

## Shifts in cannabis use and outcomes at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated restrictions among 13 countries

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**Introduction and Aims:** The COVID-19 outbreak is hypothesised to have had a widespread impact on cannabis distribution, access and usage worldwide. This study aims to describe changes in cannabis use and related outcomes following COVID-19 restrictions among an international sample of people who use drugs.

**Design and Methods:** Using data from the Global Drug Survey COVID-19 special edition, we identified 20,416 respondents from 13 countries who reported changes in the number of THC-containing cannabis usage days since COVID-19 restrictions were introduced. Using descriptive statistics and a multinomial multivariable logistic regression we investigated the impacts of changed cannabis use on respondents' mental health, physical health, relationships, finance, work/study performance, and cannabis-related pleasure/enjoyment.

**Results:** Respondents most commonly reported that their cannabis use had stayed the same (38.2%). The most common reason for increased cannabis use was having more time to use it (68.4%), while those who described decreasing their cannabis use most commonly ascribed this to having less contact with people they use the drug with (58.4%). Respondents from Australia were most likely to report increasing their cannabis a lot (25%), while respondents from Brazil were most likely to report decreasing their cannabis use a lot (33.5%). Respondents were most likely to report that their mental health, physical health, relationships, finances, work/study performance, and cannabis-related pleasure stayed the same as before COVID-19 restrictions commenced.

**Discussions and Conclusions:** These findings provide an understanding of the short-term international impact of initial COVID-19 restrictions on cannabis use in 13 countries.

**Disclosure of Interest Statement:** Adam Winstock is the founder and owner of the Global Drug Survey (GDS). No other competing interests to declare.