19?



Comments include:

- Taking more drugs and drinking heavily on top
- Same amount of cannabis. Smoking every night
- Not taking at all as shortage
- Client taking larger amounts to deal with mental health problems
- Alcohol more/more alcohol than average/alcohol consumption increased
- Feel too anxious that taking drugs will affect my mental health at the moment
- Yes, drinking more during some temp work I had to take during this time after losing job as a result on as the job wasn't good. Also smoking more as I am staying in the house - which if I was off work for a while and in the house I would do anyway. I have the foreseeable future off and no obligations so maybe I am a bit more self indulgent.
- With exception of Cocaine more housebound users taking this substance due to being bored and isolated not getting the same hit as before
- Having ket more than planned. But not going to for a while now
- Perfect opportunity to detox on one hand...but staying at home pushes some others to consume more due to less fears of social consequences
- Buying more at a time cause harder to get n then taking more cause I have it

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

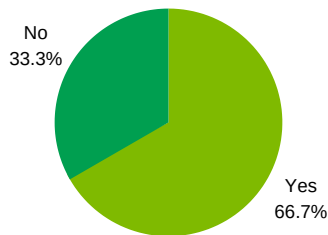


Comments include:

- Yes because I'm seeing more abuse in their home
- A bit, I like to reset from time to time
- Worried they wont score/worried wont be able to get any if the situation gets worse
- Worried in case I can't get any supply, worried about relapsing back to other drugs
- Clear increase in all mental health issues. Anxiety being the primary
- Anxiety/social isolation/sheer boredom
- I worried some of my clients will start to withdraw if the supply dries up, and worried that drugs will be cut with more harmful things and that people are taking more drugs to cope with the restrictions and isolation. Also use is riskier as clients less likely to go to needle exc in lockdown.
- I feel less worried about having drugs in the house as this won't be a priority for police but more worried about sourcing drugs as it is difficult for people to move around.
- The unknown what is going on with clients. Potential rise in Near fatal overdose - administering clean IEP equipment and naloxone.
- Given how badly I withdraw from meth I have enough stock of weed for a month but sincerely can not imagine what I would become if it suddenly is unavailable...we need special reasons to leave our home and going to my dealer's place is not one of them
- Real sense of apprehension around the pandemic, drug are a coping mechanism for this.
- More freetime, more sorrows



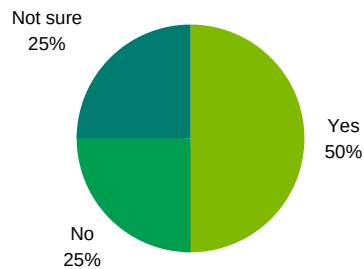
Has there been any difficulty in accessing prescriptions due to COVID-19?



Comments include:

- Couldn't get drs appointment to change prescription.
- Big ques at the chemist. Had to wait almost an hour to get in
- As some clients start to report covid 19 symptoms or are in isolation due to a family member displaying symptoms there is not a clear plan from Addiction Services on how the services can get the ORT directly to patients
- Lengthy waiting times. Long queues at pharmacy. problematic issues in picking up prescriptions for those who are isolated. Staff wasting of time having to stand in queues for 1 - 2 hours therefore put at risk of Covid19 from those attending community pharmacy. High risk situations for staff picking prescriptions up in case attacked for prescribed medication.
- People on OST cannot go to their doctors everyday
- Not yet officially but I can feel it's coming
- There has to be a plan made going forward for extra special circumstances like this so that there's no delay in getting clients prescriptions out and a higher immediate supply of ball own kits being distributed as a first response measure .

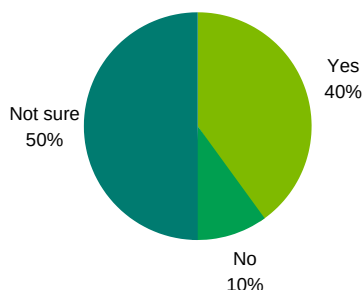
Did you (or they) stockpile any drug (including alcohol) due to COVID-19?



Comments include:

- YES, before anything else!!
- But they are buying bigger deals now
- Both cannabis/weed and alcohol
- Yes but took more than usual and quickly run out
- Usually buys blues 1000 at a time so already had stock. Don't think they have money to stockpile more tbh
- I should have!
- I never have alcohol in the house but have bought some extra in case I want some later in a few weeks time and its not available in shops
- I bulk bought weed but not necessarily stockpiled - I know people who bought 3 or 5 ounces in preparation. I knew there would be a steady supply.
- Buying cannabis in bulk instead of a weekly amount
- Unsure about illicit substances, however i am aware of the amount of professionals who have stocked up in their supply of alcohol
- Street Vallies being stocked up
- When social distancing came in (or just before) we panic bought 7g of k [ketamine]

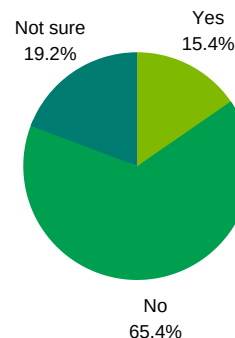
Has there been any difficulty in getting support related to drug use due to COVID-19?



Comments include:

- We are running a reduced service and not speaking to clients as often as we need, other agencies have closed completely.
- No new clients being accepted
- Telephone support has increased
- All clients and also new clients are supported by staff daily contact via telephone electronic device
- Social exclusion even worse than usual
- It's ok, meetings like NA are online, but therapies, dual diagnosis, urgent points of advice...etc...all of this is currently closed
- Mostly all services for Drugusers have been diminished

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



Comments include:

- Sleeping problems
- Was feeling cravings for cocaine while at the crap job but haven't had any while at home. Being bored at work made the idea of taking drugs seem fun.
- We have had very little feedback from our client base on this topic
- Intentionally: due to social distancing and home office I do not need to be as active and productive so I took the opportunity to detox from meth [comment from Germany]...it's pretty tough...but at least no one is tempting me to relapse, ah ah...
- Especially more heroin-withdrawals