ESPAD

www.espad.org

The European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs

Application form for the use of the ESPAD 03 database

(To be emailed to bjorn.hibell@can.se)

Responsible persons

Person responsible for the dataset [1] PD Dr. Ludwig Kraus
Priv.-Doz. Dr. phil. Ludwig Kraus
Deputy Scientific Director
Head of the Epidemiological Research Department
IFT Institut für Therapieforschung / Parzivalstr. 25, D-80804 München / www.ift.de
phone +49 (0) 89 360804 30 / fax +49 (0) 89 360804 49 / e-mail kraus@ift.de

Person responsible for the analysis: Dr. Sebastian Baumeister
Dr. rer. med. Sebastian E. Baumeister, Dipl.Päd.
Research Associate / Research Group Social Epidemiology
IFT Institut für Therapieforschung / Parzivalstr. 25, D-80804 München / www.ift.de phone +49 (0) 89 360804 35 / fax +49 (0) 89 360804 35 / e-mail baumeister@ift.de

Details of planned work

Type of publication   ☒ Paper/article   ☐ Report   ☐ PhD

☐ Other, which

Working title of the publication: Predictors of early onset of cannabis use: an international comparative study

Research question(s): What are the predictors of early onset of cannabis use?

ABSTRACT

Aims: The prevalence of cannabis use in Europe has increased over the last decades (1). There is evidence that the age of first cannabis experience has shifted towards younger ages (2, 3). The reasons for this shift are not well known. In order to investigate the impact on early onset different cultural backgrounds and different developments of cannabis use need to be taken into account. This will be done by analysing data on cannabis onset and drug-related problems across a number of European states. **Methods:** Data will come from the European School Survey on Alcohol and other Dugs (ESPAD). The ESPAD study is an European survey among more than 35 states using the same target population, sampling technique and questionnaire in order to make data as comparable as possible. In 2003 adolescents born in 1987, i.e. aged 15 to16 years old, and attending regular schools have been interrogated about their drug and alcohol behaviour. **Analysis.** Data on age of onset and negative consequences will be analysed and compared

across a number of EU countries. Using regression analysis and multi-level modelling correlates such as availability, level of cannabis use, peer group involvement, drug use patterns, and sociodemographic characteristics will be investigated.

References

(1) European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (2006). *Annual report on the state of the drugs problem in the European Union 2005.* Lisbon: European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction.

(2) Monshouwer, K., Smit, F., de Graaf, R., van Os, J., & Vollebergh, W. (2005), "First cannabis use: does onset shift to younger ages? Findings from 1988 to 2003 from the Dutch National School Survey on Substance Use", *Addiction* (7), 963-970.

(3) Kraus L. & Augustin, R. (submitted). Cannabis use in Germany: Has age of first experience shifted to younger ages?

Variables to be included in the analysis: Onset of cannabis use, drug availability, cannabis use, peer group involvement, drug use patterns, and sociodemographic characteristics

Countries to be included
in the analysis

☒ All at level 3 [2]

☐ All at level 2 [3] and 3

☐ A more limited number of countries, namely

_____

[1] This can only be a Principal Investigator or a Chair of an ESPAD Thematic group. When the application is approved the Principal Investigator/Chair of a Thematic group has to sign an agreement that the delivered dataset only will be used for the applied project and that all use of the dataset will be done according to the rules in the document "Rules for the use of ESPAD databases".

[2] The meaning of the levels can be found in the document "Rules for use of ESPAD databases".

[3] If level 2 data should be included, the application needs to be accompanied by a written confirmation from the Principal Investigator in the country/ies concerned.