
SUBSTANCE USE
AMONG ADOLESCENTS
IN NORTHERN CYPRUS

Trends, Risks, and Preventive
Responses

Edited by:

Prof. Dr. Dr. (h.c.) Marilyn A. Huestis

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to all individuals and organizations committed to combating substance abuse and promoting mental health in Northern Cyprus. Your tireless efforts and unwavering dedication inspire and drive the continued pursuit of knowledge and effective interventions in this critical field. May this work serve as a testament to your invaluable contributions and a beacon of hope for those impacted by substance use.

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Foreword

The landscape of substance abuse in Northern Cyprus is marked by unique challenges and evolving trends. This ESPAD report aims to shed light on these issues, offering a comprehensive analysis of the patterns, risks, and responses associated with substance use in the region. The collaborative efforts of researchers, practitioners, and policymakers culminated in this extensive volume, which not only highlights the current state of substance abuse but also explores potential strategies for prevention and intervention. We hope that this report serves as a valuable resource for anyone dedicated to addressing the complexities of substance use in Northern Cyprus and beyond.

This report was written and published by a collaboration between the North Cyprus Anti-Drug Commission, and Professor Dr. Dr. (h.c.) Marilyn A. Huestis, Dr. Erin Spargo and Dr. Kayla Ellefsen.

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Preface

The rising prevalence of substance abuse among the youth and adult populations in Northern Cyprus calls for an in-depth examination of the underlying causes, trends, and effective response mechanisms. This report is a result of rigorous research and collaboration among experts from various fields, aiming to provide a holistic understanding of the substance abuse problem. We delve into the socio-economic and cultural factors contributing to substance use, analyse the effectiveness of current interventions, and propose new strategies for tackling this pressing issue. It is our hope that this work will contribute to the development of more effective policies and programs to combat substance abuse and support those affected by it.

13 December 2025

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This report is only possible based on the hard work and contributions of the individuals working at the North Cyprus Anti-Drug Commission and their efforts to prevent and treat substance abuse in Northern Cyprus. We extend our sincere gratitude to our research collaborators, whose expertise and insights were invaluable. Special thanks to the participants of our studies, whose willingness to share their experiences enriched this work. We are also grateful to Emanate Publishing House Ltd. for their commitment to disseminating knowledge on this critical issue. This report is a collective effort, and we are immensely proud of the shared dedication to addressing substance abuse in Northern Cyprus.

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Acronyms

CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
DEA	Drug Enforcement Agency
ESPAD	European School Survey Project on Alcohol and Other Drugs
EU	European Union
GHB	Gamma-Hydroxybutyrate
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
LSD	Lysergic Acid Diethylamide
SPSS	Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
US	United States
USA	United States of America
WHO	World Health Organization