

Alcohol, tobacco and cannabis at 16 years old

Changes, recent uses, accessibility and lifestyles. Initial results of the French part of the ESPAD 2007 survey

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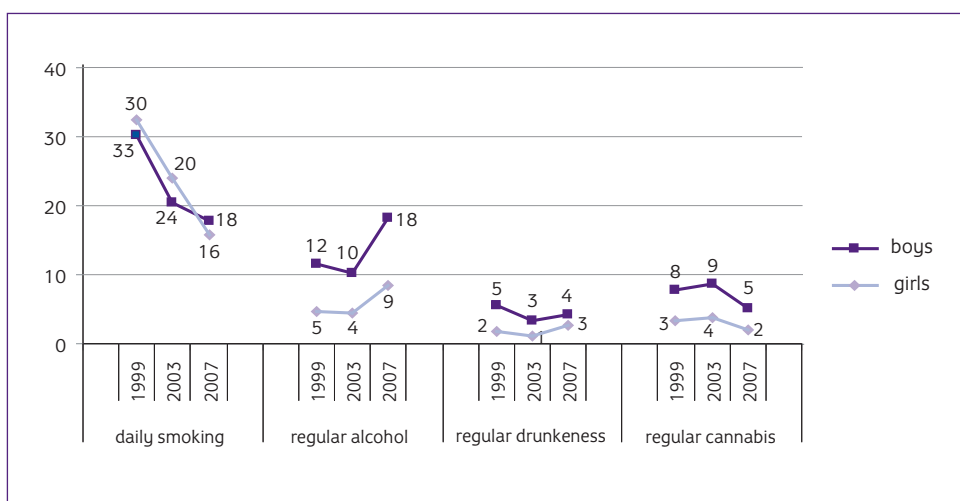
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The public authorities and health and prevention activists are paying particular attention to the use of psychoactive substances in adolescents. This is the period when initial experimentation with substance use, either legal or otherwise, occurs and may develop into regular use. OFDT has progressively established an observatory system on the use of psychoactive substances during adolescence which

now consists of three surveys, two of which are being conducted internationally: first, the HBSC (Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children) supported by the World Health Organisation [1] is questioning 11-, 13- and 15-year-old pupils; second the ESPAD (European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs) survey started by CAN (Swedish Council for Information on Alcohol and Other Drugs) and the Council of Europe concerns 16-year-old pupils; lastly, the ESCAPAD survey which, unlike the first two, goes beyond the educational environment, more specifically targeting French 17-year-old adolescents [2]. These three surveys firstly allow the frequency and change in use throughout adolescence and secondly, the change in behaviour of the different generations studied over the last decade to be examined.

Figure 1 – Changes in regular use of tobacco (= 1 cigarette/day), alcohol (= 10 episodes/month) and cannabis (= 10 episodes/month) by sex, in 16-year-olds between 1999 and 2007



All (%)	1999	2003	2007
Daily smoking (at least 1 cigarette per day during the last thirty days)	31	22***	17***
Regular alcohol (at least 10 episodes during the last thirty days)	8	7 ns	13***
Regular drunkenness (at least 10 episodes of drunkenness during the last twelve months)	3.7	2.2*	3.5 ns
Regular cannabis (at least 10 episodes during the last thirty days)	5.5	6.1 ns	3.4***

Ns, *, **, *** : Chi² test to compare two adjacent columns not significant or significant respectively at the 0.05, 0.01 and 0.001 levels performed on standardised values (cf. methodology section).

Source : ESPAD 1999, 2003 and 2007 OFDT-INSERM

This issue of Tendances presents the initial French results on tobacco, alcohol and cannabis use from the last ESPAD survey which was conducted during the first three months of 2007. It updates the changes in use of these psychoactive substances in relation to the two previous surveys: ESPAD 1999 and 2003 (uses of the less commonly used substances will be described later). In its last section, it also presents a few descriptive findings on the sociability¹, leisure activities and school life of the pupils questioned. This section is in direct response to the repeated comments by the pupils questioned in the pre-tests who emphasised the importance of considering all of the subjects which concerned them. These preliminary results will be supplemented by two reports during 2009; the first will involve all of the European results and the second will provide details of the French results.

Recent changes (1999-2007) in psychoactive substance use in 16-year-olds

A continuous fall in daily tobacco use occurred over the period 1999-2007 [3], al-

though the fall in cannabis use is only seen between 2003 and 2007. These results differ according to gender: tobacco use fell continuously in girls, whereas there was a levelling off in boys between 2003 and 2007: the fall was significant in boys for cannabis (8% in 1999 vs. 5% in 2007, $p < 0.01$), but not in girls. The rise in alcohol use is only clearly apparent between 2003 and 2007. In addition, although the numbers of episodes of drunkenness appear to have risen between 2003 and 2007, they remained stable over the entire period from 1999 to 2007.

Experimentation shows the same trends: a large and continuous fall is seen for tobacco (from 77% to 60% between 1999 and 2007), a lesser fall for cannabis (from 35% to 31% between 1999 and 2007) and a very slight rise for alcohol (86% in 1999 vs. 88% in 2007). These changes, however, differ depending on the substance considered. Hence, whilst the fall in smoking has been continuous and significant over the entire period, the fall in cannabis use is far less marked and follows an earlier rise. Conversely, only regular alcohol use (≥ 10 /month) showed an overall rise over the entire period (8% in 1999 vs. 13% in 2007). Beyond these prevalence figures, girls and boys differed in the substances which they used regularly.

Tobacco remains the leading substance used regularly by girls, whereas the proportions of smokers and drinkers amongst boys are now equal.

Use of psychoactive substances in 2007 in 16-year-olds

In 2007, six out of ten 16-year-old adolescents (58% of boys and 61% of girls) reported that they had already smoked at least one cigarette during their life. One out of six adolescents smoked daily, with no difference between the sexes. A new question was introduced in 2007 in the French questionnaire on use of tobacco with a nargileh (chicha, water pipe, etc.). Whilst one out of three 16-year-old pupils (35% of boys, 33% of girls) reported that they had already used tobacco through a nargileh, again with no difference between the sexes, only 4% had only experimented with tobacco in this form. Use of a pipe, chewing tobacco or snuff is still anecdotal [4]. Including nargileh use, experimentation with tobacco rises to 64%, compared to 60% for cigarettes alone in 16-year-olds and does not change the general falling trend.

Table 1 – Use of tobacco, alcohol and cannabis by sex in 2007 (% and sex ratio)

	Boys %	Girls %	Sex ratio	All %
Tobacco				
Experimentation (≥ 1 episode / lifetime) cigarette	58	61	0,9 ns	60
Occasional cigarettes use	11	15	0,7 **	13
Daily cigarettes use (≥ 1 /jour)	18	16	1,1 ns	17
Daily use of more than 10 cigarettes	5	4,6	1,1 ns	4,8
Alcohol and drunkenness				
Experimentation (≥ 1 episode / lifetime) alcohol	89	88	1,0 ns	88
Alcohol ≥ 1 episode / year	82	81	1,0 ns	81
Recent alcohol (≥ 1 episode / month)	66	62	1,1*	64
Regular use (≥ 10 /month) alcohol	18	9	2,1 ***	13
Experimentation (≥ 1 episode / lifetime) drunkenness	47	45	1,1 ns	46
Drunkenness ≥ 1 / year	37	35	1,1 ns	36
Regular drunkenness (≥ 10 /year)	4,2	2,7	1,6 *	3,5
5 glasses and +/episode during the month (≥ 1 /mois)	44	34	1,3 ***	39
5 glasses and +/episode during the month (≥ 10 /mois)	4,5	1,2	3,9***	2,8
Cannabis				
Experimentation (≥ 1 episode / lifetime) cannabis	35	27	1,3 ***	31
Cannabis ≥ 1 episode / year	28	21	1,3 ***	24
Cannabis récent (≥ 1 episode / month)	18	12	1,5 ***	15
Regular use (≥ 10 /month). cannabis	5,0	2,0	2,5 ***	3,5

Ns, *, **, ***: Chi² test for comparison of sexes not significant and significant at 0,05, 0,01 and 0,001 respectively.

Source : ESPAD 2007 OFDT-INSERM

Experimentation or lifetime use means that the person has already used a substance at least once in their life (=1 episode/lifetime).

Regular drunkenness means that the person has had at least ten episodes during the year (= 10 /year).

Other indications of use relate to the previous thirty days: **recent use** (at least one episode of use), **regular use of alcohol or cannabis** (at least ten episodes of use), **daily use** (at least once per day). These thresholds are the result of a rational choice but are, to some extent, arbitrary. They do not show the full diversity of frequencies of use and poorly distinguish actual situations which are sometimes very contrasting. They do, however, provide a simple description of practices in adolescence and are today used in many French and international analyses.

1. These questions on lifestyle are mostly French questions which were not always asked in the other iterations of the survey and it is not therefore possible to show their changes over time.

Table 2 – Lifetime use of tranquillisers/hypnotics, inhaled substances and concomitant use of alcohol and medicinal products or cannabis and sex ratio

	Boys (%)	Girls (%)	Sex ratio	All (%)
Tranquillisers, hypnotics	12	17	0.7 ns	15
Inhaled substances	13	10	1.2**	11
Alcohol and cannabis	21	17	1.2 ns	19
Alcohol and medicinal products	4	8	0.5 ns	6

Ns, *, **, ***: Chi² test for comparison of sexes not significant and significant at 0.05, 0.01 and 0.001 respectively.

Source : ESPAD 2007 OFDT-INSERM

Alcohol was the most widely used substance (88% of 16-year-old pupils had already drunk alcohol in their life, with no distinction between the sexes). Despite its widespread use within the adolescent population, only one out of eight pupils regularly drank alcohol. This was very predominantly male behaviour: in 2007, almost one in five boys reported at least ten episodes during the month compared to one out of ten girls.

Slightly under half of the 16-year-old pupils reported that they had already been drunk in their life, more than a third (36%) during the last twelve months and 3.5% at least ten times over the same period. Like alcohol use itself, drunkenness was mostly a male trait although the difference between the sexes was less pronounced for drunkenness. Less than half of the young people (39%) reported that they had drunk 5 or more glasses on a single occasion over the last thirty days. This behaviour of intermittent alcohol abuse, which is clearly in excess of WHO recommendations and close to the Anglo-Saxon binge drinking, appears to be relatively rare in relation to alcohol consumption during the previous month (reported by 64% of pupils) and especially regular drinking: 3% of pupils reported that they had drunk five or more glasses on one occasion at least 10 times during the last thirty days whereas 13% said that they had drunk alcohol at least ten times during the same period. This behaviour also appears to be relatively different from drunkenness as slightly under half (42%) of those who reported it also described being drunk during the last thirty days.

Classification of drinks by the number of drinkers in the previous month showed that beers, champagne and spirits were the most popular drinks amongst 16-year-olds, with 47%, 42% and 41% of drinkers respectively. This trio of alcoholic drinks was markedly in front of cider, pre-mixes² and wine, the drinking prevalence of which were between 28% and 31%.

Approximately a third of 16-year-old pupils reported that they had already smoked cannabis during their life, one in seven during the previous month and 3.4% reported

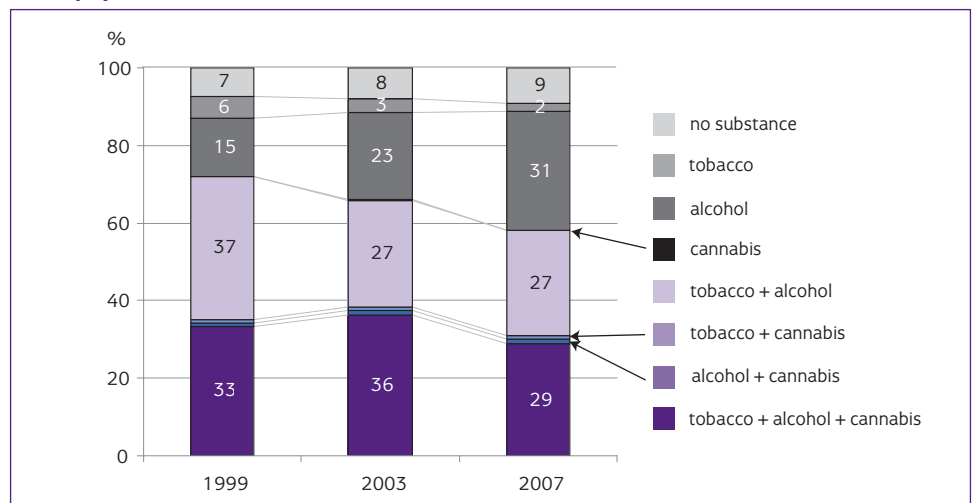
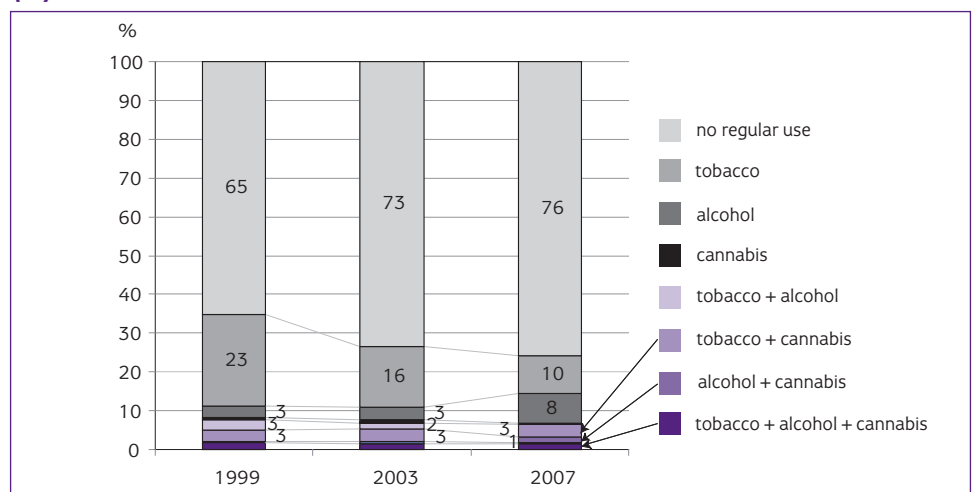
that they smoked regularly, i.e. at least ten times over the last thirty days. Compared to the girls, many more boys were involved and the more frequent the use, the greater the difference between the sexes: the sex ratio increased from 1.3 for experimentation to 2.5 for regular use.

Experimentation with non-prescription tranquillisers or hypnotics involved 15% of 16-year-old pupils; 11% experimented with inhaled substances. Concomitant use of alcohol and cannabis was reported by 19% of the young people and use of alcohol and psychotropic drugs by 6%. Repeated use/lifetime was rare except for the concomitant use of alcohol and cannabis, which 11% of respondents reported as having taken on several occasions. In most cases, these uses in-

involved more boys than girls (with sex ratios of 1.1 to 1.6 depending on the substance). A single exception was use of tranquillisers and hypnotics (non-prescription) whether or not combined with alcohol which was a predominantly female behaviour.

Poly-experimentation versus regular combined use

In 2007, only one out of eleven 16-year-old adolescents (9%) reported that they had never taken either alcohol, tobacco or cannabis in the course of their life (figure 2): 31% had only taken alcohol, 2% had only tried tobacco but 27% had already taken both. Almost one third (29%) reported that they had already taken all three substances in the course of their life. Only 0.7% of the young people reported that they had only taken tobacco and cannabis and less than 1.2% that they had only taken alcohol and cannabis. Whilst a large majority of adoles-

Figure 2 – Changes in alcohol, tobacco and cannabis experimentation between 1999 and 2007 (%)**Figure 3 – Changes in regular use of alcohol, tobacco and cannabis between 1999 and 2007 (%)**

Sources : ESPAD 1999, 2003 and 2007, OFDT-INSERM

2. Premixes (or alcopops) are drinks obtained by mixing sweetened drinks such as sodas or fruit juices with spirits. These drinks are characterised by between approximately 5° (the majority) and 8° and are sold in cans or bottles of 20 to 33 cl, mostly aimed at young people.

Table 3 – Accessibility of tobacco, alcoholic drinks, cannabis and other substances in 16-year-olds (%)

n=2807	Impossible to obtain...	Difficult (fairly or very ...) to obtain ...	Easy (easy or very ...) to obtain...	Don't know
Cigarettes	6	9	70	16
Beer	8	11	73	8
Cider	10	12	68	10
Premix ³	12	14	58	16
Wine	13	14	64	9
Spirits	14	22	55	9
Champagne	10	22	57	10
Cannabis	23	23	42	12
Tranquillisers, hypnotics	23	28	36	13
Inhaled substances	27	18	39	15

Source : ESPAD 2007 OFDT-INSERM

cents reported poly-experimentation (i.e. accumulation of at least two of the substances-alcohol, tobacco and cannabis), the combinations mostly taken were tobacco and alcohol (27%) or tobacco, alcohol and cannabis (29%).

A change in poly-experimentation between 1999 and 2007 can be relatively easily inferred from the changes in levels of experimentation with the three substances. The proportion of young people who had only experimented with alcohol increased considerably (from 15% to 31%). The fall in tobacco and cannabis use is reflected in particular by the proportion of abstinent adolescents (i.e. those who report no alcohol, tobacco or cannabis use) increasing slightly from 7% to 9% between 1999 and 2007. Similarly, the proportion having taken both alcohol and tobacco fell from 37% in 1999 to 27% in 2007. Poly-experimentation with the three substances increased slightly between 1999 and 2003 (from 33% to 36%), followed by a large fall (from 36% to 29%). Experimentation with cannabis alone was extremely rare in the three iterations of the survey as was poly-experimentation with alcohol and cannabis, whereas poly-experimentation with tobacco and cannabis remained stable at less than 1%.

In 2007, 24% of pupils reported that they regularly took at least one substance during the previous thirty days (figure 3). The most common regular use was that of tobacco (10%) or alcohol (8%) alone whereas 7% of the pupils used at least two substances regularly (and were by definition regular poly-users). The most common combination was regular use of both alcohol and tobacco (3.4% of adolescents) ahead of tobacco and cannabis (1.5%) and the three substances together (1.4% of the age group). Regular alcohol and regular cannabis use together (without tobacco) was minimal (involving only 0.3% of the pupils questioned in the survey). Regular combined use therefore appears to be consi-

derably less widespread than poly-experimentation, which appears to be more generally the norm.

Finally, between 1999 and 2007, the proportion of young people who used no substances regularly increased considerably from 65% to 76%. The structure of the regular users has changed since 1999 with a fall in "exclusive" daily smokers from 23% to 10% (i.e. without taking any other substance regularly) and a rise in "exclusive" daily drinkers from 3% to 8%. Combinations including tobacco and cannabis are therefore rarer in 2007, although the most common combination remains that of alcohol and tobacco which has remained more or less stable over time.

Substance accessibility

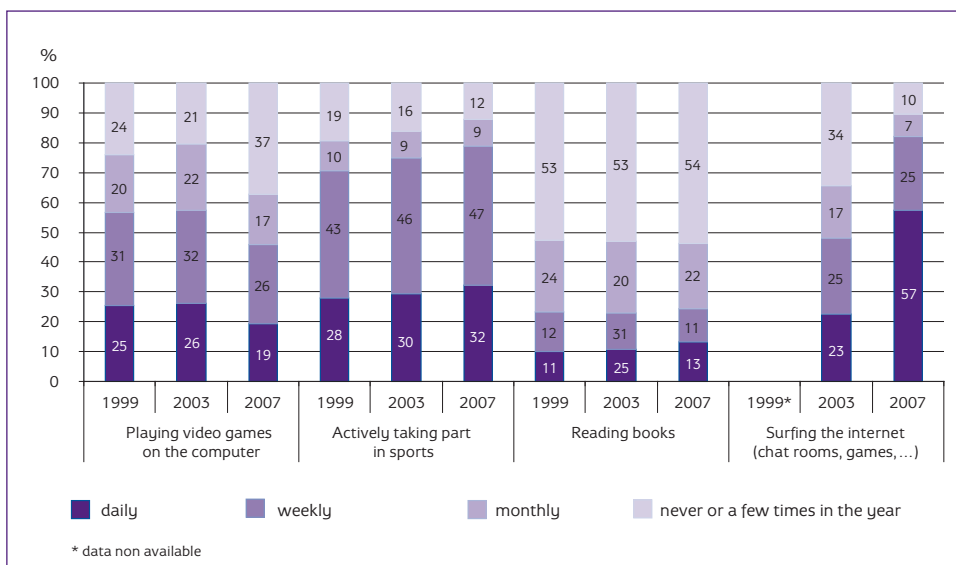
The ESPAD survey examined beliefs about the perceived accessibility of a substance using the question: "if you wanted to, would

it be difficult for you to get hold of [the substance]?" with the answer options "impossible; very difficult; fairly difficult; fairly easy; very easy; don't know".

The three substances perceived as being the easiest to access were cigarettes, beer and cider: more than 68% of pupils felt that these were easy to obtain. By comparison, 42% felt they could easily obtain cannabis. The perceived accessibility of cannabis, the leading illegal substance used, divided the pupils into two similar categories, 46% considering, conversely, that it would be difficult or impossible for them to obtain it. Overall, all alcoholic drinks were thought of as being relatively accessible by a large proportion of pupils. Of course, some pupils reported that they would not know whether it would be easy or not for them to obtain one of the substances described. This applied to 10% of pupils for cannabis. More surprisingly, whereas 70% of pupils felt that it would be easy for them to obtain cigarettes, 16% reported they did not know. This relatively high proportion of undecided pupils for the leading psychoactive substance used on an everyday basis may be due to the latest smoking prevention measures which in particular prohibit the sale of tobacco to minors under 16 years old and have been in force since September 2004 [5].

Pastimes and lifestyle

In 2007 a very large majority of pupils (82%) reported that they surfed the Internet at least once a week either to exchange messages, play games or listen to music. Of these, 70% did so daily. These results should be compared with the 79% of pupils who also reported that they had access to a computer at home with Internet access (11% had access to a computer not connected to the Internet).

Figure 4 – Changes in pastime frequencies between 1999 and 2007 in 16-year-olds (%)

3. See previous note.

Source : ESPAD 2007 OFDT-INSERM

Conversely, the activity least often performed was still reading a book (apart from those read for school purposes).

Less than half of the pupils spent time reading each month and slightly over ten per cent of the adolescents reported that they read every day. Sports were the leading weekly pastime followed by video games, which appeared to be played less often in 2007 than in 1999 probably due to competition from the Internet, which allows people not only to play games but to do so with several people in a network. In parallel, the proportion of adolescents who surf the Internet daily doubled between 2003 and 2007, whereas the proportions did not change for reading or sports.

In terms of cultural events, the ESPAD survey shows that in 16-year-olds, the most popular is going out to the cinema: 91% of pupils questioned reported that they had been there during the last twelve months compared to 60% who had attended a sports gathering as a spectator, 44% for museums or

exhibitions, 43% for concerts and 34% for the theatre. More than a third of the pupils reported that they had been to the cinema at least once per month over the period although other outings were far less regular.

Overall, there were very little differences in these outings between the sexes. The largest difference was seen for sports events (67% of boys had been to a match compared to 54% of girls, $p < 0.001$). We note that slightly more girls went to the theatre, to exhibitions or to concerts than boys.

Almost two-thirds of the young people questioned (63%) reported that they had spent time in a bar with their friends over the last twelve months, although only 24% reported that they had been there at once per week and 5% said they went there daily or almost daily. Evenings spent with (male or female) friends were much more popular, 84% reporting that they had spent at least one evening with friends either at home or in the friend's house over the last 12 months and more than one third reporting that they

had done so at least once a week. Spending time in open public places was even more common, 91% having done this during the period and more than a quarter reporting that they did so almost every day.

Peer sociability plays an important role in young adolescents who make full use of the new communication methods available to them nowadays. Use of mobile phones to contact friends was very prevalent (87% had used one during the previous twelve months) and more common than use of a landline phone (74%); 33% used their mobile phone almost everyday compared to 17% who used a landline. Text messaging was also very popular in the adolescent population: 86% had sent texts to their friends during the period and, particularly, 62% sent them almost every day.

The sociability profiles also differed clearly by sex. Girls used the telephone more (in all forms) than boys and, in general, appeared to have more contact with their (male or female) friends than boys. More specifically, they declared more often than boys that they had gone to a bar or a private party or had seen their friends during the year in the places and on the occasions asked about. However, apart from very common use of the telephone, the difference between boys and girls was often small.

Finally, overall, school, which for 16-year-olds is still the main focus of the adolescent's life, was generally enjoyed. Almost half of the pupils (44%) reported this year that they liked school either "fairly well or a lot", girls more often than boys (48% vs. 40%), but almost three out of ten (27%) reported that they liked school "not much or not at all", with more boys in this latter group than girls (30% vs. 25%). One out of ten adolescents reported that they "often" arrived late, 4% that they "often" missed classes and 7% that they were "often" absent for at least a day. The last of these three groups contained more girls than boys, although late attendances or absence from a lesson were divided equally between the sexes. Intermittent absences and absenteeism appeared to be extremely stable since the 1999 survey. Finally, we should note that when classes included pupils from both sexes, 77% of the pupils reported that they had very good and easy relationships with pupils of the opposite sex, girls reporting this as much as boys (77% vs. 78%).

Delinquent or violent behaviour

Delinquent, violent, malicious or anti-social behaviour are not uncommon in adolescents although their frequencies depend on the type of activity considered. Almost one out of five 16-year-old adolescents reported

ESPAD (European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs) is a four yearly survey started on a European scale in 1995 by the Swedish Council for Information on Alcohol and Other Drugs (CAN) with support from the Council of Europe (Pompidou Group). It targets 16-year-old pupils, the age marking the end of the compulsory educational system in most European countries. The last survey was conducted in the second quarter of 2007 and included more than 35 countries including France, which took part in it for the third consecutive time [7].

The survey was conducted using a standardised methodology and self-administered questionnaire common to all of the participating countries, each national sample theoretically consisting of at least 2,400 16-year-old pupils. It therefore provides a very good comparison of tobacco, alcohol and drug using habits amongst young Europeans with experience going back more than ten years. The survey in France was conducted under the joint scientific supervision of OFDT and Inserm's "santé de l'adolescent" team (U 669), in partnership with the Ministry for Youth, National Education and Research (MJENR), the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Secretary General for Catholic teaching. It was approved by the French Data Protection Authority (Cnil), reference EC n°07001994.

The 2007 sample was obtained by the DEPP (Direction de l'évaluation, de la prospective et de la performance) using a matched random sampling⁴ based on the following criteria: type of establishment (junior/senior high school), type of education

(general, professional, etc.), location of establishments (in an urban or rural district), sector (public or private) and possible location in a priority education zone. As in 1999 and 2003, randomisation involved selecting two classes (a total of 404 classes were sampled) per establishment, all of the pupils in which were questioned. Overall, between April and May 2007, 2,950 pupils born in 1991, i.e. 15 or 16 years old at the time of the survey (referred to here as the "16-year-olds"), each completed the questionnaire in class in the presence of a surveyor responsible for describing the survey to them and explaining to them how to complete it. The class participation was 98.3%, and taking account of absentees on the day of the survey, and refusals to take part, the pupil participation rate was 90%. After data quality control, the sample analysed included 2,807 pupils (of which 1421 were boys) representative of adolescents born in 1991 (more than 98% of whom were in secondary level education for this year of birth).

The 2007 data were adjusted to ensure that they were representative of pupils from agriculture who make up approximately 5% of pupils educated in the secondary sector in France. The results from the previous ESPAD 1999 and 2003 surveys were based on analyses of 2,284 and 2,297 school pupils respectively.

As concerns comparisons between the different survey iterations, although the data reported are raw prevalence figures, the tests relating to 1999 and 2003 are based on standardised data on the 2007 structure excluding agriculture pupils.

4. Sampling using an algorithm producing a random matched sample from a total group established from ancillary information obtained in the database. For more information refer to the Insee website: www.insee.fr.

that they have “caused a fight” or “damaged public or private property” over the year. One out of four had “shop-lifted” and one out of thirty-two reported that they had used “a weapon of some type to get something from someone”.

Apart from shoplifting, which was as common in girls as boys, delinquency behaviour was more prevalent in males than females, and the more the acts were against people, the more the difference between the sexes. The sex ratio was 4.5 for use of a weapon and 2.5 for causing a fight, for example, but 1.6 for damage to public property. We note that repeated behaviour of this nature is uncommon and half of the pupils who committed one reported that they only did it once. These forms of delinquent behaviour also appear to be remarkably stable when the results are compared with those of the 1999 survey: the only significant change is in shoplifting which fell from 33% to 27%.

Discussion

This new iteration of ESPAD shows that experimenting with and regular use of tobacco and cannabis are falling markedly compared to the previous years in 16-year-old French pupils. Conversely, whilst alcohol experimentation is stable, its regular use appears to have risen markedly since 2003. Regular drunkenness has risen moderately, particularly amongst girls. These changes confirm the findings for alcohol between 2003 and 2005 at 17 years old in the ESCAPAD survey [6]. This third ESPAD iteration shows a general fall in regular usage: the proportion of adolescents who did not report any regular use of any of the three most common psychoactive substances (tobacco, alcohol, cannabis) (76%) has increased markedly since 1999. Similarly, regular combined use of at least two substances out of alcohol, tobacco or cannabis is falling, now only being reported by 7% of the pupils questioned. Finally, the survey puts in context the widely perceived belief of young people drinking more than five glasses in a single occasion as this habit appears to be far less frequent than alcohol use itself.

These reassuring health changes are accompanied by large changes in some aspects of sociability. The findings reveal that the pupils questioned had wide and increasing access to new communication and games technologies (Internet, mobile phone and video games) although the increase in these practices is not necessarily occurring to the detriment of other pastimes, notably reading books. In addition, the pupils questioned in 2007 do not appear to be more violent or aggressive to their peers than their predecessors. Finally, the large majority considered that relationships between girls and boys are very good.

A comparison with the findings obtained in 2006 from 15-year-old pupils (i.e. pupils

one year younger, questioned a year previously) in the HBSC (Health Behaviour in School-aged Children) survey [1] suggests that the results from this survey are robust. The prevalence of alcohol experimentation was 84% in HBSC compared to 88% in this study and regular use was 9% compared to 9% here: experimentation and daily use of tobacco were 55% and 18% respectively compared to 60% and 17% in the ESPAD survey: finally, for cannabis, experimentation and regular use rates were 28% and 3% compared to 31% and 3.5 % here. The ages of the pupils questioned and the collection dates for the two surveys therefore appear to indicate that whilst the spread of alcohol, tobacco and cannabis experimentation between 15 and 16 years old is increasing, the prevalence of regular users is far lower. It appears from these two findings that most experimentation takes place between 15 and 16 years old, if we temporarily disregard the limitations in comparing the results of these two surveys, which are similar but not identical.

From now on, ESPAD is incorporating pupils from agricultural colleges into its samples. These pupils were traditionally excluded from the school surveys. This will improve the representativeness of the sample. The report will describe, in detail, the analyses of the uses of psychoactive substances and their links to individual, family and lifestyle features of the respondents. It will also examine the links between use and the pupils' immediate environment, and in particular consider the educational environment (type of establishment, instruction received etc.). The change in use between 1999 and 2007 contrasts, for example, depending on the type of education being followed. Whilst daily smoking is falling in the overall pupil group, this fall is particularly marked in professional establishments (45% in 1999 vs. 24% in 2007, a fall of 12 and 16 points in “general education” junior and senior secondary schools respectively). In contrast, regular alcohol use, which increased for all between 1999 and 2007, has remained stable in pupils in the professional training sector. Regular cannabis use, which has fallen between 1999 and 2007, shows a falling trend in all types of establishment although it is only statistically significant in the “general education” senior secondary schools.

These few examples confirm the importance of taking the analysis beyond the descriptive features presented here in the initial results and the need to analyse these uses in terms of the different demographic, social and contextual determining factors.

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