

Impact of the Covid-19 lockdown on cannabis users in France.

Results of the 2020 Cannabis Online survey

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NOTE NO. 2020-06 ON SURVEY RESULTS
PARIS, DECEMBER 2020

The introduction of lockdown measures by the public authorities between 17 March and 11 May 2020 in response to the Covid-19 pandemic in France yielded dramatic changes in consumption practices of cannabis users. The French Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (OFDT)'s Emerging Trends and New Drugs (TREND) scheme has reported particular supply difficulties (stock shortages, difficulties in moving or delivering drugs, etc.) in some areas, and these difficulties may have led to significant price increases (see the TREND-Covid bulletins¹).

In order to supplement these observations, the OFDT set up, in the period following lockdown, a quantitative online survey of cannabis users recruited via the social network Facebook. The aim of this survey is to gain a better understanding of the patterns of cannabis use in France and the impact of lockdown on practices.

METHODOLOGY

The Cannabis online 2020 survey took place between 11 July and 7 August 2020, two months after the end of the first lockdown. The aim of this survey was to question cannabis users about their use before and during lockdown. Recruitment of respondents was carried out via an advertising campaign on the social network Facebook. Respondents should have had used cannabis in the last 12 months («current users»), should have been aged between 18 and 64 and lived in France (metropolitan + overseas²), i.e., an estimated coverage of 37 million Facebook accounts.

1. <https://en.ofdt.fr/publications/memo-posters-maps/drug-use-drug-supply-and-professional-practices-france-time-covid-19-qualitative-cross-observations-trend-scheme-bulletin-trend1/>
2. Guadeloupe, Martinique, French Guiana, Réunion, Mayotte, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Martin, Wallis and Futuna, French Polynesia and New Caledonia.

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During the 26 days when the advertisement was active on Facebook, advertising for the survey was seen in metropolitan France more than 400 000 times by almost 250 000 people, as the advertisement for the survey could have been seen several times by the same person (1.6 times on average). Of these, 8 145 clicked on the link to the survey and 3 298 completed the questionnaire online, a response rate of 40.5%. A total of 2 778 questionnaires were included with regard to the criteria used: current cannabis users (use within the last year) aged between 18 and 64 living in metropolitan France (Table 1).

Table 1. Details of advertising and the number of questionnaires in metropolitan France

		Total
Advertising	Impressions (Number of times the advertising was seen by the target population)	406 634
	Coverage (Number of people who have seen the advertisement at least once)	247 680
	Repetition (Average number of times each person saw the advertisement)	1.64
	Clicks (Number of clicks on the advertisement link that redirects to the survey)	8 145
Questionnaires	Complete	3 298
	From current users aged 18 to 64	2 778

The advertising campaign on Facebook was also displayed on Instagram and Messenger, both owned by Facebook, as well as alternative platforms via the Audience Network program, which extends Facebook advertisements to other applications. In total, 70% of the impressions were made on Facebook, 17% via Audience Network, 11% on Instagram and 2% on Messenger. Virtually all advertising was on mobile applications (93%).

The advertisement was also posted on accounts of people living in the French overseas departments and territories. However, these questionnaires were not included in the present analysis because the number of respondents for these territories was too small (n = 301 in the 11 overseas territories concerned by the survey).

DESCRIPTION OF THE SAMPLE

The online questioning method chosen for the cannabis survey did not allow a representative sample of the population studied to be established at first glance. Although recruitment via Facebook makes it possible to target a large sample of the adult population, it was nevertheless limited to only those who had a Facebook account, consulted it and were willing to participate. This dual component of sampling, which results in biased coverage of the target population and self-selection of respondents, limits the possibility of generalising the results. It is possible to estimate these biases in part by observing differences in the main variables of interest between those in the sample of respondents and those in the reference population (i.e., here, cannabis users within the last year) by referring to data from the 2017 French Public Health Barometer survey. Respondents to the Cannabis online 2020 survey were more often men (77.4% compared with 67.3%) and young people aged 18 to 25 (41.4% compared with 36.7%) (Table 2). Note that the distribution of respondents by region of residence is consistent with data from the 2018 INSEE census.

Half of the users surveyed said that they smoked cannabis daily before lockdown (50.2%), while according to the 2017 Barometer survey, the share of daily cannabis users only represents 20.0% of current users. The respondent population therefore largely over-represents daily cannabis users.

In order to reduce some of these discrepancies (likely to induce selection bias) and improve representativeness, we adjusted (via calibration weights) on the characteristics (sex, age and frequency of daily cannabis use) observed among cannabis users in the last year in the 2017 French Public Health Barometer survey (the most-recent French representative survey on drugs in general population). In addition, in the absence of a general population estimate of the share of people who did not declare any gender (n = 31), it was not possible to adjust for them (weight = 1).

However, the size of the sample does not allow all the available socio-demographic variables. This subset of uncontrolled variables shows significant differences with the reference population.

In particular, although the proportion of people with a French baccalaureate or equivalent qualification is close to that of cannabis users in the general population (32.7% and 30.0% respectively), more respondents have a university degree (54.5% vs 30.7%), resulting in a lower proportion of people with vocational degrees or without qualifications. There is also a higher proportion of students in the survey (31.9% vs 21.1%) and a lower proportion of people in employment (46.4% vs 57.1%). The frequency of situations of unemployment, retirement or inactivity is similar to the population in the 2017 French Public Health Barometer Survey for current cannabis users.

Table 2. Description of the sample

		Number	Unweighted percentage	Weighted percentage	Percentage of current smokers BS17	Percentage of population in MF 2020
Sex	Men	2 151	77.4	66.5	67.3	49.7
	Women	596	21.5	32.4	32.7	50.3
	Other	31	1.1	1.1	n/a	n/a
Age	18-25 years old	1 416	51.0	41.4	36.7	14.1
	26-34 years old	454	16.3	25.1	29.8	19.7
	35-44 years old	430	15.5	18.4	18.5	21.4
	45-64 years old	478	17.2	15.1	15.0	44.8
Cannabis use before lockdown	Daily	1 395	50.2	20.0	20.0	n/a
	Weekly but not daily	786	28.3	43.9	n/a	n/a
	Less than once per week	597	21.5	36.1	n/a	n/a
Household composition	Single without children	1 056	38.0	36.9	n/a	n/a
	Couple without children	577	20.8	23.3	n/a	n/a
	Couple with child(ren)	583	21.0	21.0	n/a	n/a
	Single with child(ren)	160	5.8	5.6	n/a	n/a
	Other	376	13.5	12.4	n/a	n/a
	Not known	26	0.9	0.8	n/a	n/a
Highest qualification	No qualifications	132	4.8	3.7	11.5	18.8
	Vocational degrees	327	11.8	8.8	27.8	23.2
	Baccalaureate	1 003	36.1	32.7	30.0	20.5
	Higher than Baccalaureate	1 304	46.9	54.5	30.7	37.2
	Not known	12	0.4	0.3	n/a	0.3
Current professional situation	Employed	1 194	43.0	46.4	57.1	56.0
	Student (employed or not) / School student / Apprentice	981	35.3	31.9	21.1	4.5
	Unemployed / In training / Unpaid internship	403	14.5	14.7	15.8	5.2
	Retired and other inactive	192	6.9	6.7	6.0	34.4
	Not known	8	0.3	0.3	n/a	n/a

Reading: Percentage of current smokers BS17: Cannabis smokers in the last year as observed in the 2017 French Public Health Barometer. Percentage of population in MF 2020: population in metropolitan France on 1 January 2020.

Note for the reader: 77.4% of the respondents were men, whereas men represented only 67.3% of current cannabis smokers in BS17. Men represent 49.7% of the population aged 18-64 in metropolitan France in 2020.

n/a: not available

Sources: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT / INSEE 2020

One in five cannabis smokers in the last year (20 %) reported smoking daily, 44% weekly but not daily and 36% have a lower frequency of use (Table 3).

While the data from the 2017 French Public Health Barometer shows that the most regular or intensive use is more likely to be among men, the Cannabis online survey sample contains a comparable proportion of men (61%) between daily cannabis users and those who use it less than once a week. However, the proportion of men is higher among weekly but not daily cannabis users. The share of 18–25-year-olds was also higher in this intermediate category, while older respondents more often report using cannabis less than once a week. The 26–34 age group was over-represented among daily users.

Respondents' frequency of cannabis use does not differ significantly from one region to another. The same applies to the composition of households or the level of education of respondents.

However, it is noted that daily users are more often blue-collar workers or unemployed and less often students or managers.

Table 3. Recent cannabis use in the Cannabis online 2020 survey sample

		Cannabis use before lockdown		
		Daily	Weekly but not daily	Non-weekly
All		20	44	36
Sex	Men	61	74	61
	Women	38	25	39
	Other	1	1	1
Age	18-25 years old	33	47	40
	26-34 years old	37	22	23
	35-44 years old	19	16	21
	45-64 years old	12	16	17
Household composition	Single without children	36	37	37
	Couple without children	28	22	22
	Couple with child(ren)	19	19	25
	Single with child(ren)	5	6	5
	Other	10	15	11
	Not known	1	1	1
Highest qualification	Primary, secondary school	4	5	2
	Vocational degrees	14	9	6
	Baccalaureate	32	35	30
	Higher than Baccalaureate	50	51	62
	Not known	0	0	0
Current professional situation	Full-time employee	40	32	37
	Part-time employee	5	4	4
	Full-time self-employed	7	4	5
	Part-time self-employed	2	2	2
	Student / School student / Apprentice	16	32	28
	Unemployed	18	14	10
	Other (retired, homemaker, disabled person, etc.)	8	6	7
	Working student (full-time or part-time)	3	5	5
	In training or unpaid internship	1	1	1
	Not known	0	0	1

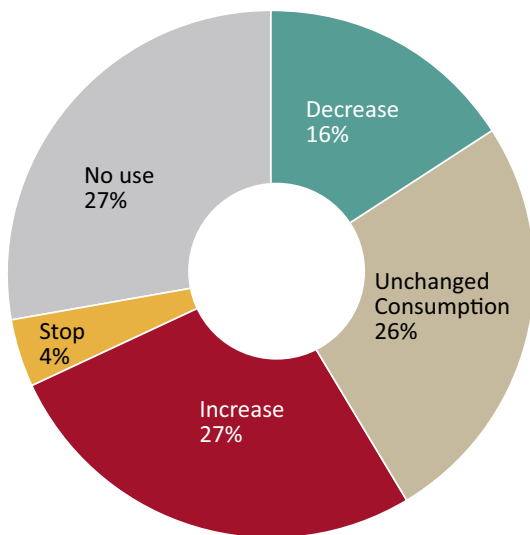
Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

CANNABIS USE DURING LOCKDOWN

Almost three quarters of the cannabis users in the last year surveyed smoked during lockdown.

All respondents were current (past 12 months) cannabis users, a necessary condition for participating in the survey. Among them, the vast majority (72 %) continued to smoke cannabis during lockdown, although some of them were able to adapt their use. Thus, more than one in four users said they had increased their use (27%), one quarter kept it at the same level (26%) and 16% decreased it (Figure 1). A minority stopped during this period (4%). Men more often than women maintained a stable level of use (75% vs 67%).

Figure 1. Trends in cannabis use during lockdown among current users



Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

Table 4. Changes in cannabis use during lockdown by sex, frequency of cannabis use before lockdown and age (% in column)

		Sex		Frequency of cannabis use before lockdown			Age			
		Men	Women	Daily	Weekly but not daily	Non-weekly	18-25 years old	26-34 years old	35-44 years old	45-64 years old
Changes in cannabis use during lockdown	Decrease	18	13	16	25	6	21	12	14	12
	Unchanged consumption	28	22	38	28	16	15	28	31	44
	Increase	26	28	36	31	17	29	31	25	17
	Stop	4	3	5	5	2	4	5	4	2
	No use	25	33	6	12	59	32	23	27	25

Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

In general, the higher the frequency of use before lockdown, the less varied the drug-related behaviour was, with “small” users being more often associated with occasional use (Table 5). As such, those who usually consumed cannabis less than once a month overwhelmingly abstained during lockdown (80% reporting no cannabis use compared to 6% among daily users). Conversely, almost all of those who smoked daily before lockdown smoked during this period (95%), as did those who smoked weekly but not daily (88%). Younger users generally used less cannabis than their older counterparts.

Table 5. Changes in frequency of cannabis use during lockdown among current users (% in line)

		Frequency of use during lockdown				
		Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Occasionally (less than once a month)	Non-user
Frequency of use prior to lockdown	Daily (at least once a day)	82	9	3	1	6
	Weekly (every week but not every day)	27	50	9	2	12
	Monthly (at least once a month but not every week)	8	22	21	6	43
	Occasionally (less than once a month)	4	3	7	7	80

Reading: 82% of respondents who used cannabis on a daily basis before lockdown continued to use it on a daily basis during lockdown.

NB: In orange, the frequency increased during lockdown; in yellow, it remained the same; in green, it decreased; in grey, the proportion of users who did not use any drugs. The sum of the percentages may exceed 100 due to rounding to the nearest unit.

Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

Of those who used cannabis during lockdown, 42% used it daily, 39% used it at least once a week but not every day, 14% used it at least once a month but not every week, and 4% used it less than once a month (Table 6). Nearly half of the women who used it during this period smoked every day, compared to 40% of men.

Table 6. Frequency of cannabis use during lockdown by sex, usual frequency and age (% in column)

		Sex			Frequency of cannabis use before lockdown			Age			
		All	Men	Women	Daily	Weekly but not daily	Non-weekly	18-25 years old	26-34 years old	35-44 years old	45-64 years old
During lockdown, how often did you use cannabis? [among users during lockdown]	Daily	42	40	48	86	31	16	44	44	43	33
	Several times a week but not every day	33	36	26	9	50	22	30	36	31	40
	Once a week	6	7	5	1	7	11	6	5	6	7
	Several times a month but not every week	10	10	11	3	9	24	10	7	13	14
	Once a month	4	4	3	0	2	12	4	3	4	2
	Less than once a month	4	4	6	1	2	15	5	5	2	4

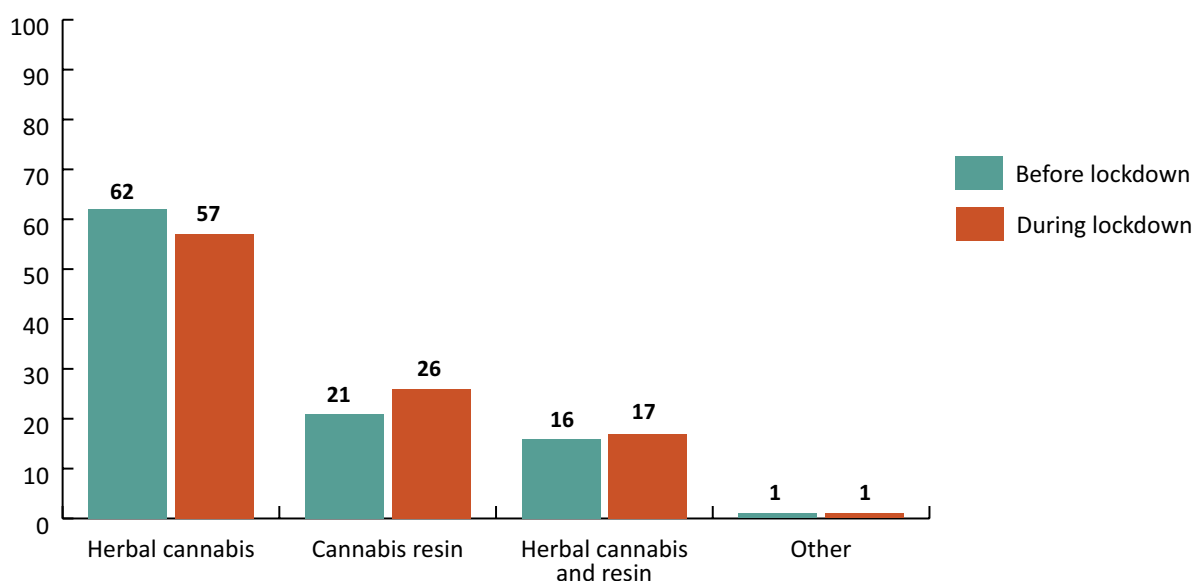
Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

CANNABIS: TYPE OF PRODUCT MAINLY USED

Cannabis use mainly in herbal form.

The lockdown situation did not seem to have had a major impact on the type or pattern of use (Figure 2). Whether before or during lockdown, more than half of the respondents reported use mainly in herbal form (62% and 57% respectively). The difference is found among those who smoke mainly cannabis resin (21% before lockdown and 26% during), suggesting that during lockdown some of the users who generally used herbal cannabis turned to cannabis resin.

Figure 2. Type of cannabis consumed mainly by users



Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

It should be noted that the almost exclusive use of herbal cannabis was most noticeable among people who smoke less than once a week (71%), while the use of resin was more common among daily smokers (29%) (Table 7).

Table 7. Type of cannabis used by sex, frequency of cannabis use before lockdown and age (% in column)

		Sex		Frequency of cannabis use before lockdown			Age			
		Men	Women	Daily	Weekly but not daily	Non-weekly	18-25 years old	26-34 years old	35-44 years old	45-64 ans years old
Before lockdown, what type of cannabis did you use most often?	Herbal cannabis	61	64	53	59	71	58	71	63	56
	Cannabis resin	20	22	29	22	14	22	17	18	26
	Herbal cannabis and resin	18	12	19	19	12	19	11	17	16
	Other	1	2	0	1	3	1	1	2	2
During lockdown, what type of cannabis did you use most often? [among users during lockdown, several choices are possible]	De l'herbe de cannabis	57	58	50	56	69	50	66	63	54
	De la résine de cannabis	26	27	29	26	21	30	19	21	34
	De l'herbe et de la résine	17	15	21	17	9	21	14	16	11
	Autre	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1

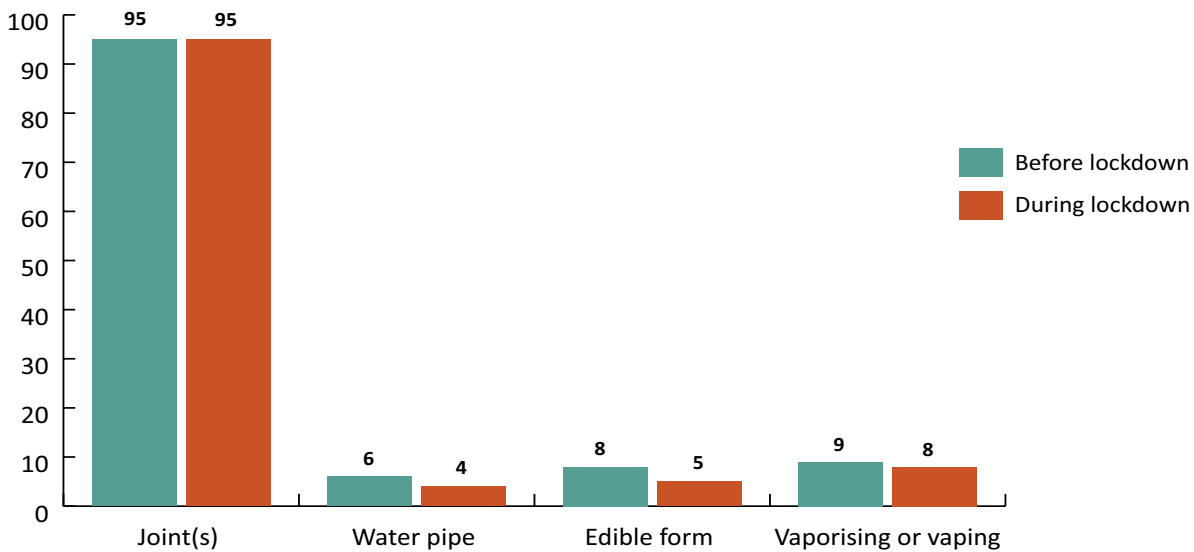
Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

CANNABIS: MAIN METHOD OF USE

The smoked form (joints in particular) remains the main method of use.

Among the people interviewed, use in joint form remains in the vast majority, as lockdown did not change this habit (Figure 3). The other methods were cannabis use by vaporising or vaping, reported by 9% of users (8% during lockdown), the edible form for 8% (5% during lockdown), and consumption in the form of a bong³ for 6% (4% during lockdown), these methods not being mutually exclusive.

Figure 3. Main method of use



NB: As methods of use are not exclusive, the cumulative % is greater than 100%.

Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

Although these methods of use do not differ significantly between daily and occasional users, the practice of vaporising or vaping appears to be more developed among 35-44 year-olds and still a minority among the younger generations of adults (14% and 5% respectively among 18-25 year-olds, see Table 8).

Table 8. Main method of use by sex, frequency of cannabis use before lockdown and age (% in column)

		Sex		Frequency of cannabis use before lockdown			Age			
		Men	Women	Daily	Weekly but not daily	Non-weekly	18-25 years old	26-34 years old	35-44 years old	45-64 years old
Before lockdown, how did you most often use your cannabis? (select all that apply)	In joint form (firecracker, rolled, spliff, etc.)	96	95	97	96	94	97	96	93	92
	In bong (water pipe, hookah, percolator, etc.)	7	5	7	8	3	11	5	1	1
	In edible form (infusion, space-cake, etc.)	8	7	6	8	9	8	9	7	5
	By vaporising or vaping	11	5	10	10	7	5	12	14	11
During lockdown, how did you use your cannabis most often? [among users during lockdown]	In joint form (firecracker, rolled, spliff, etc.)	94	96	96	95	93	97	95	93	91
	In bong (water pipe, hookah, percolator, etc.)	5	2	5	5	0	7	3	1	1
	In edible form (infusion, space-cake, etc.)	5	3	3	6	5	4	5	6	4
	By vaporising or vaping	10	4	8	9	6	5	9	12	9

Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

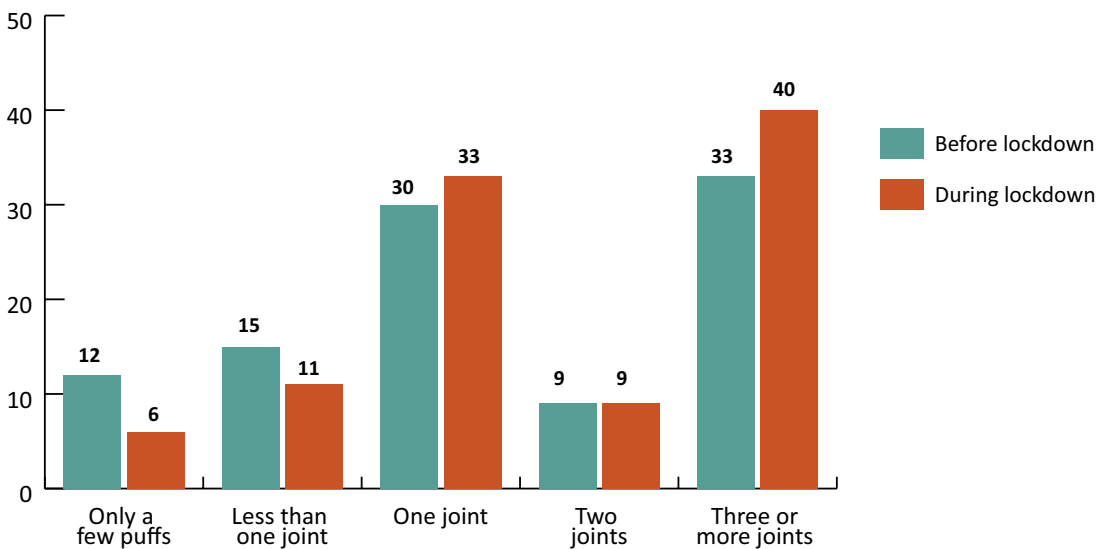
3. Water pipe.

CANNABIS: AMOUNT SMOKED ON A NORMAL DAY OF USE

A higher number of joints smoked on a normal day of use during lockdown.

Before lockdown, a quarter (27%) of current cannabis users smoked ('one day of regular cannabis use') less than one joint or only a few puffs, three out of ten smoked one joint, one out of ten smoked two joints and a third (33%) smoked three or more joints (Figure 4). During lockdown, there was a shift towards greater use on days of use. For example, four out of ten users (40%) smoked three or more joints during lockdown and one third smoked one joint.

Figure 4. Number of joints smoked on a normal day of use



Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

The greater the frequency of use prior to lockdown, the greater the number of joints smoked per occasion (Table 9). Seven out of ten daily smokers (69%) generally smoked at least three joints on the days they smoke, compared with 35% of weekly smokers and 9% of non-daily smokers. It is among the latter that the frequency of use increased most sharply during lockdown, with a doubling in proportion to the number of users smoking three or more joints on a given day (17% compared with 9%). Intensified use during lockdown was observed in both women and men, with the proportion of people smoking three or more joints on a single day increasing from 30% to 38% for women and from 34% to 41% for men.

Table 9. Number of joints smoked on a normal day of use by sex, frequency of cannabis use before lockdown and age (% in column)

		Sex		Frequency of cannabis use before lockdown			Age			
		Men	Women	Daily	Weekly but not daily	Non-weekly	18-25 years old	26-34 years old	35-44 years old	45-64 years old
Before lockdown, how many joint(s) did you smoke on a typical day of use? [among those who reported smoking cannabis mainly in the form of joints]	Only a few puffs	9	19	1	4	29	9	15	16	10
	Less than one joint	14	16	2	11	25	15	15	15	13
	One joint	32	26	17	38	27	30	26	34	30
	Two joints	9	8	11	10	6	10	8	9	9
	Three or more joints	34	30	69	35	9	33	35	26	35
During lockdown, how many joint(s) did you smoke on a typical day of use? [among users who smoked cannabis mainly in the form of joints during lockdown]	Only a few puffs	4	10	1	4	18	4	9	7	5
	Less than one joint	10	12	3	12	19	11	10	10	12
	One joint	33	32	15	41	35	36	26	33	36
	Two joints	10	8	9	9	11	10	9	10	8
	Three or more joints	41	38	72	33	17	37	45	40	39

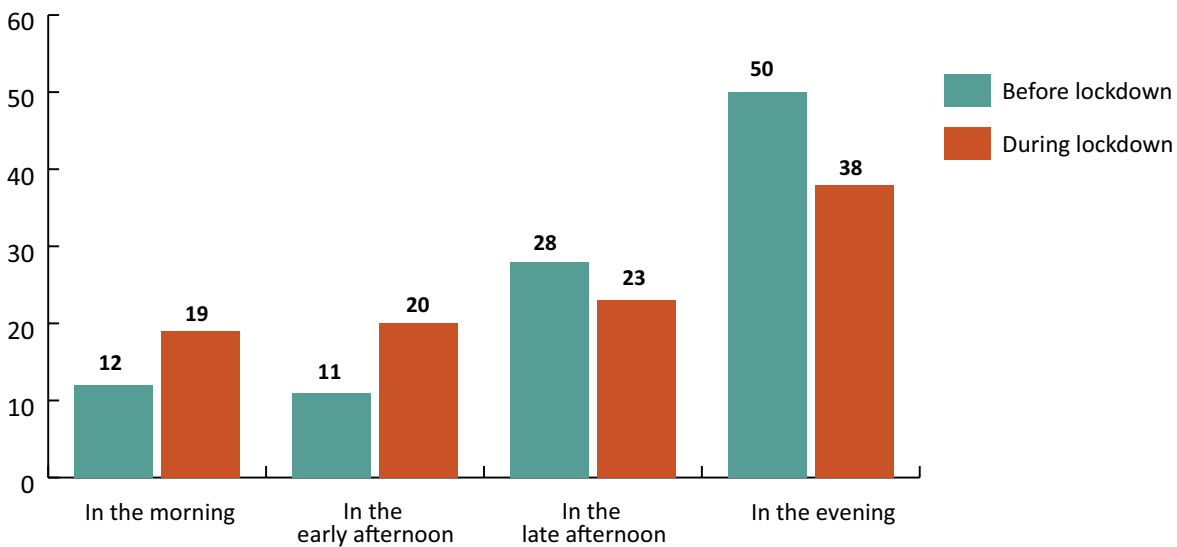
Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

CANNABIS: START TIME OF USE

Use more often in the morning during lockdown.

On average, during lockdown, cannabis users started smoking slightly earlier in the day: 38% report starting earlier than usual during this period. Thus, 19% of those who smoked cannabis during lockdown reported smoking their first joint in the morning [6 a.m. to 12 p.m.] (12% before lockdown), 20% in the early afternoon [12 p.m. to 4 p.m.] (11% before lockdown), 23% in the late afternoon [4 p.m. to 8 p.m.] (28% before lockdown), with consumption in the evening, after 8 p.m., dropping mechanically from 50% to 38% (Figure 5).

Figure 5. Average time of first cannabis use



Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

The average time of the first joint was brought forward, regardless of the frequency of cannabis use before lockdown (Table 10). On the other hand, the higher the frequency of cannabis use, the greater the proportion of users smoking their first joint before midday. Nearly four in ten (37%) people who reported smoking daily before lockdown consumed their first joint before noon, compared with 15% of weekly smokers and 8% of those who smoked less than once a week.

Table 10. Average time of first use of the day according to sex, usual frequency of cannabis use and age

		Sex		Frequency of cannabis use before lockdown			Age			
		Men	Women	Daily	Weekly but not daily	Non-weekly	18-25 years old	26-34 years old	35-44 years old	45-64 years old
Before lockdown, on the days you used cannabis, what time did you usually smoke your first joint?	In the morning	12	11	29	11	3	10	12	11	16
	In the early afternoon	12	8	16	12	5	14	10	6	9
	In the late afternoon	28	27	32	32	20	28	29	30	24
	In the evening	49	54	22	45	72	48	50	53	51
During lockdown, on the days you used cannabis, what time did you smoke your first joint? [among users during lockdown]	In the morning	21	16	37	15	8	13	24	22	23
	In the early afternoon	19	22	28	17	18	25	20	16	12
	In the late afternoon	21	25	17	25	23	19	24	26	24
	In the evening	39	37	18	43	52	43	32	35	41

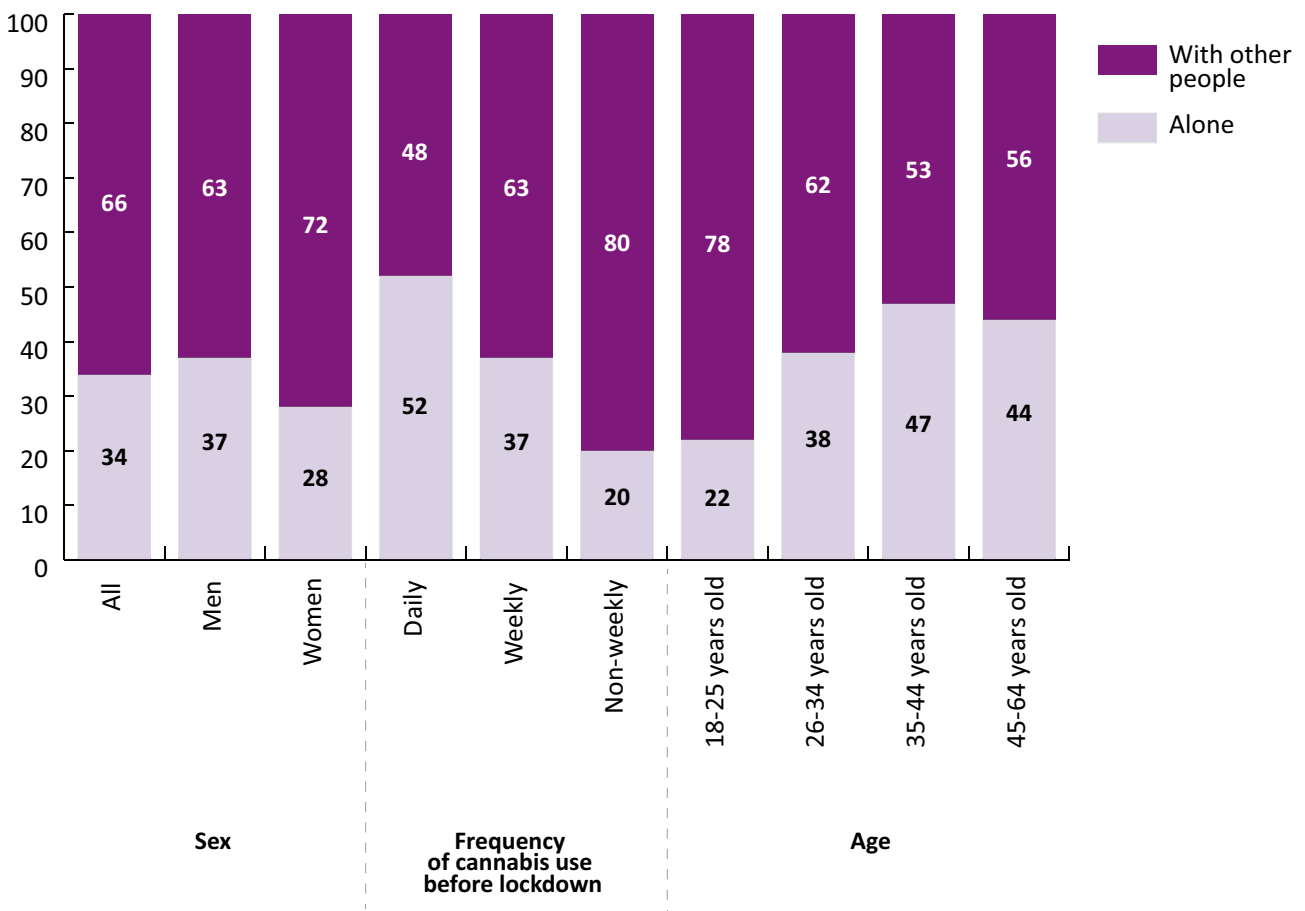
Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

CANNABIS: FREQUENCY OF EXCLUSIVELY SOLITARY USE

Sharp increase in solitary use during lockdown.

Solitary cannabis use was measured in two ways. First of all, by asking users about the situation of their last use before lockdown: 34 % then stated that they smoked alone, suggesting that, in general, one third of cannabis consumption takes place alone (Figure 6). Solitary use is all the more frequent as the frequency of use is high. Thus, among daily users, half of the last uses before lockdown took place alone, compared with 20% among users who use cannabis less than once a week.

Figure 6. Last use of cannabis before lockdown



Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

A quarter of the respondents (24%) said that they smoked exclusively with other people before lockdown, while solitary use, even if only occasionally, concerned three quarters of current users. These exclusively solitary situations of cannabis use concerned only a minority of users, since only 6% of users reported smoking cannabis exclusively on their own, with no noticeable difference between daily and occasional users (Table 11). Exclusive use with other people concerned practically no daily users (2%), but more than half of those who used less than once a week (51%).

In relation to the context of lockdown, the proportion of solitary use logically increased. The proportion of users who usually smoked alone (about 6%) increased sixfold to 39% during lockdown, especially among men. This solitary use was more common among adults over 45 years of age.

Table 11. Solitary use by sex, frequency of use before lockdown and age (% in column)

		Sex			Frequency of cannabis use before lockdown			Age			
		All	Men	Women	Daily	Weekly but not daily	Not weekly	18-25 years old	26-34 years old	35-44 years old	45-64 years old
Before lockdown, you smoked cannabis:	Exclusively alone	6	6	6	7	6	5	2	5	10	14
	Mainly alone	36	40	29	62	40	17	23	45	48	43
	Mainly with other people	34	35	31	29	42	27	42	28	28	28
	Exclusively with other people	24	19	34	2	12	51	33	21	14	15
During lockdown, you smoked cannabis [among users during lockdown]	Exclusively alone	39	41	33	36	41	35	34	39	39	47
	Mainly alone	29	33	21	34	31	20	27	29	37	29
	Mainly with other people	17	15	23	20	16	16	19	16	14	18
	Exclusively with other people	15	11	23	9	12	30	20	16	10	6

Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

CANNABIS: PATTERNS OF SUPPLY

Purchases that continued during lockdown

In the past year, outside of the lockdown period, eight out of ten cannabis users purchased cannabis, seven out of ten obtained it free of charge and 15% by self-cultivation (Table 12). Men were more prone than women to buy or grow their supplies (81% vs 70% and 18% vs 10% respectively), while more women had been offered them (72% vs 66%). The older the users, the more inclined they were to grow cannabis themselves, while younger users were more inclined to buy and offer it. People smoking less than once a week were almost half as likely as daily smokers to have bought cannabis (53% compared with 94%) or to have grown it (11% compared with 22%).

Of those who have bought cannabis in the last 12 months, 33% did so more than once a month, 29% once a month and 39% less than once a month. Overall, frequent and regular purchases were more common among younger people.

As lockdown was declared with effect from the following day, the vast majority of cannabis users were unable to anticipate the potential consequences in terms of accessibility. Thus, for 82% of purchasers, the amount of the last expenditure before lockdown was the amount usually spent. Only 13% bought cannabis for a higher amount than usual: these could be 'storage' purchases, out of opportunity and in anticipation of lockdown. Here again, the youngest were more likely to have made a larger purchase than usual (18%).

With regard to self-cultivation (15% of the respondents), two groups of users stand out. On the one hand, those who ensured their cannabis consumption partly through self-cultivation, i.e., a third (34%) whose self-cultivation accounted for up to 20% of their cannabis consumption. And, on the other hand, in the same proportions (36%), those who produced almost all the cannabis consumed (n = 147), i.e., 80% or more of the quantities smoked. Although this distribution differs little according to the frequency of use, self-sufficiency through cannabis cultivation seems to take hold with age: only one in ten 18–25-year-olds produce more than 80% of their own cannabis, and more than four in ten over the age of 26.

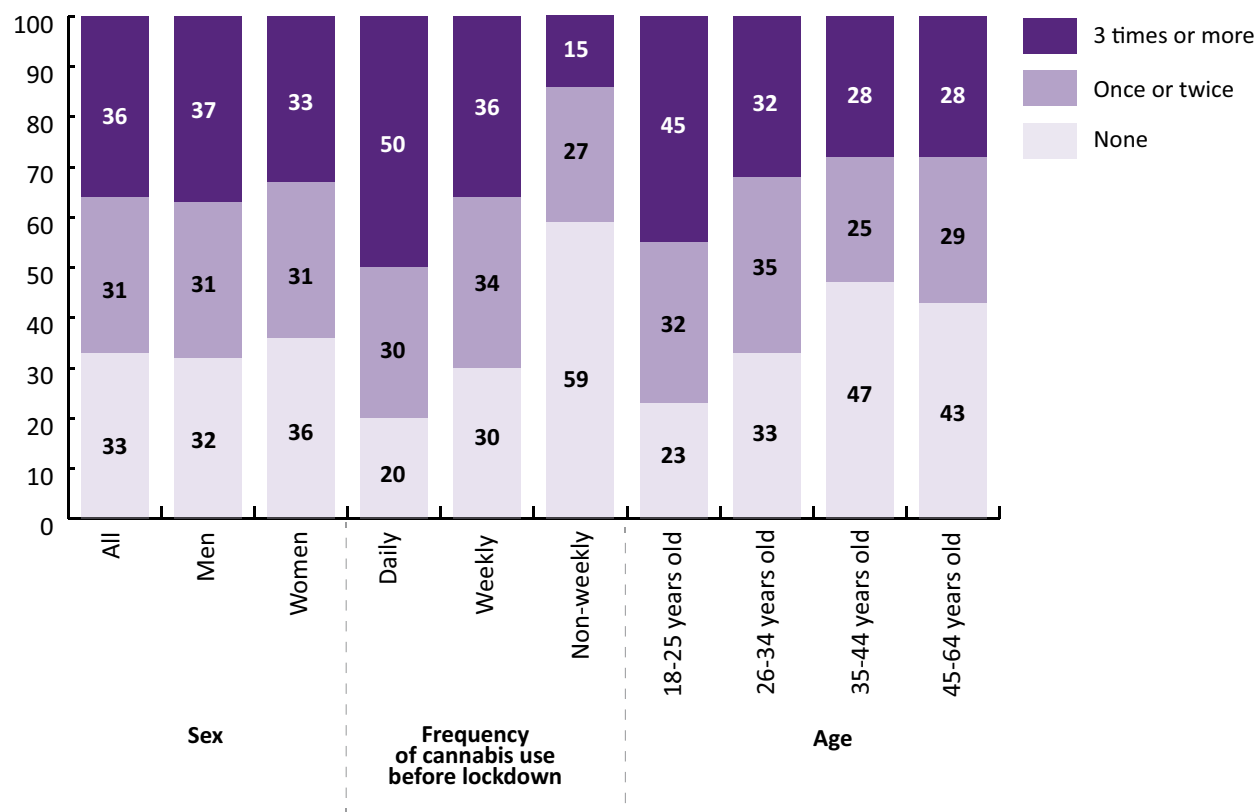
Table 12. Methods of supply of cannabis by sex, frequency of cannabis use before lockdown and age (% in column)

		Sex			Frequency of cannabis use before lockdown			Age			
		All	Men	Women	Daily	Weekly but not daily	Non-weekly	18-25 years old	26-34 years old	35-44 years old	45-64 years old
Supply in the last 12 months, outside the lockdown period [select all that apply]	Purchase	78	81	70	94	91	53	84	75	73	70
	Offered	68	66	72	64	67	72	74	66	63	63
	Self-cultivation	15	18	10	22	16	11	8	17	20	27
[IF PURCHASE] Before lockdown, how often did you buy cannabis?	Several times a year but not every month	39	38	41	14	31	82	32	43	48	46
	Once a month	29	29	29	30	34	15	26	25	35	36
	More than once a month	33	33	30	56	35	4	42	32	17	18
[IF PURCHASE] Last expenditure to buy cannabis before lockdown: Did this correspond to the usual amount you would spend?	Yes	82	82	81	82	83	79	77	86	86	87
	No, it was less than your usual amount	5	5	4	5	5	6	6	5	5	4
	No, it was more than your usual amount	13	13	14	13	12	16	18	10	10	9

Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

Cannabis users during lockdown continued to buy cannabis on the illicit market: while a third did not buy any at all during the period, a large majority (67%) bought it at least once. Half, in this majority group, even bought it several times (36%). Daily users were significantly more likely to make many purchases, with a significant proportion (20%) not buying at all (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Number of purchases during lockdown (in %)

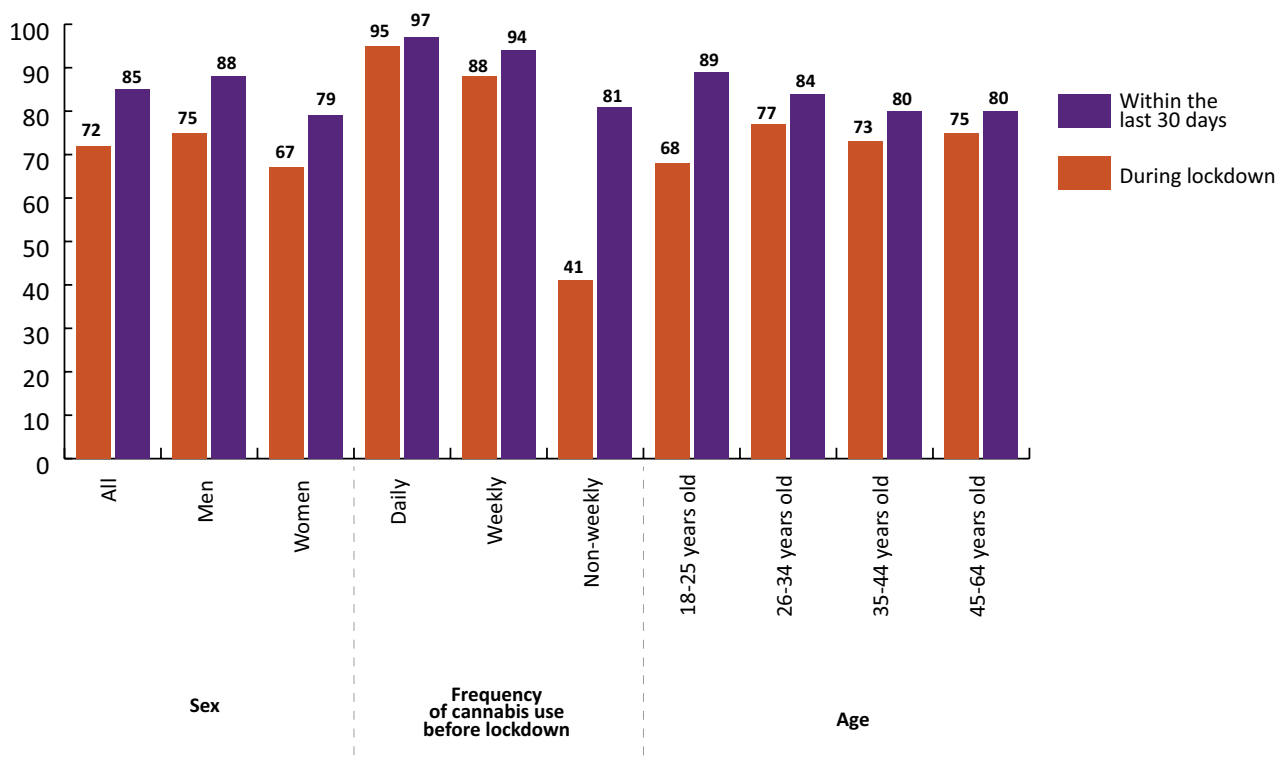


Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

USE OF CANNABIS DURING THE 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE SURVEY

85% of respondents used cannabis during the 30 days preceding the survey, i.e., more than one month after the end of lockdown (Figure 8). This proportion is higher among 18–25-year-olds, even though they were less likely to use cannabis during lockdown. Since the survey took place only a few weeks after lockdown, it is interesting to note that 38% of those who did not use cannabis during lockdown had still not used it at the time of the survey, while almost all those who used cannabis during lockdown also did so during the month preceding the survey (93%).

Figure 8. Cannabis use during lockdown and during the 30 days prior to the survey



Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

CANNABIS: OPINIONS ON LAW AND SUPPLY

Seven out of ten respondents (70%) strongly agreed with the statement that ‘people should have the right to take cannabis’, with men more often than women (73% vs 65%) (Table 13). As observed in 2018 in the Survey on Representations, Opinions and Perceptions Regarding Psychotropic Drugs (EROPP)⁴, this opinion is widely held among cannabis users, the frequency of cannabis use being a factor in respondents’ adherence to the principle of the right to use cannabis. Only 1% of respondents disagree with this statement.

Almost nine out of ten people (87%) declared that it would have been ‘fairly easy’ or ‘very easy’ for them to obtain cannabis if they had needed to during the day. More men said that it would have been ‘very easy’ for them to obtain cannabis (52% vs 43% of women). The greater the frequency of cannabis use, the more users felt it would have been easy for them to obtain cannabis.

4. <https://en.ofdt.fr/BDD/publications/docs/eftassz4.pdf>

Table 13. Opinions on cannabis and its supply by sex, frequency of cannabis use before lockdown and age (% in column)

		Sex			Frequency of cannabis use before lockdown			Age			
		All	Men	Women	Daily	Weekly but not daily	Not weekly	18-25 years old	26-34 years old	35-44 years old	45-64 years old
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "People should have the right to take cannabis"	Strongly agree	70	73	65	80	76	64	67	72	69	77
	Agree	23	23	24	16	20	30	25	22	25	18
	Neither agree nor disagree	6	4	11	5	4	6	7	5	6	5
	Disagree	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
	Strongly disagree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Do you think it would be difficult or easy for you to obtain cannabis in twenty-four hours if you wanted to?	It would be impossible for me	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
	It would be very difficult for me	3	2	4	1	3	2	2	1	4	6
	It would be quite difficult for me	10	8	13	7	7	11	5	10	14	17
	It would be quite easy for me	38	38	39	33	38	44	35	40	40	42
	It would be very easy for me	49	52	43	59	52	43	58	50	42	32

Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

FOCUS ON OTHER SUBSTANCE USE

■ ALCOHOL

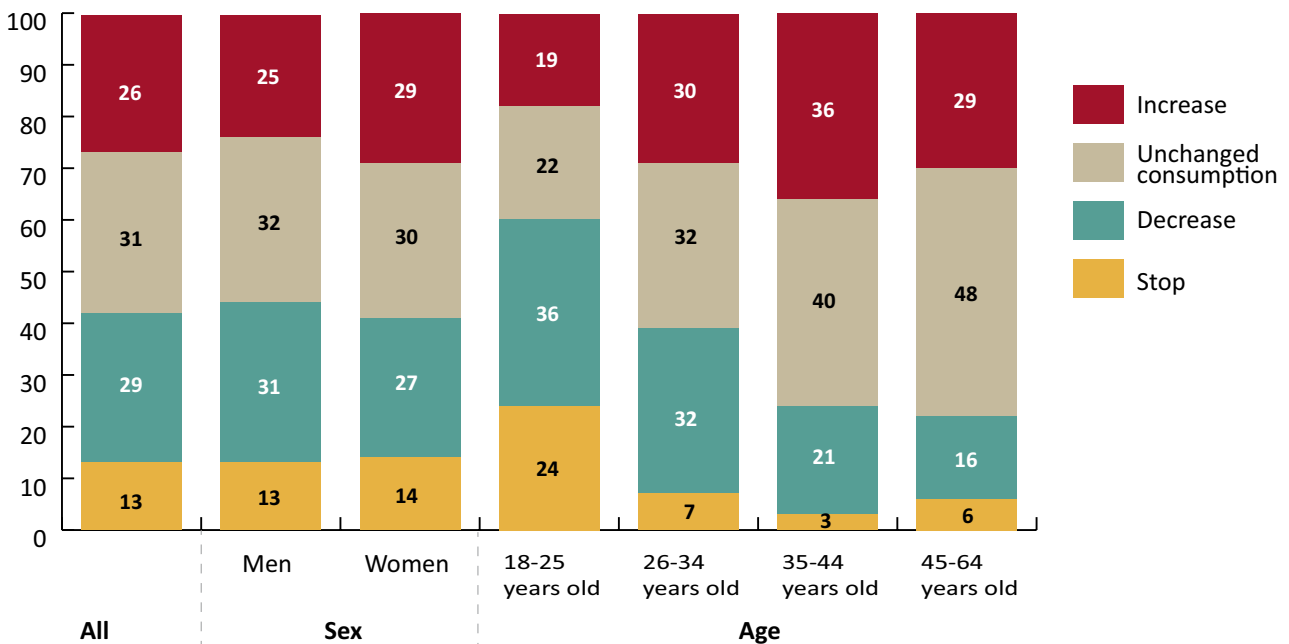
A quarter of cannabis users report having increased their alcohol consumption during lockdown.

All of the people surveyed said that they also drink alcoholic beverages: 96% of the cannabis users questioned were current alcohol users and 83% had drunk in the week before the survey. People aged 18 to 34 years were more likely than those aged 45 years and over to have drunk alcohol in the week preceding the survey (86% vs 73%).

It should be noted that, at the time of last consumption, almost two out of ten respondents (18%) had drunk 6 or more standard glasses of alcohol, the threshold corresponding to heavy episodic drinking (HED).

During the lockdown, 13% of the respondents said they had not drunk alcohol (Figure 9). While a third have decreased or maintained their drinking habits (29% and 31% respectively), about a quarter (26%) have increased their alcohol consumption. A quarter of 18–25-year-olds stopped drinking alcohol during this period, a higher proportion than the other age groups.

Figure 9. Trends in alcohol consumption during lockdown



Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

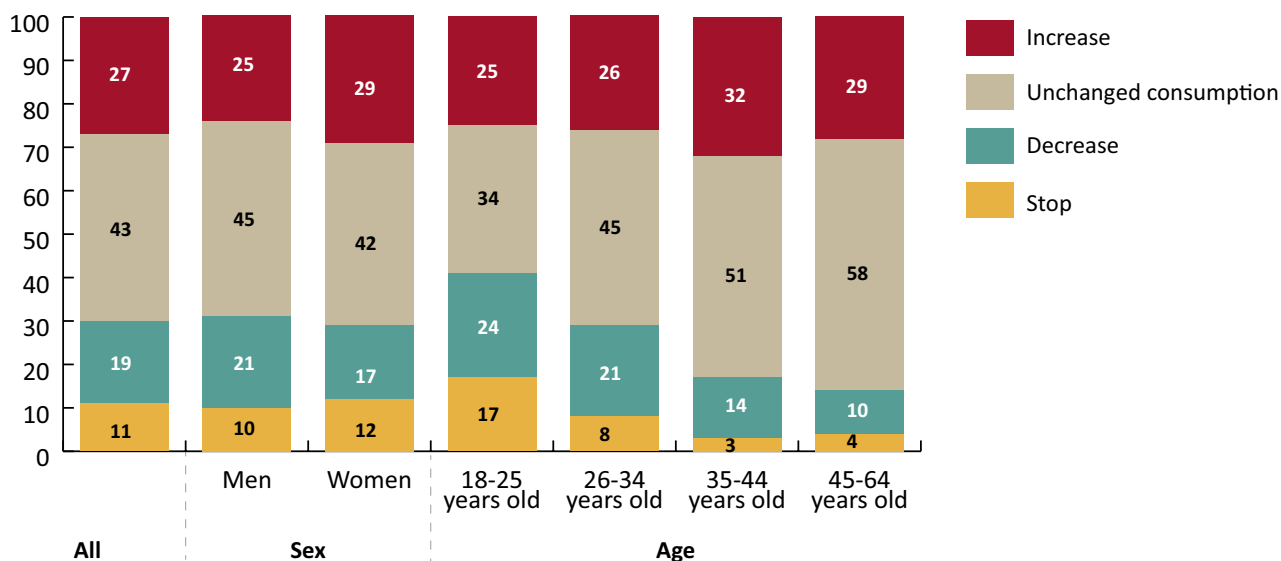
■ TOBACCO

A quarter of cannabis users reported tobacco use that increased during lockdown.

The majority of the cannabis users surveyed were smokers: 59% of the respondents reported smoking tobacco daily, 22% occasionally and 20% reported not smoking.

During lockdown, 11% of respondents stopped using tobacco, 19% reduced their consumption, 27% increased it, and 43% kept their use the same (Figure 10). As with alcohol, more people aged 18 to 25 stopped smoking during this period (17%).

Figure 10. Trends in tobacco use during lockdown



Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

■ OTHER ILLICIT DRUGS

13% of cannabis users also used at least one other illicit drug during lockdown.

Two thirds (67%) of respondents had already used at least one illicit drug other than cannabis, particularly among those aged 26-34 (77%). MDMA/ecstasy was the substance most often tried (50% of respondents), ahead of hallucinogenic mushrooms (46%), cocaine (42%), LSD (33%), amphetamines/methamphetamine (22%) and ketamine (21%). The other types of illicit products were used by one in ten or fewer respondents (Table 14).

Table 14. Lifetime use of illicit drugs other than cannabis by sex and age (%)

Lifetime use	Sex			Age			
	All	Men	Women	18-25 years old	26-34 years old	35-44 years old	45-64 years old
At least one illicit drug other than cannabis	67	68	67	63	77	71	60
MDMA/Ecstasy	50	51	49	48	62	51	34
Hallucinogenic mushrooms	46	48	41	34	60	55	43
Cocaine	42	42	41	26	58	52	46
LSD	33	33	33	23	45	38	36
Amphetamines/methamphetamine	22	22	21	15	29	28	20
Ketamine	21	20	22	21	28	17	12
Synthetic cannabinoids (e.g. Buddha Blue, PTC, Spice, etc.)	13	12	16	12	15	17	9
Heroin	10	10	10	2	10	17	23
Crack (cocaine based)	7	7	7	3	10	13	8
Synthetic cathinones (e.g. 3-MCC, Mephedrone, 4-MEC, etc.)	4	5	4	3	7	6	3

Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

In the past year, four out of ten people (41%) used a drug other than cannabis, and this proportion rises to one in two among 18–25-year-olds and 26–34-year-olds (Table 15). As with lifetime use, MDMA/ecstasy remains the product most frequently used in the past 12 months (24%), followed by cocaine (20%) and hallucinogenic mushrooms and LSD, both used by 13% of respondents. The remaining illicit products have each been used by one in ten or fewer people in the past year.

Cocaine was used twice as much in the last twelve months by 26–34-year-olds as in other age groups (33% vs 16%). MDMA/ecstasy, hallucinogenic mushrooms, LSD and ketamine were most often used by 18–25-year-olds and 26–34-year-olds.

Table 15. Rates of use of drugs other than cannabis in the last 12 months by sex and age (%)

Use within the last year	Sex			Age			
	All	Men	Women	18-25 years old	26-34 years old	35-44 years old	45-64 years old
At least one illicit drug other than cannabis	41	39	44	47	51	27	21
MDMA/Ecstasy	24	23	25	32	28	12	6
Cocaine	20	20	20	16	33	17	15
LSD	13	12	15	15	18	6	4
Hallucinogenic mushrooms	13	13	12	20	12	6	2
Ketamine	10	9	12	14	11	4	2
Amphetamines/methamphetamine	9	9	9	10	11	7	5
Synthetic cannabinoids (e.g. Buddha Blue, PTC, Spice, etc.)	7	5	10	8	6	8	4
Crack (cocaine base)	2	2	2	2	3	3	1
Heroin	2	2	2	1	2	2	3
Synthetic cathinones (e.g. 3-MCC, Mephedrone, 4-MEC, etc.)	2	2	1	1	3	1	2

Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

During the two months of lockdown, 13% of respondents also used a drug other than cannabis (Table 16). This was most often cocaine (6%), followed by MDMA/ecstasy (4%), hallucinogenic mushrooms (3%) and LSD (3%). One in five 26–34-year-olds have used during lockdown and 13% of them have used cocaine (Table 14).

Table 16. Rate of use of illicit drugs other than cannabis during lockdown (%)

Use during the lockdown	Sex			Age			
	All	Men	Women	18-25 years old	26-34 years old	35-44 years old	45-64 years old
At least one illicit drug other than cannabis	13	14	12	13	20	9	9
Cocaine	6	6	6	3	13	5	5
MDMA/ecstasy	4	4	5	6	6	2	2
LSD	3	3	2	3	3	3	2
Hallucinogenic mushrooms	3	3	2	4	2	1	1
Amphetamines/méthamphetamine	2	2	2	1	4	2	2
Ketamine	2	2	2	3	2	1	0
Synthetic cannabinoids (e.g. Buddha Blue, PTC, Spice, etc.)	1	1	2	1	2	1	1
Crack (cocaine base)	1	1	0	0	1	2	0
Heroin	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
Synthetic cathinones (e.g. 3-MCC, Mephedrone, 4-MEC, etc.)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

THE SITUATION OF CANNABIS USERS DURING LOCKDOWN

The situation with regard to the use of psychoactive products is obviously correlated with users' family and housing situations during lockdown. In the Cannabis online survey, a module was devoted to respondents' situations during lockdown (housing, working and living conditions). These questions were taken from the INED survey entitled "Coronavirus and lockdown: Longitudinal Study" (Coconel)⁵.

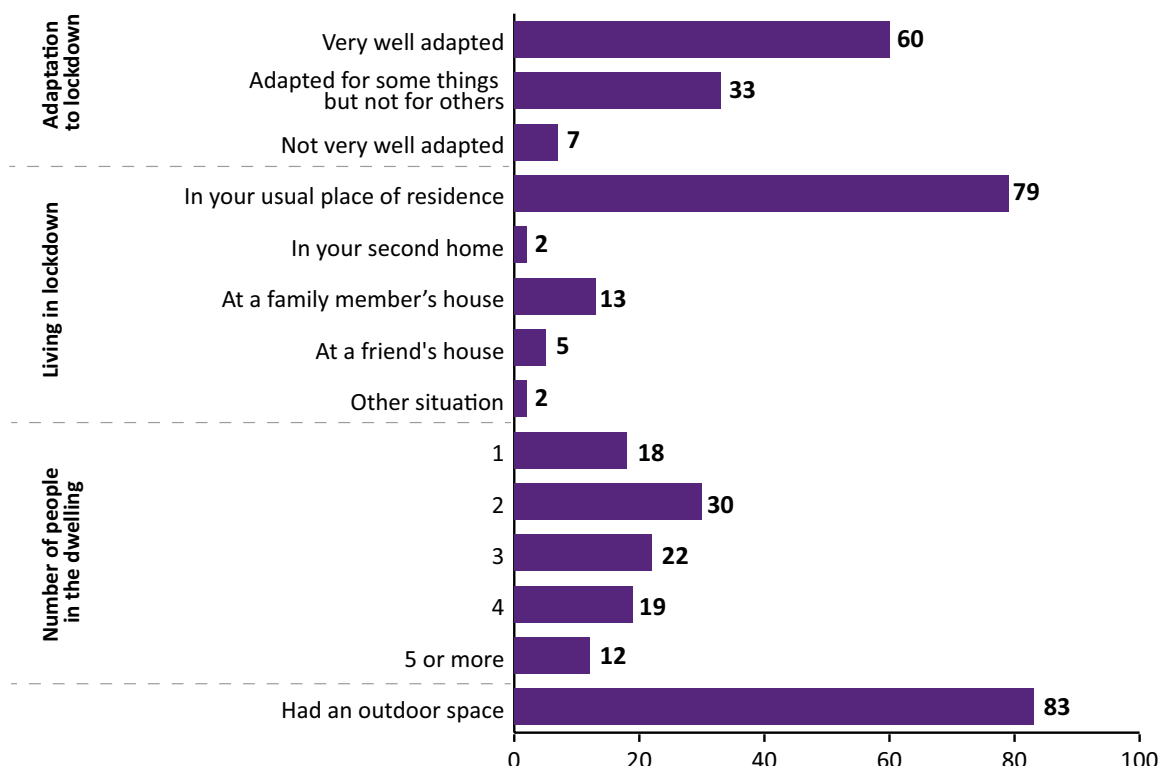
Overall, the cannabis users surveyed stated that they had adapted very well to the lockdown situation (60%) (Figure 11). While a third said they «adapted to some things but not to others», 7% said they suffered from lockdown, with women saying so slightly more often than men (9% vs 6%). Similarly, 18–25-year-olds said they adapted less well to the lockdown situation compared to older people.

■ Nearly two in ten respondents lived alone in their dwelling during the lockdown (18%), especially men (20% vs 14%), while those under 25 lived more widely together (92%).

■ 21% of respondents did not reside in their usual dwelling during the lockdown, a proportion three times higher than in the Coconel survey (7%). The 18–25-year-olds largely left their usual dwelling (32%) to 'go into lockdown' with family or friends. Conversely, most people aged 35 or over stayed in their usual place of residence (90% of them).

■ 17% of respondents had no outdoor space (balcony, terrace, garden, or yard), a higher proportion than in the Coconel survey (11%), probably due to the over-representation of young adults in the 'Cannabis Online' survey.

Figure 11. Housing situation during lockdown



Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

5. This survey was carried out by INED, in partnership with the Coconel consortium (VITROME IHU Méditerranée Infection, CIC Cochin-Pasteur, EHESP, ORS Paca), ANR, IRD, and IFOP. A sample of 2 003 people, representative of adults residing in metropolitan France, was drawn using the quota method (age, gender, education, socio-professional group, region and category of municipality). The survey was conducted via internet from 30 April to 4 May 2020. It focuses on the situation before and during lockdown, and addresses different themes: housing and living conditions; employment and working conditions; children and educational continuity; neighbourhood and feelings of isolation. See https://www.ined.fr/fichier/rte/General/ACTUALITES/Co-vid19/COCONEL-note-synthese-vague-11_Ined.pdf [in French, 19 p.]

Table 17. Housing situation during lockdown by sex and age (% in column)

		Sex			Age			
		All	Men	Women	18-25 years old	26-34 years old	35-44 years old	45-64 years old
During the lockdown, did you have any dependent children living with you?	No dependent children	81	81	79	99	88	50	55
	One dependent child	8	8	10	1	7	20	19
	Two dependent children	8	8	9	0	4	23	19
	At least 3 dependent children	3	3	3	0	1	7	7
During lockdown, how often did you leave your residence (i.e. outside your living area, including garden or terrace)?	Less than once per week	23	20	27	27	18	21	19
	once or twice per week	31	31	32	31	34	31	29
	3 to 5 times per week	12	13	10	11	13	12	15
	Once a day	18	19	17	17	21	18	18
	Twice a day	8	9	7	7	7	11	9
	More than 3 times a day	7	7	6	6	8	7	10
Do you think you were infected with coronavirus?	Yes, this was diagnosed	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Yes, it is possible, because of the symptoms	14	15	13	11	18	16	12
	Yes, it is possible, because of contact with an infected person	8	7	10	10	8	6	5
	No, I don't think so	77	78	76	78	73	77	82
During lockdown, were you:	Working outside the home	15	18	11	10	21	20	16
	Working or studying from home	41	39	44	52	31	39	28
	No activity at home	39	39	40	34	44	37	50
	Other situation	5	4	6	4	5	4	6

Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

- Two in ten (19%) had at least one dependent child during lockdown. While virtually no respondents aged 18-25 had any dependent children, 12% of 26-34 year olds did, alongside 50% of 35-44 year olds and 45% of those aged 45 and over.
- Nearly a quarter of the respondents (23%) left their residence less than once a week during lockdown, particularly women and those under 26 years of age.
- Four out of ten people were working or studying at home (41%), a similar proportion were not working (39%) and 15% were still working outside the home, the latter situation being more common among men. The majority of 18–25-year-olds stayed at home when they were working or studying.

Table 18. Living and working conditions during lockdown by sex and age (% in column)

		Sex		Age			
		Men	Women	18-25 years old	26-34 years old	35-44 years old	45-64 years old
How did you adapt to the lockdown situation?	Very well adapted	65	49	54	65	65	61
	Adapted for some things but not for others	29	41	37	30	28	33
	Not very well adapted	6	9	9	5	7	6
During the lockdown, you were living in:	In your usual place of residence	79	78	68	80	90	92
	In your second home	1	2	2	1	2	0
	At a family member's house	13	13	22	12	3	2
	At a friend's house	5	5	6	5	4	4
	Other situation	2	3	4	2	1	1
How many people were living in the dwelling during lockdown (including you)?	1	20	14	8	24	21	29
	2	27	37	24	41	28	30
	3	22	20	26	19	20	17
	4	19	17	23	11	21	16
	5 or more	12	12	19	5	10	8
What is, approximately, the total surface area of this dwelling in habitable square metres?	Less than 40 m ²	12	13	13	19	6	8
	Between 40 and 80 m ²	32	37	24	41	37	40
	Between 80 and 120 m ²	27	28	27	26	27	31
	At least 120 m ²	29	22	36	15	29	21
Living space per person	Less than 20 m ²	11	15	18	13	6	7
	Between 20 and 30 m ²	27	31	29	28	29	23
	Between 30 and 40 m ²	26	26	24	27	30	23
	At least 40 m ²	36	28	29	31	35	47
In this dwelling, did you have a balcony, terrace, garden or yard?		83	83	84	78	84	87

Source: Cannabis online 2020, OFDT

CONCLUSION

The OFDT's Cannabis online survey has made it possible to report on trends in cannabis use in France during the first lockdown in the spring of 2020. Unlike other surveys, the Cannabis online survey was conducted retrospectively, in July 2020, well after the lockdown phase, in order to describe as large a population of cannabis users as possible. The invitation to participate in the survey was addressed to current cannabis users (reporting at least one use in the last 12 months). The aim of this approach was to understand cannabis use behaviour during lockdown in relation to 'ordinary' (pre-lockdown) use habits.

The results underline that a majority of cannabis users continued to use in the exceptional circumstances of lockdown, even though a large proportion of them changed their use behaviour. The survey shows an increase in the use of cannabis during lockdown, particularly among the most regular users, which is reflected both in an increase in the number of joints smoked on one occasion and in more frequent morning and earlier daytime use. Contrary to fear of a generalised shortage, the accessibility of cannabis remained significant in this period.

Furthermore, while some respondents reported increased consumption of alcohol or tobacco during lockdown, the transfer to other products was infrequent due to the adaptation of the cannabis market to the new constraints imposed by the situation.

This Cannabis online survey illustrates the OFDT's ambition to make robust and readable data rapidly available, based on standardised categories and measurement indicators. While the health crisis related to the Covid-19 pandemic is still an unresolved issue, the extent of the consequences of the 'first lockdown' is still difficult to estimate at this stage: how many people have been left helpless in the face of a possible cannabis addiction? Will the changes in usage behaviour observed during lockdown continue? What will be the medium-term consequences on the market for cannabis in particular and illicit substances in general?

These questions are a strong call for carrying out this type of survey over time, in order to assess and understand the impact of the exceptional circumstances of lockdown on cannabis use in the general population.