



Alcohol, tobacco and cannabis at 16 years old - Initial results of the French part of the ESPAD 2007 survey

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Alcohol, tobacco and cannabis at 16 years old

Charges, recent uses, accessibility and lifestyles. Initial results of the French part of the ESPAD 2007 survey

The public authorities and health and prevention activists are paying particular attention to the use of psychoactive substances in adolescents. This is the period when initial experimentation with substances is done legal substances, music and may develop into illegal use. OFDT has progressively established an observatory system on the use of psychoactive substances that operates at the national level.

new results of these surveys, one of which are being conducted internationally by the HBSC (Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children) supported by the World Health Organisation (1) questioning 11-, 13- and 15-year-old pupils; second the ESPAD (European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs) survey started by CAN (Swedish Council for Information on Alcohol and Other Drugs) and the Council of Europe concerns 16-year-old pupils; lastly, the ESCAPAD survey which, unlike the first two, goes beyond the educational environment, more specifically targeting French 17-year-old adolescents (2). These three surveys clearly show the frequency and change in use of these substances and especially the change in behaviour of the different generations that did over the last decade in the other hand.

Figure 1 - Changes in regular use of tobacco (in 1 cigarette/day, alcohol (in 10 cigarettes/week) and cannabis (in 10 cigarettes/week) by sex, in 16-year-olds (between 1999 and 2007)

INFORMATIONS	1999	2002	2007
Alcohol (10 cigarettes/week)	31	22	17
Tobacco (1 cigarette/day)	30	7	13
Cannabis (10 cigarettes/week)	37	2,2*	3,8**
Alcohol (10 cigarettes/week)	5,5	6,1	3,6**

In 1999, 1999-2002 and 2002-2007 represent significant or significant regression (p < 0.05, 0.01 and 0.001) respectively. * Significant regression (p < 0.05), ** Significant regression (p < 0.001).

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The public authorities and health and prevention activists are paying particular attention to the use of psychoactive substances in adolescents. OFDT has progressively established an observatory system on the use of psychoactive substances during adolescence which now consists of three surveys, two of which are being conducted internationally: first, the HBSC (Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children) supported by the World Health Organisation is questioning 11-, 13- and 15-year-old pupils; second the ESPAD (European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs) survey started by CAN (Swedish Council for Information on Alcohol and Other Drugs) and the Council of Europe concerns 16-year-old pupils; lastly, the ESCAPAD survey which, unlike the first two, goes beyond the educational environment, more specifically targeting French 17-year-old adolescents.

This issue of Tendances presents the initial French results on tobacco, alcohol and cannabis use from the last ESPAD survey which was conducted during the first three months of 2007. It updates

the changes in use of these psychoactive substances in relation to the two previous surveys: ESPAD 1999 and 2003 (uses of the less commonly used substances will be described later). In its last section, it also presents a few descriptive findings on the sociability¹, leisure activities and school life of the pupils questioned.

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