

Proportion of drug users among prisoners in EU countries (%)				
Country	Definition	Proportion of drug users among prison population	Year	Methodological comments
Austria	(1) injecting drug use prior to imprisonment	male adults 26%, female adults 32%, male youth 9%	1999	national survey in a selection of representative prisons: 4 for male adults (n= 143), 2 for female adults (n= 69) and 5 for male youth (n=51); convicted and on remand
	(1) injecting drug use within prison	male adults 15%, female adults 6%, male youth 8%	1999	national survey in a selection of representative prisons: 4 for male adults (n= 143), 2 for female adults (n= 69) and 5 for male youth (n=51); convicted and on remand
	(2) intravenous drug users	15%	1996	estimated by experts
	(3) people reporting having used illicit drugs	72%	1994	survey in one prison amongst Narcotic Drug Act convicted people (n=307)
Belgium	(1) people reporting drug use prior to imprisonment within the last month	any illicit drug 50% (cannabis 41%; cocaine 21%; heroin 14%; amphetamines 8%; ecstasy 9%; LSD 6%)	1999	survey in two prisons (1 male prison + 1 woman section in another prison) amongst voluntary prisoners (n= 246)
	(1) people reporting injecting drug use prior to imprisonment from a daily basis to a few times per week or per month	any illicit drug 9% (cocaine 5%; heroin 4%; amphetamines 1%; ecstasy 1%; LSD 1%)	1999	survey in two prisons (1 male prison + 1 woman section in another prison) amongst voluntary prisoners (n= 246)
	(1) people reporting regular drug use during previous and current imprisonments	any illicit drug 42% (cannabis 37%; cocaine 9%; heroin 13%; amphetamines 8%; ecstasy 5%; LSD 2%)	1999	survey in two prisons (1 male prison + 1 woman section in another prison) amongst voluntary prisoners (n= 246)
	(1) people reporting injecting drug use in prison from a daily basis to a few times per week or per month	2%	1999	survey in two prisons (1 male prison + 1 woman section in another prison) amongst voluntary prisoners (n= 246)
	(2) people reporting drug use within the last year prior to imprisonment	cannabis 45%; cocaine 23%; amphetamines 17%; ecstasy 21%	1997	survey in one prison amongst voluntary prisoners (n=115)
	(2) people reporting injecting drug use (lifetime) prior to imprisonment	22%	1997	survey in one prison amongst voluntary prisoners (n=115)
	(2) people reporting drug use in prison within the last year	cannabis 38%; cocaine 15%; amphetamines 4%; ecstasy 8%	1997	survey in one prison amongst voluntary prisoners (n=115)
	(2) people reporting injecting drug use (lifetime) in prison	2%	1997	survey in one prison amongst voluntary prisoners (n=115)
	(3) people reporting having used illicit drugs	42%	1993	survey in one prison amongst voluntary prisoners entering prison (n=1.627)
	(3) people reporting having ever injected drugs	15%	1993	survey in one prison amongst voluntary prisoners entering prison (n=1.627)
	(1) drug abusers: have used euphoriant many times during the last 6 months before prison	38%	2000	nationwide survey
	(1) drug abusers: have used euphoriant many times during the last 6 months before prison	36%	1999	nationwide survey
Denmark	(1) drug abusers: have used euphoriant many times during the last 6 months before prison	36%	1998	nationwide survey
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	(1) drug abusers: have used euphoriant many times during the last 6 months before prison	35%	1996	nationwide survey
	(1) drug abusers: have used euphoriant many times during the last 6 months before prison	33%	1995	nationwide survey
	(1) heavy drug abusers: have habitually used substances other than cannabis	20%	2000	nationwide survey
	(1) heavy drug abusers: have habitually used substances other than cannabis	18%	1999	nationwide survey
	(1) heavy drug abusers: have habitually used substances other than cannabis	19%	1998	nationwide survey
	(1) heavy drug abusers: have habitually used substances other than cannabis	19%	1997	nationwide survey
	(1) heavy drug abusers: have habitually used substances other than cannabis	18%	1996	nationwide survey
	(1) heavy drug abusers: have habitually used substances other than cannabis	16%	1995	nationwide survey
	(1) people reporting having used drugs	any illicit drug 58%, opiates 5%, amphetamines 29%	2001	national survey among a sample of voluntary HIV tested convicted prisoners (n= 825)
	(1) people reporting illicit drug used in prison	16,5%	2001	national survey among a sample of voluntary HIV tested convicted prisoners (n= 825)
Finland	(2) people reporting injecting drug use (ever used)	poly-drug users 39%, heroin/opiates 5%, amphetamines 56%	2000	national survey among a sample of voluntary HIV tested convicted prisoners (n= 1.612)
	(3) people reporting having used drugs	31%	1995	survey in 4 prisons
	(1) people reporting regular use of all illicit drugs within the 12 months before prison	any illicit drug 32% (cannabis 25%; cocaine 9%; heroin 14%)	1997	nationwide survey among 86% of people entering prison, based on self-report (n= 8.728)
	(1) people reporting injecting drug use within the 12 months before prison	6%	1997	nationwide survey among 86% of people entering prison, based on self-report (n= 8.728)
France	(2) people reporting illicit drug use within the 12 months before prison	43%	1998	survey in four prisons (n=1.212)
	(2) people reporting lifetime intravenous drug use before prison	12%	1998	survey in four prisons (n=1.212)
	(2) people reporting intravenous drug use within the 12 months before prison	9%	1998	survey in four prisons (n=1.212)
	(2) people reporting lifetime intravenous drug use	23%	1996	survey in one prison (n=574)
Germany	(1) intravenous drug use before prison	33%	1998	survey in one prison (n = 437)
	(2) drug users in prison (based on information given by key persons)	60%	1996	survey in one prison based on reports of pre-selected key prisoners (n=16), doctor, pastor(s)
	(2) hard drug users (based on information given by key persons)	10%	1996	survey in one prison based on reports of pre-selected key prisoners (n=16), doctor, pastor(s)
	(2) soft drug users (based on information given by key persons)	50%	1996	survey in one prison based on reports of pre-selected key prisoners (n=16), doctor, pastor(s)
	(3) drug users in prison (based on positive urine samples)	5-26%	1995	survey in one German Länder (n=5.771)
Greece	(1) people reporting lifetime drug use	34%	1996	survey in 10 prisons (n= 861)
	(1) people reporting drug use while in prison	20%	1996	survey in 10 prisons (n= 861)
	(2) lifetime drug use prior to imprisonment (based on self-reports and serum tests)	cannabis 22%; cocaine 6%; heroin 66%	1995	survey in 2 prisons amongst convicted voluntary prisoners (n= 544)

	(2) injecting drug use prior to imprisonment (based on self-reports and serum tests)	69%	1995	survey in 2 prisons amongst convicted voluntary prisoners (n= 544)
	(2) lifetime drug use in prison (based on self-reports and serum tests)	any illicit drugs 54% (cannabis 5%; cocaine 0.4%; heroin 39%)	1995	survey in 2 prisons amongst convicted voluntary prisoners (n= 544)
	(2) injecting drug use in prison (based on self-reports and serum tests)	28%	1995	survey in 2 prisons amongst convicted voluntary prisoners (n= 544)
	(3) injecting drug users	31%	1995	survey in one prison (n=1.183)
Ireland	(1) people with a history of drug use reporting their first injection of heroin while in prison	17%	1999	survey in 5 of the 7 Irish committal prisons (n= 173)
	(1) people reporting lifetime heroin use	35%	1999	survey in 5 of the 7 Irish committal prisons (n= 607)
	(1) people reporting ever injected drugs	29%	1999	survey in 5 of the 7 Irish committal prisons (n= 607)
	(2) people reporting lifetime heroin use	52%	1998	survey in 9 prisons: all the 5 high risk prisons and a random sample of the medium risk prisons (n= 1.205)
	(2) people reporting ever injected drugs	43%	1998	survey in 9 prisons: all the 5 high risk prisons and a random sample of the medium risk prisons (n= 1.205)
	(2) people reporting having smoked heroin in the last 12 months	46%	1998	survey in 9 prisons: all the 5 high risk prisons and a random sample of the medium risk prisons (n= 1.205)
	(2) people with a history of drug use reporting their first injection of heroin while in prison	20%	1998	survey in 9 prisons: all the 5 high risk prisons and a random sample of the medium risk prisons (n= 506)
	(3) regular heroin users	35%	1997	estimated in one prison
	(3) people with a history of heroin abuse	70%	1997	estimated in one prison
	(4) people reporting lifetime drug use	any illicit drug 86% (cannabis 86%; cocaine 56%; heroin 66%; amphetamines 61%; ecstasy 60%)	1996	survey in one male prison (one-fifth systematic sample) (n=108)
	(4) people reporting ever engaged in injecting drug use	56%	1996	survey in one male prison (one-fifth systematic sample) (n=108)
	(4) regular users of cannabis	46%	1996	survey in one male prison (one-fifth systematic sample) (n=108)
	(4) daily users of cannabis	23%	1996	survey in one male prison (one-fifth systematic sample) (n=108)
	(4) people reporting heroin use while in prison (current sentence)	42%	1996	survey in one male prison (one-fifth systematic sample) (n=108)
	(4) people reporting regular (once a week) heroin use while in prison (current sentence)	36%	1996	survey in one male prison (one-fifth systematic sample) (n=108)
	(4) people reporting injecting heroin use while in prison (current sentence)	34%	1996	survey in one male prison (one-fifth systematic sample) (n=108)
Italy	(1) prisoners identified as drug dependent (drug use prior to imprisonment) (based on self-report and/or clinical assessment)	any illicit drug 27%	2000 (Dec.)	nationwide routine data from prison admission and drug-screening by prison authorities; combination of total population (n= 53.030) and sample of drug user prisoners
	(2) prisoners identified as drug dependent (drug use prior to imprisonment) (based on self-report and/or clinical assessment)	any illicit drug 29% (cannabis 1%; cocaine 4%; heroin 20%)	1999 (Dec.)	nationwide routine data from prison admission and drug-screening by prison authorities; combination of total population (n= 51.604) and sample of drug user prisoners
Luxembourg	(1) regular intravenous drug users prior and within prison (based on self-reports and cross-checking in personal files)	41%	1998	nationwide cross-sectional survey in 2 state prisons amongst the total population of prisoners (n= 362)
	(1) regular intravenous drug use prior to imprisonment (based on self-reports and cross-checking in personal files)	32%	1998	nationwide cross-sectional survey in 2 state prisons amongst the total population of prisoners (n= 362)
	(1) regular intravenous drug use in prison (based on self-reports and cross-checking in personal files)	28%	1998	nationwide cross-sectional survey in 2 state prisons amongst the total population of prisoners (n= 362)
	(1) first intravenous drug use in prison (based on self-reports and cross-checking in personal files)	9%	1998	nationwide cross-sectional survey in 2 state prisons amongst the total population of prisoners (n= 362)
The Netherlands	(1) people judged by a clinical psychologist to have addiction problems with drugs	29%	1997	survey in one prison (n=528); on remand and convicted
	(1) people reporting drug abuse or drug dependence within the last month	14%	1997	survey in one prison (n=135); on remand and convicted
	(2) people judged to be drug addicts according to 2 criteria (at least 2 month of regular use within the past 2 years and a severity score over 3 on the EuropASI drug section)	44%	1997	survey in one prison (n=319)
Portugal	(1) people reporting drug use prior to imprisonment at least once in the lifetime	any illicit drug 62% (cannabis 56.5%; cocaine 46%; heroin 47%; amphetamines 19%; ecstasy 17%)	2001	natiowide survey (47 prisons) in a random sample of on remand and convicted prisoners (n=2.057)
	(1) people reporting lifetime drug use prior to imprisonment	any illicit drug 61% (cannabis 54%; cocaine 44%; heroin 44%; amphetamines 18%; ecstasy 16%)	2001	natiowide survey (47 prisons) in a random sample of on remand and convicted prisoners (n=2.057)
	(1) people reporting last year drug use	any illicit drug 52% (cannabis 44%; cocaine 26%; heroin 33%; amphetamines 10%; ecstasy 10%)	2001	natiowide survey (47 prisons) in a random sample of on remand and convicted prisoners (n=2.057)
	(1) people reporting drug use in prison at least once in the lifetime	any illicit drug 47% (cannabis 39%; cocaine 20%; heroin 27%; amphetamines 7%; ecstasy 6%)	2001	natiowide survey (47 prisons) in a random sample of on remand and convicted prisoners (n=2.057)
	(1) people reporting last month drug use in prison	any illicit drug 30% (cannabis 24%; cocaine 7%; heroin 15.5%; amphetamines 1.5%; ecstasy 1%)	2001	natiowide survey (47 prisons) in a random sample of on remand and convicted prisoners (n=2.057)
	(1) people reporting regular (everyday) last month use in prison	any illicit drug 10% (cannabis 5.5%; cocaine 2%; heroin 5%)	2001	natiowide survey (47 prisons) in a random sample of on remand and convicted prisoners (n=2.057)
	(1) people reporting lifetime injecting drug use	any illicit drug 27%	2001	natiowide survey (47 prisons) in a random sample of on remand and convicted prisoners (n=2.057)
	(1) people reporting lifetime injecting drug use in prison	any illicit drug 11%	2001	natiowide survey (47 prisons) in a random sample of on remand and convicted prisoners (n=2.057)
Spain	(1) people reporting last month drug use prior to imprisonment	cocaine 31%; heroin 36%; synthetic drugs 4%	1998	nationwide (Catalonia excepted) survey in 72 prisons in a random sample of of prisoners (n= 2.223)
	(1) people reporting last month intravenous drug use prior to imprisonment	cocaine 10%; heroin 18%	1998	nationwide (Catalonia excepted) survey in 72 prisons in a random sample of of prisoners (n= 2.223)
	(2) women reporting lifetime drug use (alcohol included)	70%	1998	survey in 18 prisons (n=356)
	(3) women reporting having used drugs several times a day (alcohol included)	35%	1998	survey in 18 prisons (n=356)

	(4) people reporting to be drug users	56%	1998	survey in 62 prisons (n=1.011)
	(5) people whose frequency of heroin and/or cocaine use in the past 2 years is at least once a week for a minimum of one month	54%	1994	nationwide survey in 25% of all prisons among people entering prison (n=1.541)
Sweden	(1) people having used drugs intravenously or on a daily (or almost daily) basis within last 12 months before prison	51%	2000 (April)	nationwide survey on routine data from all convicted prisoners at admission (n=3.352)
	(1) people having used drugs intravenously or on a daily (or almost daily) basis within last 12 months before prison	47%	1999 (October)	nationwide survey on routine data from all convicted prisoners at admission (n=3.536)
	(1) people having used drugs intravenously or on a daily (or almost daily) basis within last 12 months before prison	47%	1999 (April)	nationwide survey on routine data from all convicted prisoners at admission (n=3.537)
	(1) people having used drugs intravenously or on a daily (or almost daily) basis within last 12 months before prison	46%	1998 (October)	nationwide survey on routine data from all convicted prisoners at admission (n=3.546)
	(1) people having used drugs intravenously or on a daily (or almost daily) basis within last 12 months before prison	50%	1998 (April)	nationwide survey on routine data from all convicted prisoners at admission (n=3.680)
	(1) people having used drugs intravenously or on a daily (or almost daily) basis within last 12 months before prison	45%	1997 (October)	nationwide survey on routine data from all convicted prisoners at admission (n=3.683)
	(1) people having used drugs intravenously or on a daily (or almost daily) basis within last 12 months before prison	44%	1997 (April)	nationwide survey on routine data from all convicted prisoners at admission (n=3.616)
	(1) people having used drugs intravenously or on a daily (or almost daily) basis within last 2 months before prison	40%	1996	nationwide survey on routine data from all convicted prisoners at admission (n=4.367)
	(1) people having used drugs intravenously or on a daily (or almost daily) basis within last 2 months before prison	40%	1995	nationwide survey on routine data from all convicted prisoners at admission (n=4.408)
United Kingdom	(1) prisoners found positive for drugs during random mandatory drug testing	19%	1998	nationwide survey among 10% of prisoners (n=10.340)
England & Wales	(2) last year prevalence prior to imprisonment	any illicit drug 73% (cannabis 64%; cocaine/crack 42%; heroin/opiates 31%; amphetamines 26%; xtc 30%)	2000	survey in 34 medium and large prisons nationally spread, among sentenced males(n= 1.884)
	(2) last month prevalence prior to imprisonment	any illicit drug 63% (cannabis 51%; cocaine/crack 22%; heroin/opiates 28%; amphetamines 11%; xtc 8%)	2000	survey in 34 medium and large prisons nationally spread, among sentenced males(n= 1.884)
	(2) regular use prior to imprisonment	any illicit drug 23% (cocaine/crack 9%; heroin/opiates 19%; amphetamines 9%)	2000	survey in 34 medium and large prisons nationally spread, among sentenced males(n= 1.884)
	(3) last year prevalence within prison	any illicit drug 54% (cannabis 51%; cocaine/crack 8%; heroin/opiates 30%; amphetamines 1%; xtc 4%)	2000	survey in 33 prisons nationally spread, among sentenced males admitting to have used drugs in the 12 months prior to imprisonment (n= 302)
	(3) regular use within prison	any illicit drug 14% (cannabis 11%; cocaine/crack 0,3%; heroin/opiates 7%; amphetamines 0,3%; xtc 0%)	2000	survey in 33 prisons nationally spread, among sentenced males admitting to have used drugs in the 12 months prior to imprisonment (n= 302)
	(3) injecting drug use within prison	any illicit drug 0,3% (heroin/opiates 0,3%)	2000	survey in 33 prisons nationally spread, among sentenced males admitting to have used drugs in the 12 months prior to imprisonment (n= 302)
	(4) people reporting lifetime use of drugs prior to imprisonment	(a) any illicit drugs 69-85% (cannabis 65-82%, cocaine 30-42%; heroin 34-52%; amphetamines 40-53%; crack 28-44%)	1997	nationwide: all 131 prisons (n=3.140)
	(4) people reporting last year use of drugs prior to imprisonment	(a) cannabis 42-63%, cocaine 11-21%; heroin 21-41%; amphetamines 18-27%; crack 20-32%	1997	nationwide: all 131 prisons (n=3.134)
	(4) people reporting drug use during last time in prison	(a) cannabis 19-46%, cocaine 1-4%; heroin 12-20%; amphetamines 0-4%; crack 2-8%	1997	nationwide: all 131 prisons (n=3.127)
	(5) people diagnosed with severe drug dependence in the year prior to imprisonment	(a) 32-40%	1997	nationwide: all 131 prisons (n=3.142)
	(5) people reporting having ever injected drugs	(a) 23-40%	1997	nationwide: all 131 prisons (n=3.139)
	(5) people reporting injecting drug use in the month prior to imprisonment	(a) 13-28%	1997	nationwide: all 131 prisons (n=3.139)
	(6) men entering prison reporting a history of injecting drug use	29%	1996	survey in one prison
	(7) men entering prison reporting a history of injecting drug use	15%	1995	survey in 3 prisons
	(8) people reporting use of drugs in the year before prison	68%	1994	nationwide survey (n=1.000)
Scotland	(9) men reporting a history of injection drug use	32%	1991-1996	survey in 6 male prisons (n=2.256)
	(9) women reported a history of injection drug use	43%	1991-1996	survey in one female prison (n=127)
	(9) young offenders reporting a history of injection drug use	18%	1991-1996	survey in 2 young offenders institutions (n=556)

## Notes:

(a) England & Wales: results are provided for 4 different sub-groups of population: male remanded, male sentenced, female remanded, female sentenced. Women and men on remand represent a small proportion of the prison population, and thus these groups were over-sampled. Ranges reported here represent the minimum and maximum values obtained for each of the 4 sub-groups.

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