## Annual prevalence of the use of cannabis, opioids, opiates by region and globally, 2020

# Introduction

In the context of drug use trends, understanding the annual prevalence of cannabis, opioids, and opiates is crucial for assessing the global landscape of substance use disorders and associated health implications.

Annual Prevalence of Cannabis, Opioids, and Opiates by Region and Globally, 2020

### Cannabis

Cannabis remains the most commonly used drug globally, with an estimated 192 million past-year users in 2018, representing 3.9% of the global population aged 15-64.

Notable regional variations exist, with higher prevalence in North America, Australia, New Zealand, and West and Central Africa.

### Opioids and Opiates

Opioids, particularly heroin, continue to be a significant concern globally, with an estimated 60 million people engaging in non-medical opioid use in 2021.

Opioids accounted for nearly 70% of the 128,000 deaths attributed to drug use disorders in 2019, highlighting their lethal impact.

Regional differences in primary drugs leading to drug use disorders exist, with opioids being predominant in Europe and Asia, cocaine in Latin America, cannabis in parts of Africa, and methamphetamine in East and South-East Asia.

# Conclusion

The analysis of the annual prevalence of cannabis, opioids, and opiates in 2020 underscores the complex nature of substance use globally. Regional disparities in drug preferences and associated health risks highlight the need for tailored interventions to address substance use disorders effectively. By staying informed about these trends, policymakers and healthcare professionals can develop targeted strategies to mitigate the impact of drug use on public health.

# Summary

The year 2020 witnessed significant patterns in drug use, with cannabis, opioids, and opiates playing pivotal roles in shaping global drug consumption trends. Analyzing the prevalence of these substances regionally and globally provides insights into the scale and impact of drug use disorders.