THE DRUG PHENOMENON **IN THE GRAND-DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG**

KEY ELEMENTS

2026

This publication presents the most recent data on the use of drugs and psychoactive substances in Luxembourg. It provides an overview of patterns of use, related consequences, health responses, and developments in the drug market.

This publication draws on the work of the Luxembourg Focal Point of the European Union Drugs Agency (PFLAD), together with its national partners from the Luxembourg Information Network on Drugs and Drug Addictions (RELIS).

For a more comprehensive overview, scan the QR code or visit our website on www.relis.lu

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www.relis.lu
www.sante.public.lu
www.gouvernement.lu

LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère de la Santé
et de la Sécurité sociale

Direction de la santé

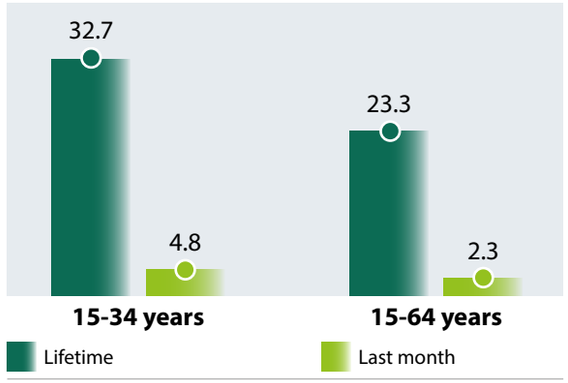
PFLAD
POINT FOCAL LUXEMBOURGEOIS
DE L'AGENCE DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE
SUR LES DROGUES

DRUG CONSUMPTION IN THE GENERAL POPULATION

EUROPEAN HEALTH INTERVIEW SURVEY

Focus: Drug use among the general population - representative survey
Participants: Randomised, stratified (by age, sex, district) sample of Luxembourgish residents aged 15+ years living in private households (n = 1052)
Method: Invitations by post; online or paper questionnaire; data collection every 5 to 6 years

Prevalence rates of cannabis use (%) (2019)



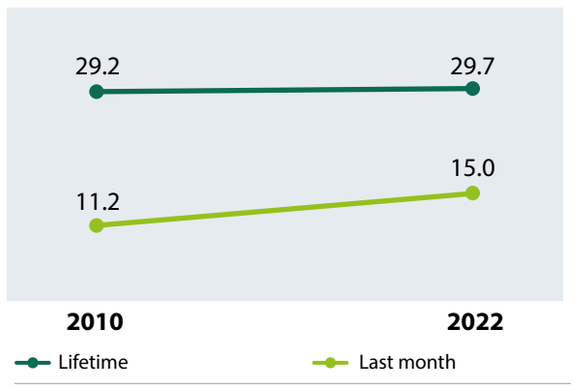
Last month prevalence (15-64 years) (2019)



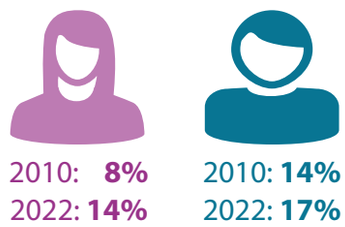
HEALTH BEHAVIOUR IN SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

Focus: Drug use among school-aged children - representative survey
Participants: Randomised, stratified sample of students (15-18 years) in Luxembourgish schools (n = 3884)
Method: Paper questionnaires distributed in classrooms every 4 years

Prevalence rates of cannabis use (%)



Last month prevalence (15-18 years)



DRUG USE AMONG TARGET GROUPS

EUROPEAN WEB SURVEY ON DRUGS

Focus: Drug use patterns, drug market dynamics, and user behaviour
Participants: Non-representative sample of drug users aged 18+ years residing in Luxembourg (n = 911)
Method: Online questionnaire promoted via social media in summer 2024

Gender differences:

more likely: **MDMA & synthetic cannabinoids use**

vs.

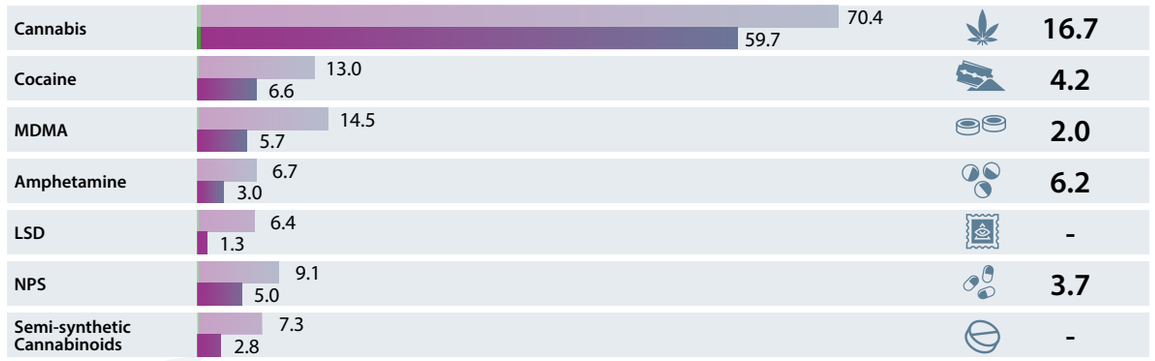
more likely: **Cannabis & NPS* use**

Polydrug use**:

87.1%

Prevalence rates of drug use (%) (2024)

Average number of days of use (last month)

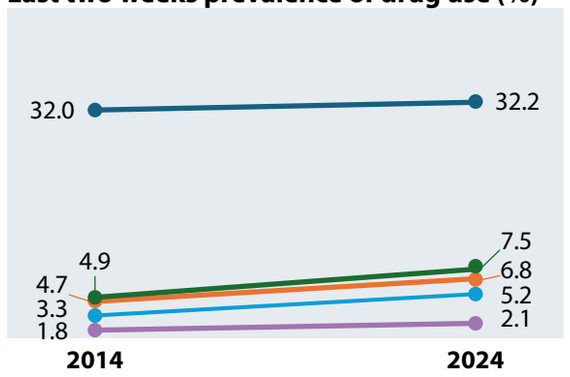


* *New psychoactive substances*
** *The use of more than one substance at the same time*

NIGHTLIFE SURVEY (PIPAPO, 4MOTION)

Focus: Recreational drug use in nightlife/festive settings
Participants: Voluntary respondents who used substances in the past 2 weeks (n = 1259)
Method: Self-administered paper questionnaire at nightlife venues assessing past two weeks substance use

Last two weeks prevalence of drug use (%)



Key findings:

in the use of all drugs since 2014

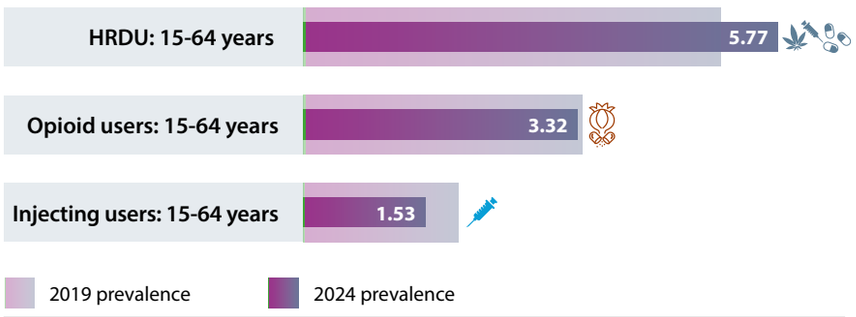
reported higher use of all drugs

HIGH-RISK DRUG USE

HIGH-RISK DRUG USERS (HRDUs)

NATIONAL ESTIMATION OF HRDUs

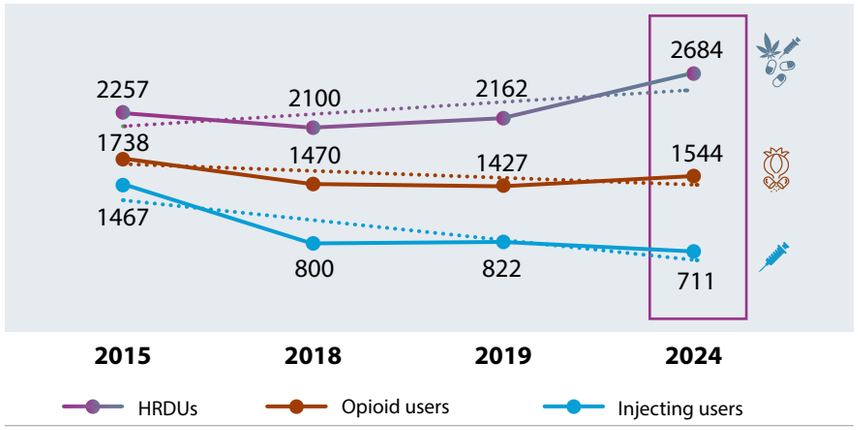
Prevalence of high-risk user groups



EUDA definition: High-risk drug users (HRDUs) are people whose recurrent drug use causes significant health or social harm, including dependence.

National definition: HRDUs are individuals whose drug use is likely to require intervention through treatment, harm reduction, or contact with law enforcement.

Estimated number of high-risk user groups



EUDA definition: 2024 HRDU estimates were calculated using the **Incremental Multiplier Method (IOMM),** combining **national OAT** (Opioid Agonist Treatment) **register data** with **RELIS treatment rates**.

Source: RELIS, 2010-2024

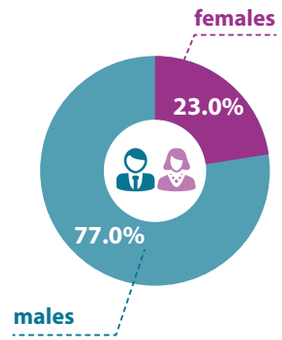
CHARACTERISTICS OF HRDUs (N = 381) IN 2024

Average age of HRDUs

- 40 +

In 2024, the **average age of HRDUs** in Luxembourg was **40 years.** RELIS data from the past decade show a **gradual ageing** of this population.

Sex



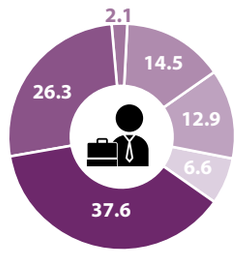
Country of birth

LU **55.4%**

PT **14.8%**

FR **7.0%**

Employment and social status



37.6% Unemployed

26.3% Social benefits

14.5% Stable employment

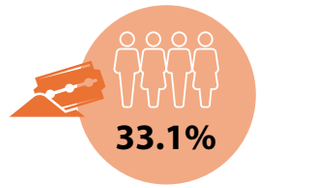
12.9% Studying

6.6% Temporary work

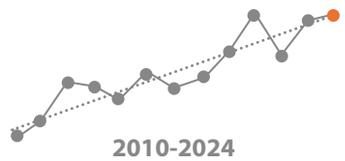
2.1% Other

Unemployment was the **predominant** reported status in 2024, with **many** HRDUs also receiving **social benefits.**

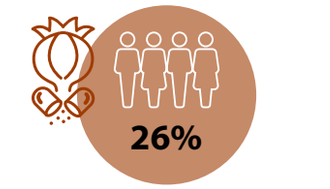
Primary drug use



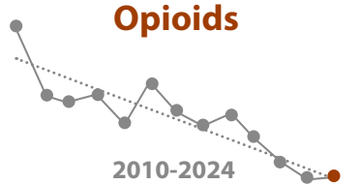
Cocaine



2010-2024

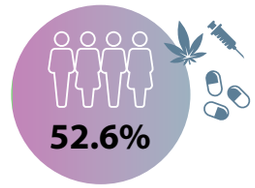


Opioids



2010-2024

Polydrug



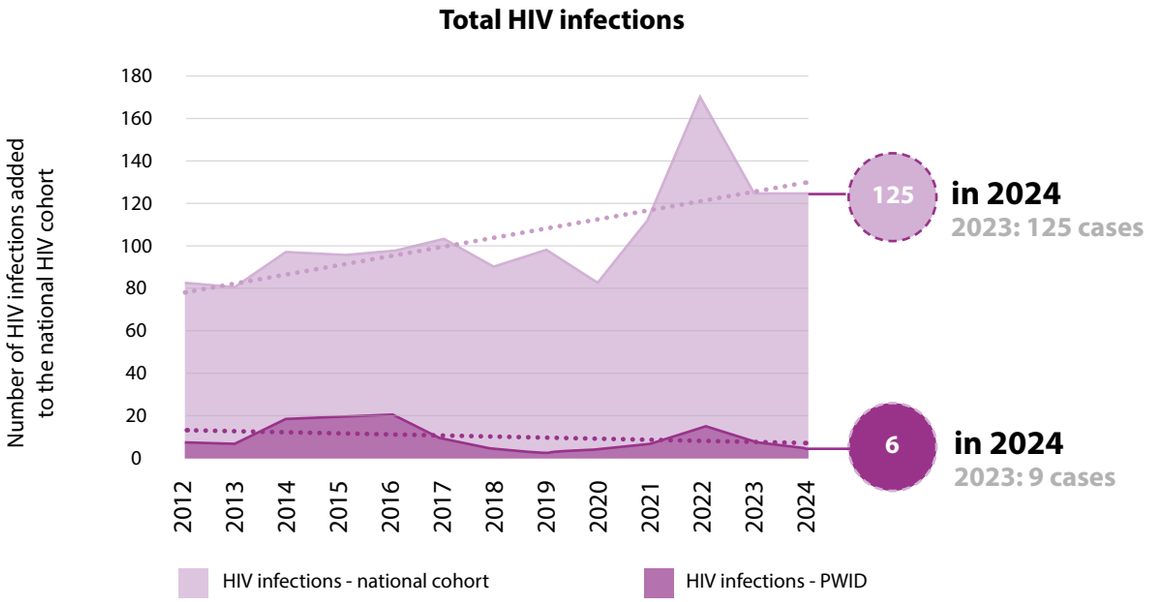
52.6% of HRDUs use more than one drug



2010-2024

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

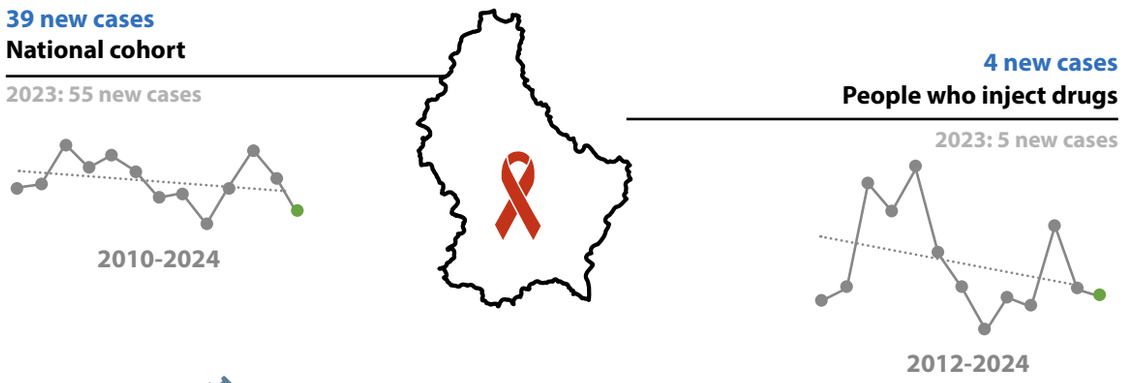
SEROLOGY-BASED HIV TRENDS (2024)



Note:

HIV infections in the general population (national cohort)
HIV infections among people who inject drugs (PWID)

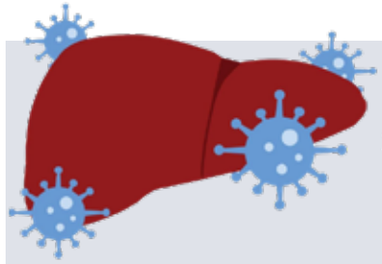
New HIV infections (2024)



Injecting drug use remains the **3rd most common mode** of HIV transmission nationally.

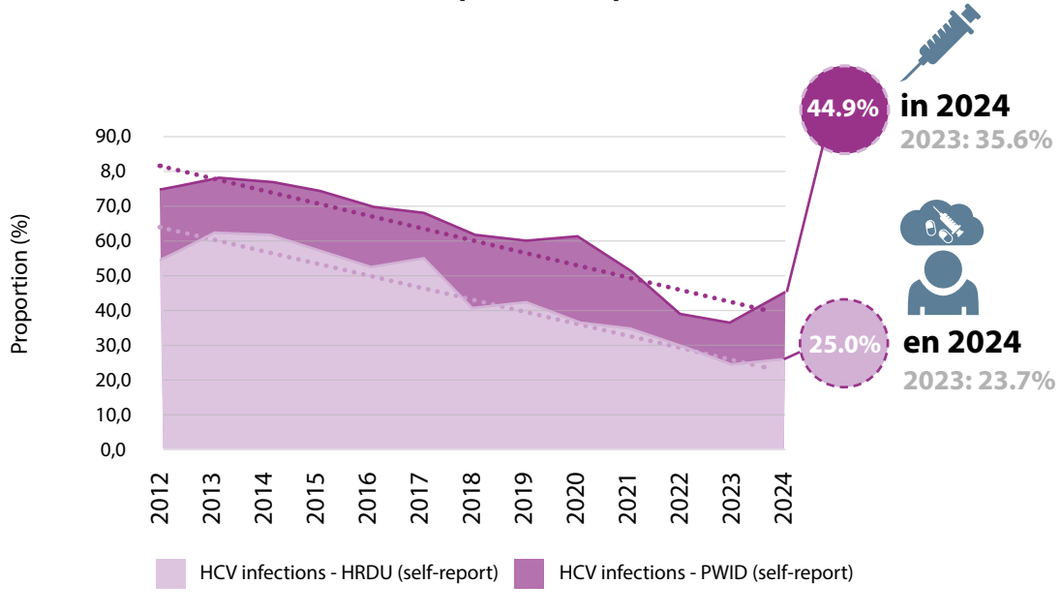
Source: Comité de surveillance du SIDA, des hépatites infectieuses et des maladies sexuellement transmissibles, 2012-2024

SELF-REPORTED HEPATITIS C (HCV) TRENDS (2024)



Self-reported HCV prevalence among high-risk drug users (HRDUs) and people who inject drugs (PWID) remains **high but** continues to **decline**.

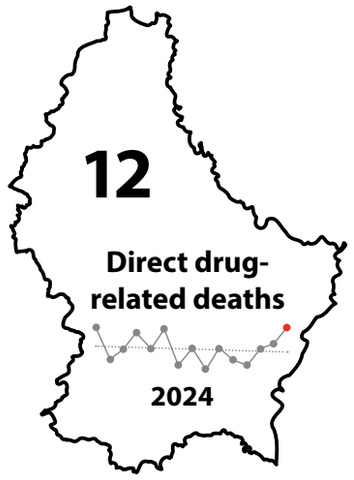
Trends in self-reported HCV prevalence rates



Source: RELIS, 2012-2024

MORTALITY

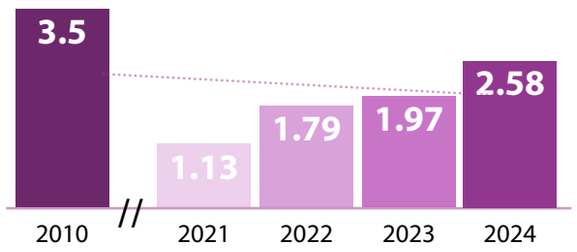
Number of fatal overdoses (2024)



Note:

Direct drug-related deaths – Fatal poisonings or overdoses confirmed by forensic examination and toxicological analysis as directly caused by drug use.

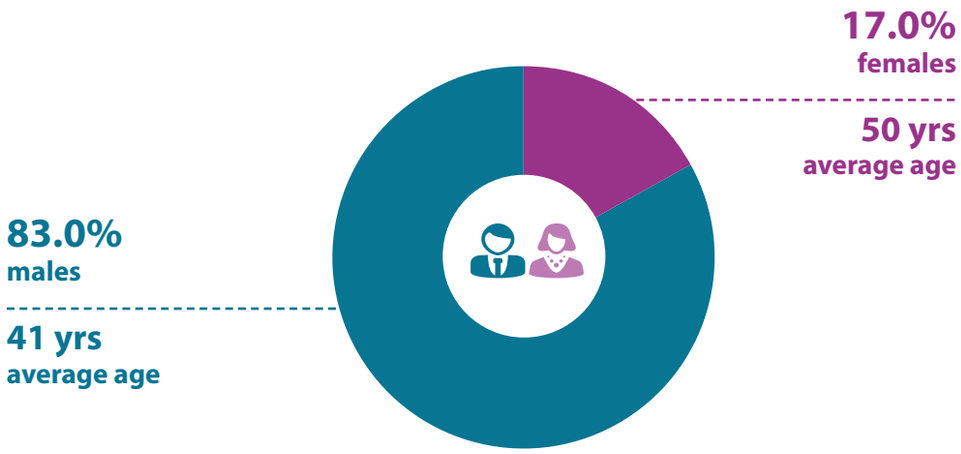
Acute/direct mortality rate per 100,000 inhabitants



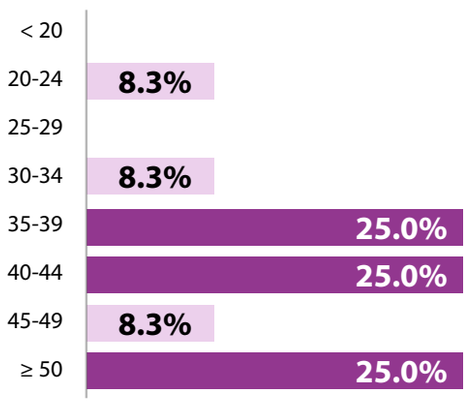
The direct drug-related mortality rate increased gradually in recent years but remained below the 2010 level.

Source: National Health Laboratory (LNS), 2010-2024

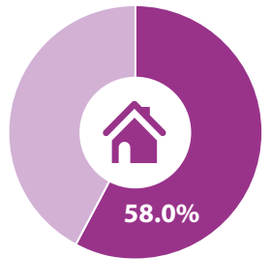
Sex & age among overdose cases (2024)



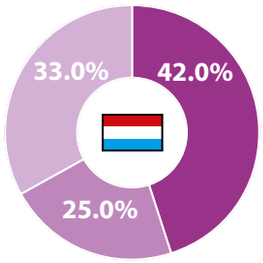
Victim profile (2024)



Direct drug-related deaths were most common among **35–44 year-olds** and those aged **50+.**



The majority of all direct drug deaths occurred at **HOME (58.0%).**

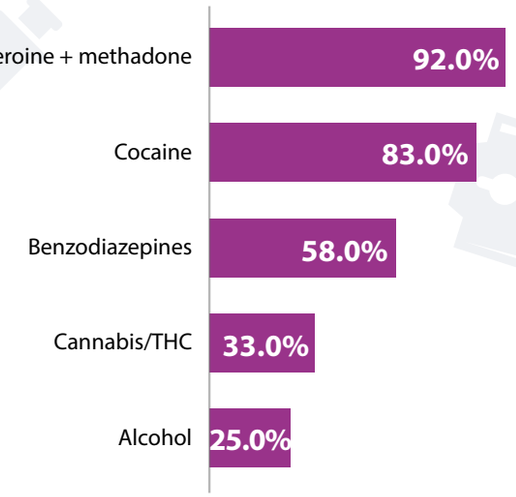


Victims were mainly **Luxembourgish (42.0%),** followed by **Portuguese (25.0%)** and nationals of **neighbouring countries (33.0%).**

Note:

These distributions should be interpreted with caution due to the small absolute figures.

Substances involved among overdose cases (2024)



Opioids (mainly heroin and methadone) were the most commonly identified substances involved in drug overdose deaths.

Source: National Health Laboratory (LNS), 2024

RESPONSES TO HEALTH CONSEQUENCES

TREATMENT AND HARM REDUCTION SERVICES



Outpatient

- **Specialised drug treatment centres**
  - Impuls Fondation Solina
  - Quai 57 Arcus
  - Jugend- an Drogenhëllef
  - Alternativ Berodungstell
- **Low-threshold agencies**
  - Abrigado CNDS
  - K28 (Jugend- an Drogenhëllef)
  - Contact Esch (Jugend- an Drogenhëllef)
  - Contact Nord (Jugend- an Drogenhëllef)
- **Outpatient Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT)**
  - General Practitioners
  - Jugend- an Drogenhëllef
- **Mobile outreach unit**
  - MOPUD/X-Change Project

Inpatient



- **Hospital-based drug treatment**
  - Centre Hospitalier de Luxembourg
  - Centre Hospitalier Emile Mayrisch
  - Centre Hospitalier du Nord
  - Hôpitaux Robert Schuman
- **Therapeutic communities**
  - Syrdall Schlass – Centre Thérapeutique de Manternach
- **Prisons**
  - SPMP* & Programme Suchthëllef
  - OAT treatment in prison

**Service psychiatrique en milieu pénitentiaire*

PROVISION OF DRUG TREATMENT

Drug treatment trends (2024)

4,104
PERSON-CONTACTS
in treatment settings (inpatient & outpatient)

46.0%
since 2010 (2,800 person-contacts)

Note:
Inter-institutional multiple counts are not excluded — individuals may be counted more than once if they accessed multiple services within the year.

Harm reduction responses (2024)

116,496
PERSON-CONTACTS
in harm reduction services

18.0%
since 2017
(98,401 person-contacts)

375,892
STERILE SYRINGES
distributed nationally by harm reduction services

77.0%
since 2012
(212,822 syringes)

Opioid Agonist Treatment – OAT

The number of patients receiving outpatient OAT has remained stable in recent years.

Number of OAT patients (2024)

1,196
TOTAL PATIENTS
enrolled in OAT in 2024

1.7%
since 2020
(1,176 total OAT patients)

970
CNS OAT

111
Prison OAT

74
Low-threshold facilities OAT

41
DIAM

Note:
CNS – National Health Insurance
DIAM (Diacetylmorphine) – Heroin-assisted treatment

Source RELIS, 2024

DRUG TREATMENT DEMAND (2024)

Drug treatment demanders

Total number of people entering treatment in 2024 registered through RELIS

217

42.0%
new cases

58.1%
previously treated cases

Sex

20.3%
females

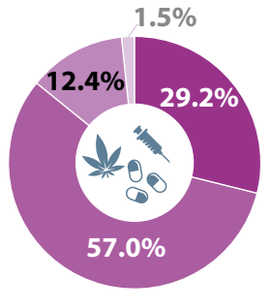
79.7%
males

Average age

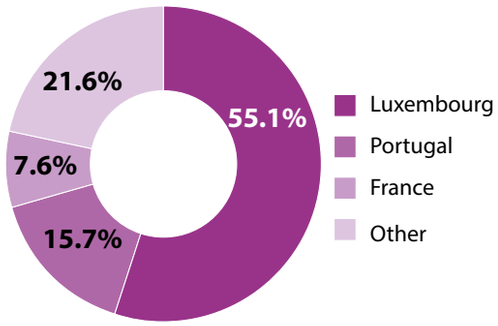
- 36 +

The **mean age** of treatment entrants has **steadily increased** over the past 30 years (28 years old in 1997).

Age of first use of primary illicit drug

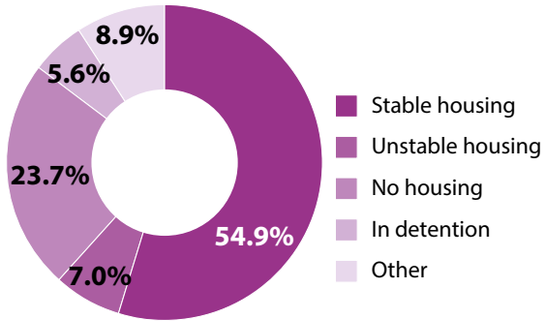


Nationality of treatment demanders



Treatment demanders were mainly **Luxembourgish (55.1%)**, followed by **Portuguese (15.7%)** and **French nationals (7.6%)**. The remaining **21.6%** represented a range of **other nationalities**.

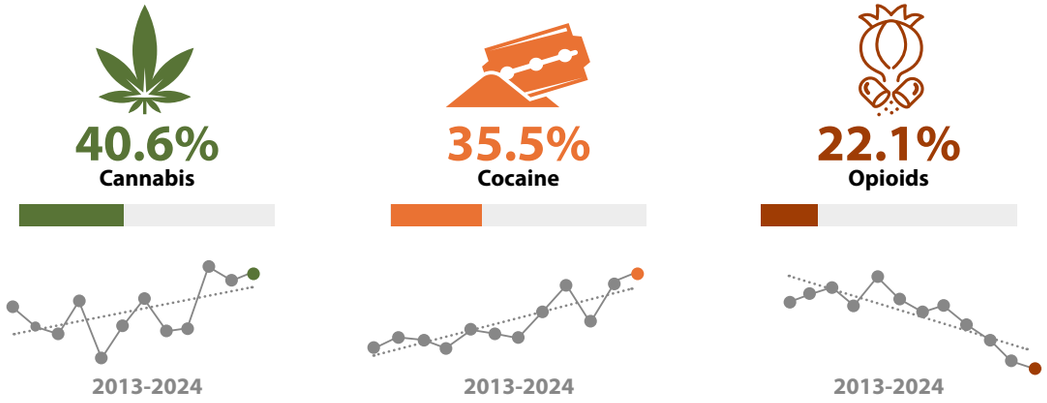
Housing situation



Although **stable accommodation predominated (54.9%), homelessness** remained the **second** most reported situation **(23.7%)**.

Source: RELIS, 2024

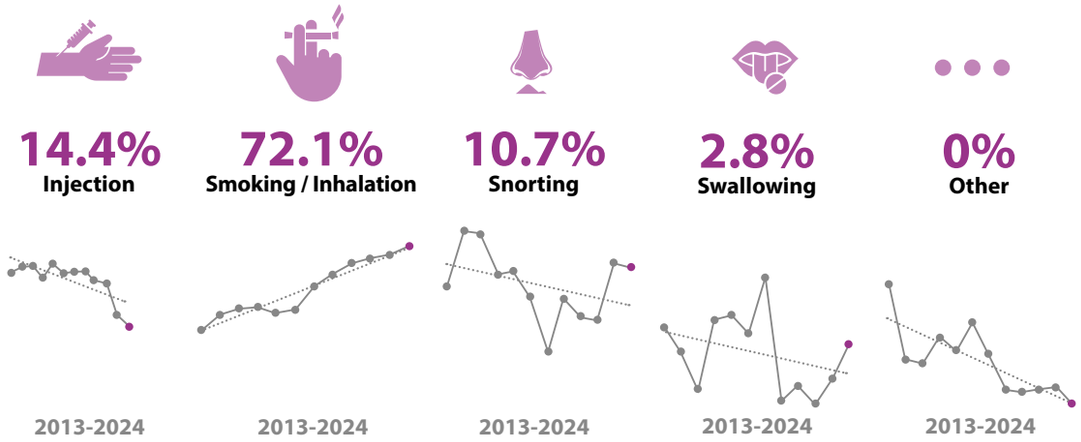
Main substance leading to treatment



Note:

If younger clients from the IMPULS treatment centre are excluded from the sample, COCAINE and CANNABIS, followed by OPIOIDS, emerge as the main primary substances reported in 2024.

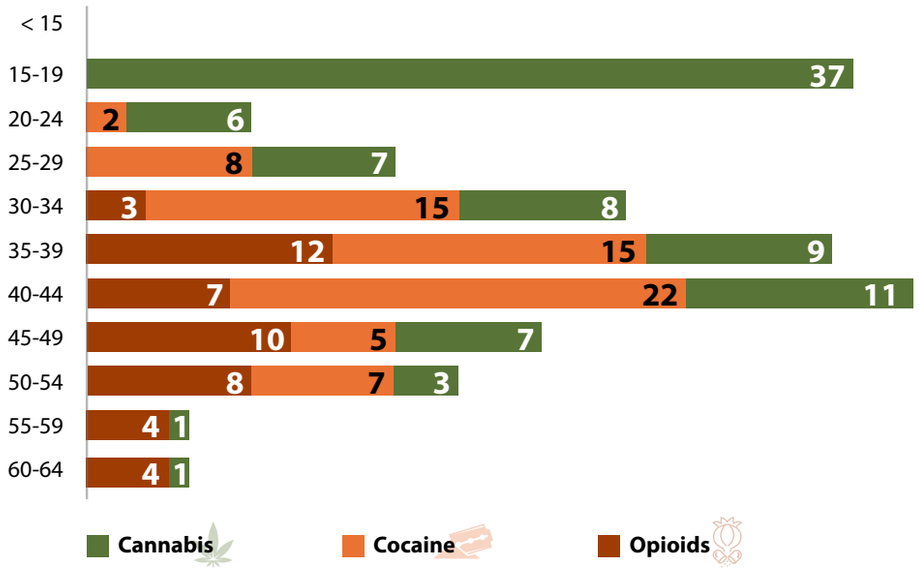
Main substance leading to treatment: route of administration



Smoking/inhalation continues to increase, reflecting changes in the treatment population (e.g. rise in crack cocaine users and cannabis users).

Injection has declined significantly in recent years, contributing to the observed decrease in distributed syringes.

Main substance leading to treatment by age
N = 217



Polydrug use among treatment demanders

49.1% of respondents use more than one drug either simultaneously or consecutively

Drugs most commonly used together

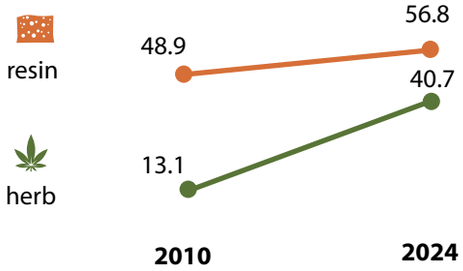


Source: RELIS, 2024

CANNABIS

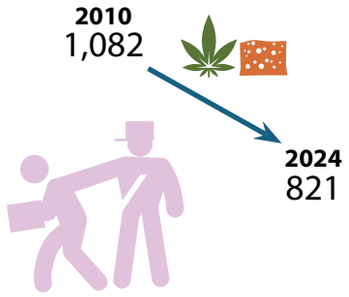
Cannabis remains the most frequently seized drug, although seizures, particularly of herbal cannabis, have declined since the new legal framework was adopted in July 2023.

Quantities seized (kg)



Source: Judicial Police, 2010-2024

Number of seizures (herb & resin)



Source: Judicial Police, 2010-2024

Increasing THC concentrations, coupled with stable or even declining cannabis prices, suggest more efficient production and distribution networks.

Average prices per gram (2025)*

herb
8.5 €

resin
8.3 €

Prix selon l'étude EWSD (2024)**

herb
10 €
-0.1 €
compared to EWSD 2021

resin
7.6 €
-1.4 €
compared to EWSD 2021

Average purity (% THC) (2025)

Herb
15.8%
+ 4 pp
compared to 2010

resin
29.6%
+ 22.3 pp
compared to 2010

Source: Laboratoire national de santé (LNS), 2025

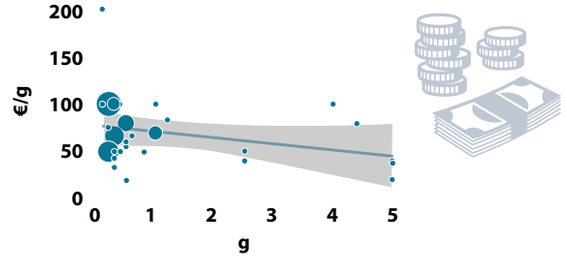
* Price indications shared by recreational cannabis users that used the drug checking services offered by 4motion ASBL. Please note the small sample size.
** Luxembourgish residents participating in the European Web Survey on Drugs (EWSD)
*** Price indications shared by clients who have used Abrigado CNDS harm reduction services. Please note the small sample size.

COCAINE

Purity continues to increase, while prices remain stable. The increase in purity is partly due to large 2025 seizures of high-purity samples intended for markets outside Luxembourg.

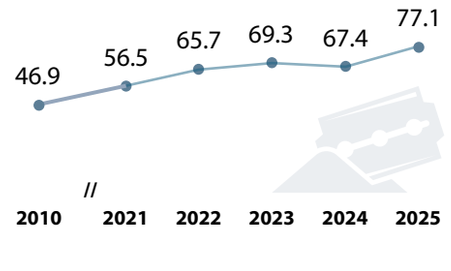
Average price per gram of cocaine* (2025)**

72.3 €



Source: Abrigado (CNDS), 2025

Average cocaine purity (% HCl) (2025)
+ 30.2 pp compared to 2010



Source: National Health Laboratory (LNS), 2025

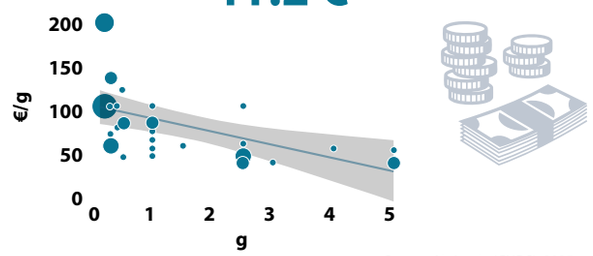
Number of cocaine seizures: 292 in 2024 | +173 compared to 2010

HEROIN

Purity has declined in recent years, implying a decreased availability. This trend seems to be accelerated by the Taliban's ban on poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, announced in April 2022.

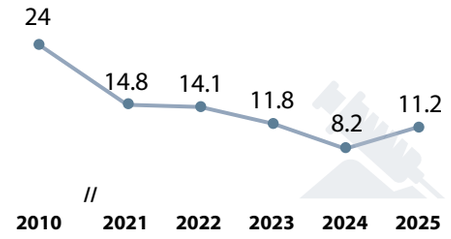
Average price per gram of heroin* (2025)**

41.2 €



Source: Abrigado (CNDS), 2025

Average heroin purity (% base) (2025)
- 12.8 pp compared to 2010



Source: National Health Laboratory (LNS), 2025

Number of heroin seizures: 77 in 2024 | - 215 less compared to 2010

INDIVIDUAL* DRUG LAW OFFENDERS (2024)

Number of offenders

The decline in individual offenders is mainly caused by a decline in cannabis offences in recent years.

2010
2,530

2024
1,115

By nationality

LU	(other)	(unknown)
30.7%	**58.9%**	**10.4%**

Proportion of minors

10.0%

+ 3 pp compared to 2010

By sex

89.2%	>	**10.8%**

Source: Police Judiciaire, 2010-2024

DRUGS AND DRIVING

Identified substances in 2024:

458 examinations; 66% positive tests

54.6%	17.0%	12.2%
Cannabis	Cocaine	Two or more substances

Detection of substances across the total sample (N = 458)

Source: National Health Laboratory (LNS), 2025

* An individual offender is a distinct person who may have committed one or multiple offences within the same year.

DRUG RESIDUES IN NATIONAL WASTEWATER

CANNABIS

No significant change in THC metabolite loads in wastewater following the legislative reform.

2023 — 21st July 2023 — 2024

Change in cannabis legislation

Source: Berndt et al., 2026. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dadr.2026.100456.

STIMULANTS

URBAN AREA

Higher stimulant consumption in urban areas compared to less urban regions

WEEKEND PEAKS

MDMA and cocaine use were higher on weekends compared to other weekdays

MAIN STIMULANT

Cocaine is the most commonly used illicit stimulant in Luxembourg

Source: Berndt et al., 2026 (https://doi.org/10.1002/dta.70156)



LE GOUVERNEMENT
DU GRAND-DUCHÉ DE LUXEMBOURG
Ministère de la Santé
et de la Sécurité sociale

Direction de la santé

PFLAD
POINT FOCAL LUXEMBOURGEOIS
DE L'AGENCE DE L'UNION EUROPÉENNE
SUR LES DROGUES