

Global Drug Survey 2022 (GDS2022) – Information Sheet

We would like to invite you to participate in this year's Global Drug Survey, the world's largest online survey about drugs and drug use. Completing the survey is completely voluntary; you do not have to take part, and you can choose which sections you wish to answer should you participate.

Please read the following information before continuing to the survey and get in touch with the research team if anything is unclear or you have further questions.

About the Global Drug Survey

Global Drug Survey is the largest annual online survey exploring issues around drugs and drug use. Using information given to us by those who take part in the survey, we investigate such issues as emerging drugs of use, strategies for harm reduction and health outcomes, and compare findings with previous surveys to establish changes in trends and patterns.

We have an open, honest and transparent approach to drug use, and by sharing our findings with the public, we seek to limit the harm that drug use may cause individuals and communities. Global Drug Survey is an independent research organisation. We see our work as complementing other sources of drug use data around the world. We hope, therefore, that by cross-referencing our findings with other data sources, public health organisations will be better equipped to develop optimal strategies and policies to improve the health and wellbeing of those who use drugs.

What happens if I decide to participate? If you choose to take part, you will be asked to tick a box to state that you are over 16 years of age and that you provide informed consent for the data you provide to be used in our research. Upon providing consent, you will be redirected to the start of the survey.

The survey is comprised of different sections, not all of which will be applicable to you. Certain responses to questions will direct you to the differing sections, for example replying 'yes' to whether you have drunk alcohol last year will prompt more detailed questions about your alcohol use. Participation is entirely voluntary, and you are not required to answer every question or section you are shown. We estimate that core survey will take 20 minutes to complete for most people, but there are a number of optional specialist options that may take more time if you wish to answer them and in total GDS2022 may take up to 40 minutes depending on your drug use history.

Your responses are continuously stored as you progress through the survey, but you are also able to withdraw your participation by closing your browser at any time. If you don't want to complete the survey in one sitting there is an option to save and return.

Your answers will also remain completely anonymous; Global Drug Survey does not record your IP address or collect any information that may be used to identify you, such as your name, address or national insurance/social security number. Should you choose to share your contact details at the end of the survey, Global Drug Survey does not link your survey responses to any data that you consent to provide that could be used to identify you such as your name, telephone number or email or postal address.

What kind of questions will I be asked? You will be asked about your use of alcohol, illegal and prescription drugs, how and why you use them and whether you have experienced any problems. We will also ask you questions about where you obtain your drugs from and whether or not you have tried any new drugs. This year we will focus on how drug laws influence people's decision to use, not use or stop using drugs; the use of low and no alcohol beverages; the use of cannabis with tobacco and what would encourage people not to smoke joints with tobacco. Finally you will be asked about your experience of sex under the influence of psychedelics.

Are there any benefits or risks? No incentives are offered for your participation, but the main benefit is your contribution to furthering the understanding of drugs and associated societal drug trends and helping us inform drug policy and create a range of free harm reduction resources to help people use drugs more safely. There are no foreseeable risks in participating in the survey. Information you provide is totally anonymous, and your answers cannot be traced back to you. We do not collect IP addresses. You can skip any sections or questions that you do not wish to answer and can withdraw your participation at any stage.

If completing the survey makes you think more deeply about your drug use and wish to seek further advice and support, we recommend accessing the Global Drug Survey Highway Code, Safer Use Limits (cannabis harm reduction information) and Drugs Meter and Drinks Meter apps. If you reside in Australia, Counselling Online provides a 24-7 service with referrals to alcohol and other drug related counselling in your area.