

In a glimpse

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Statistics on people receiving care in specialised drug treatment centres in 2022

The French Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (OFDT) published the results of its annual RECAP survey (Common Data Collection on Addictions and Care) on the characteristics of patients who attended a specialised drug treatment centre (CSAPA). The report covers the year 2022 and confirms trends already observed in previous years, including persistently low referral rates from primary care, alcohol use remaining the most common reason for consultation, and clear demographic disparities depending on the substance used.

For the past two decades, the OFDT has been collecting and analysing data on patients in CSAPA centres (multidisciplinary medico-social facilities dedicated to the prevention and treatment of addiction-related disorders). In operation since 2005, the RECAP information system enables the monitoring of outpatient admissions to CSAPAs and their changes over time, in order to meet the needs of public authorities.

In 2022, 270 out of the 500 CSAPAs took part in the RECAP survey, enabling the analysis of the characteristics of over 17 9000 patients, 49% of whom were seen for the first time in a CSAPA in 2022. The analysis of this data confirmed the following long-standing trends already observed in previous editions.

The persistently low referral rates from primary care

The majority of patients (47%) attended a CSAPA on their own initiative, while 19% were referred as part of a judicial referral order. Only 8% of patients were referred to a CSAPA by a general practitioner.

Alcohol use remained the leading reason for seeking care

In 2022, alcohol use remained the main reason for care, accounting for almost half of all patients. Approximately 17% of patients sought care for their cannabis use, 22% for the use of an illicit drug other than cannabis, 6% for tobacco smoking, and 5% due to a behavioural addiction (gambling, cyber dependence, eating disorders, etc.).

Demographic disparities according to the substance

While the average age of patients was 41.2 years, those receiving care for cannabis use were significantly younger (29.4 years) and were more frequently referred by the justice system (40.6%).

- In 2022, 270 specialised drug treatment centres (CSAPAs) out of 500 took part in the RECAP survey (Common Data Collection on Addictions and Care), enabling the analysis of the characteristics of over 179 000 patients, 49% of whom were seen for the first time in a CSAPA in 2022.
- Three patients in four were male and the average age was 41.2 years. More than half were in employment (54%).
- Patient care is mostly initiated by the patient themselves (47%), while 19% attended a CSAPA following a judicial referral order. Only 8% of patients were referred to a CSAPA through primary care.
- Patients receiving care for their cannabis use were significantly younger (29.4 years) than the overall outpatient admissions and were most often referred to CSAPAs by the justice system (41%).
- Alcohol use remained the main reason for care and affected nearly half of patients seen in 2022.
- The second most common reason for care related to the use of an illicit substance other than cannabis (mainly heroin and cocaine), accounting for 22% of patients in 2022.
- 17% of patients attended a CSAPA for cannabis use, 6% for tobacco use and 5% for a behavioural addiction (gambling, cyberaddiction, eating disorders, etc.).
- New patients were more likely to be living in insecure housing (temporary accommodation or homeless) (16%) than patients receiving ongoing care (14%).
- The proportions of injecting drug users (IDUs) among patients treated for heroin or cocaine use were lower among new patients (17% and 7% respectively) than among those in ongoing care (22% and 13% respectively).