The 2015 Epidemiological Survey of Substance Abuse

Piontek, D., Kraus, L., Gomes de Matos, E., & Atzendorf, J. (2016). Der Epidemiologische Suchtsurvey 2015: Studiendesign und Methodik [The 2015 Epidemiological Survey of Substance Abuse: study design and methodology]. *Sucht, 62* (5), 259-269. Published online Oktober 21, 2016, DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1024/0939-5911/a000444

The 2015 Epidemiological Survey of Substance Abuse: study design and methodology

Abstract. *Aims:* The paper gives an overview on methods and study design of the 2015 Epidemiological Survey of Substance Abuse (ESA). *Methods:* The sampling frame of the ESA included German-speaking individuals living in private households aged 18 to 64 years. A sample was drawn from population registers using a two-stage probability design oversampling younger birth cohorts. The survey was realized using paper-and-pencil questionnaires, telephone interviews, and online questionnaires. *Results:* A total of 9204 individuals participated in the survey, resulting in a response rate of 52.2 %. Using redressement weights, the sample could be adjusted to the distribution of the general population according to federal state, size of the community, sex, year of birth, and school education. Survey nonrespondents showed more problematic consumption patterns than respondents. Individuals in the paper-and-pencil mode reported higher rates of substance use compared to those in the telephone and online mode. *Conclusions:* By using different modes of administration and weighting procedures, representativeness of the 2015 ESA data on (clinically relevant) consumption of legal and illegal substances and pharmaceuticals is ensured.

Gomes de Matos, E., Atzendorf, J., Kraus, L., & Piontek, D. (2016). Substanzkonsum in der Allgemeinbevölkerung in Deutschland. Ergebnisse des Epidemiologischen Suchtsurveys 2015 [Substance use in the German general population: results of the 2015 Epidemiological Survey of Substance Abuse]. *Sucht, 62* (5), 271-281. Published online Oktober 21, 2016. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1024/0939-5911/a000445

Substance use in the German general population: results of the 2015 Epidemiological Survey of Substance Abuse

Abstract. *Aims:* We assess the extent of substance use among the adult general population in Germany. *Method:* Data come from the 2015 Epidemiological Survey of Substance Abuse, a national survey conducted among the resident population aged 18 to 64 years. With a response rate of 52.2 %, the sample size was *n* = 9,204. Participants were asked about their use of alcohol, tobacco, pharmaceuticals, and illicit drugs. *Results:* Of all respondents, 28.7 % had used tobacco products in the past 30 days, and 72.8 % had drunk alcohol. Indications of clinically relevant use within 12 months prior to the survey were found for 28.3 % of men and 9.6 % of women. Regarding illicit drugs, the 12-month prevalence was 6.1 % for cannabis and at most 1 % for all other substances. Analgesics were the class of pharmaceuticals with the highest prevalence of use (47.1 %), but the lowest prevalence of daily use among consumers of a given pharmaceutical (8.6 %). *Conclusions:* Results demonstrate that the use of psychoactive substances is still highly prevalent in the general population. Prevalence of use as well as indications for clinically problematic use were highest for licit substances that are highly available. Potentially clinically relevant illicit drug use affects considerably fewer individuals. However, because they comprise a specific risk population, it should be ensured that they are reached by appropriate prevention measures.

Kraus, L., Piontek, D., Atzendorf, J., & Gomes de Matos, E. (2016). Zeitliche Entwicklungen im Substanzkonsum in der deutschen Allgemeinbevölkerung. Ein Rückblick auf zwei Dekaden [Time trends in substance use in the German general population: a review of two decades]. *Sucht, 62* (5), 283-294. Published online Oktober 21, 2016. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1024/0939-5911/a000446

Time trends in substance use in the German general population: a review of two decades

Abstract. *Aims:* The study analyzes trends in the (clinically relevant) use of tobacco, alcohol, cannabis, other illegal drugs as well as pharmaceuticals. *Methods:* Data from eight waves of the Epidemiological Survey of Substance Abuse (ESA) from the years 1995 to 2015 were used. The data were collected using self-administered questionnaires, telephone interviews, or online questionnaires. A consistent analysis of trends is possible for the age range 18 to 59 years. *Results:* Tobacco consumption significantly declined over the past 20 years. Alcohol data showed declining consumption in males and stable consumption in females. The prevalence of episodic heavy drinking increased in females since the year 2009. Compared to the year 2012, cannabis consumption increased in both sexes. Weekly use of analgesics also increased, whereas weekly use of sedatives/ hypnotics decreased. Indicators of clinically relevant use remained constant for cannabis, declined for tobacco and increased for pharmaceuticals. With regard to alcohol, males showed stable and females increased rates of clinically relevant use. *Conclusions:* Prevention and intervention measures need to be intensified especially with regard to the legal substances tobacco and alcohol. Trend analyses identified women as a particularly vulnerable subgroup because of an increasing prevalence of clinically relevant use of alcohol and pharmaceuticals.