ESPAD – The European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs

Björn Hibell

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Data collections

• 26 countries in 1995
• 30 countries in 1999
• 35 countries in 2003
• 35 countries in 2007 (plus 5 in 2008)
Some facts

• Students that will become 16 years old during the year of the data collection
• Nationally representative samples of classes
• About 2,400 participating students in each country
• Variation: 393 (Monaco) – 9,981 (Italy)
• About 105,000 European students in 2007
• Strategy: Standardisation
Use of any alcoholic beverage during the last 30 days by gender. 1995-2007. Percentages.
Use of any alcohol during the last 30 days. All students. 2007

Belgium and Germany: Limited geographical coverage.

Denmark, Spain and USA: Limited comparability.
Estimated average alcohol consumption during the latest alcohol drinking day. All students. 2007. Centilitres of 100% alcohol.
Estimated average alcohol consumption during the latest drinking day by gender. 2007. Centilitres of 100% alcohol.

1) Belgium and Germany: Limited geographical coverage.
2) Denmark: Limited comparability.
Dominant beverage during the latest drinking day.
All students. 2007.

Belgium and Germany: Limited geographical coverage.
Denmark: Limited comparability.
Proportion reporting having had five or more drinks \(^a\) on one occasion during the last 30 days, by gender. 1995–2007. \(^b\)

Percentages. Averages for 17 countries.

\(^a\) “A 'drink' is a glass/bottle/can of beer (ca 50 cl), a glass/bottle/can of cider (ca 50 cl), 2 glasses/bottles of alcopops (ca 50 cl), a glass of wine (ca 15 cl), a glass of spirits (ca 5 cl) or a mixed drink.”

\(^b\) The question referred to “five or more drinks in a row” 1995–2003 and nor cider or alcopops were included among the examples. However, a questionnaire test in eight countries 2006 found no significant differences between the two versions.
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Alcohol problems related to own alcohol consumption. All students and by gender. 2007. Percentages. (1)
Alcohol problems related to own alcohol consumption. All students and by gender. 2007. Percentages. (2)
Summary (1)

- Smoking has decreased since 1999
- Cannabis experiences increased from 1995 to 2003 but are lower in 2007
- Alcohol consumption frequency: Earlier increasing trend broken
- Alcohol consumption most frequent in some countries in the south and north west of Europe
- Alcohol quantities highest in north west and north of Europe
Summary (2)

- Heavy episodic drinking has increased, especially among girls between 2003 - 2007
- Many students have reported alcohol related problems
- Alcohol consumption frequency: Small gender difference
- Alcohol quantities: Higher among boys
- Heavy episodic drinking: Higher among boys
Summary (3)

• However, quantities and heavy episodic drinking equally high or higher among girls in Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Faroe Islands (only 5 + drinks), Isle of Man (only 5 + drinks), United Kingdom (only 5 + drinks)
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Björn Hibell
bjorn.hibell@can.se
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