

Global Drug Survey 2019 Medical cannabis clubs and cannabis social clubs (GDS2019_CAN) – Information Sheet

We would like to invite you to participate Global Drug Survey's study Medical cannabis and cannabis social clubs. GDS runs the world's largest online survey about drugs and drug use and this study explores cannabis use specifically. If you have not used cannabis in the last 12 months please do not complete it. 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.

We estimate that core survey will take 10-15 minutes to complete for most people.

Your responses are continuously stored as you progress through the survey, but you are also able to withdraw your participation and 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?

The survey is comprised of 4 sections, not all of which will be applicable to you. The first will ask about you and where you live. The second will ask about your recent cannabis use. The third will ask about whether or not you have obtained cannabis from a cannabis social club in the last 12 months and if so to tell us about your experience of doing so. The final section will only be completed by those who report that they usually or always consider their use of cannabis is for medical reasons. We will ask what conditions you try to treat, where you obtain your cannabis from, how you use it and the impact it may have had upon your condition.

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 how cannabis clubs work and how people are using cannabis to help them with various medical conditions. Our findings will help develop a better understanding of medical cannabis use in the UK as well as 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.

Will my information be confidential?

The Global Drug Survey is hosted on Survey Gizmo which offers secure and encrypted data capture. The link to the survey is in on our own website which is itself encrypted. All your answers are anonymous answers and strictly confidential. At no point during the study – either data collection, analysis nor publication of findings phases – will answers you provide be able to be traced back to you without your prior consent. Those people who provide contact details to take part in future projects have their contact details stored on separate encrypted database so that survey responses and contact details are always kept separate and are only ever matched as part of GDS approved projects. In such cases your data is always kept anonymous.

The General Data Protection Act (GDPR) 2018 where appropriate will apply to all information collected during the study. Data is stored on password-locked digital computer files and encrypted cloud-based servers. Following completion of the study once findings have been analysed and published, data will be encrypted and securely archived on secure Global Drug Survey computers.

How is the Global Drug Survey funded?

Global Drug Survey is an independent research organisation, and annual surveys are self-funded. We have taken no money from the cannabis industry or any other commercial organisation in the development of this survey.

The study has been approved by Human Research Ethics Committees at UCL (London)

What will happen to the results of the study?

Reports of the main findings will be shared with our [global media partners](#) for media publication in early 2020. Results from further analyses will be published in peer-reviewed journals, presented at conferences and used in advisory meetings and consultations. A summary of the survey's main findings will also be published on our [website](#).

The data collected through Global Drug Survey may be used for additional or subsequent research. In these cases, research partners can only access the data if they meet the same requirements of data security as the main research team. Research partners work in tandem with the main research team to ensure that publications meet our quality standards.

Any further questions?

Please download and keep a copy of this information sheet for your records. If you have any further questions or require more information about the Global Drug Survey, please get in touch using the following contact details:

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Should you wish to contact the ethics committees that approved this study, please find their details below:
UCL Research Ethics Committee, ethics@ucl.ac.uk, approval no. 11671/001

Thank you for reading this information sheet and considering taking part in the Global Drug Survey Medical Cannabis and Social Club Survey.