

International - Denmark

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1.

The Danish government says of its drug policy, "Danish drug policy is based on persistent and targeted prevention intervention, multi-pronged optional co-ordinated treatment and effective control. Drug prevention policy rests on the principle of prohibition of drugs, a high level of information as well as action to impact on social conditions. In this connection, it is especially a deprived childhood, too little contact with adults and marginalisation in relation to education and training which results in a small group of young people becoming vulnerab to the experimental use of drugs, which subsequently, in many cases, leads to actual addiction."

Source:

Report to the European Monitoring Center on Drugs and Drug Addiction by the Reitox National Focal Point of Denmark, Sundhedsstyrelsen (National Board of Health), "Denmark Drug Situation 2000: National Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in Denmark" (Denmark: National Board of Health and EMCDDA, December 2000), p. 9.

2.

"In Denmark, a May 2004 amendment to the Euphoriant Substances Act, together with a public prosecutor's circular, stated that the possession of drugs for own use will now normally be punishable by a fine rather than the warnings issued previously."

Source:

"Annual Report 2005: The State of the Drugs Problem in Europe," European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 2005), p. 24.

3.

"Where possession of drugs is meant for own consumption, such an offence is punishable by a fine provided that it is not repeated. For first offences, possession of very small quantities for own use normally results in the police issuing a warning to the person in question."

Source:

Report to the European Monitoring Center on Drugs and Drug Addiction by the Reitox National Focal Point of Denmark, Sundhedsstyrelsen (National Board of Health), "Denmark Drug Situation 2000: National Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in Denmark" (Denmark: National Board of Health and EMCDDA, December 2000), pp. 15-16.

4.

"In Denmark possession of narcotics is a criminal offence. However a guideline of 1971, on legal process in drugs cases, stipulates that it was not the intention of the drug law to criminalize the use of drugs and corresponding possession of drugs for own consumption."

Source:

"Decriminalisation in Europe? Recent Developments in Legal Approaches to Drug use" (Lisbon, Portugal: European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Addiction, November 2001), p. 6, available on the web at http://wldd.emcdda.org/databases/eldd_comparative_analyses.cfm .

5.

The Danish government estimates that in 2000, approximately 3% of the population of Denmark aged 16-44 had tried cannabis in the previous month, while a total of 4% had tried cannabis within the previous year. This compares with estimates from 1994 of 2% having used in the previous month, and 5% in the previous year. The Danish National Board of Health reported in 2000 that "It is primarily the young segment of the population (16-24 years of age) who have smoked cannabis within the last year, both in 1994 and 2000. More men than women report in 1994 and in 2000 that they have experimented with cannabis within the last month and last year. The difference in consumption between the two genders is, however, least pronounced among the young segments of the population - among the 16-24-year-olds."

Source:

Report to the European Monitoring Center on Drugs and Drug Addiction by the Reitox National Focal Point of Denmark, Sundhedsstyrelsen (National Board of Health), "Denmark Drug Situation 2000: National Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in Denmark" (Denmark: National Board of Health and EMCDDA, December 2000), p. 20.

6.

"While the use of cannabis has stabilised from 1994 to 2000, the use of 'hard' illegal drugs has increased significantly from 1994 and up until today. Less than 1% of the 16-44 year-olds reported in 1994 that they had used hard drugs such as amphetamine, cocaine, heroin and hallucinogens within the last year, whereas even fewer had tried the hard drugs within the last month. As it appears from table 2.1.22, 2% of the 16-44-year-olds report in 2000 having experimented with one or several of the hard drugs within the last year, including 1% within the last month. The share of this group who report having tried hard drugs within the last month has thus increased approximately 5 times from 1994 to 2000, and the share of this group who report having tried hard drugs within the last year has gone up by more than 4 times as much during the same period."

Source:

Report to the European Monitoring Center on Drugs and Drug Addiction by the Reitox National Focal Point of Denmark, Sundhedsstyrelsen (National Board of Health), "Denmark Drug Situation 2000: National Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in Denmark" (Denmark: National Board of Health and EMCDDA, December 2000), pp. 15-16.

7.

"In 1995, more than 17% of the 15-16 year-olds report ever having tried cannabis. There was a significant increase in 1999 where the share that state having ever tried cannabis is over 24%. 8% had used it within the last month; in 1995 this was 6%. There are great differences in experimental use between boys and girls in 1999 when 30% of boys and 19% of girls state having ever used cannabis. Twice as many boys as girls had used cannabis during the last month."

Source:

Report to the European Monitoring Center on Drugs and Drug Addiction by the Reitox National Focal Point of Denmark, Sundhedsstyrelsen (National Board of Health), "Denmark Drug Situation 2000: National Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in Denmark" (Denmark: National Board of Health and EMCDDA, December 2000), pp. 24-25.

8.

"Syringes and needles distributed free of charge are still much in demand. Thus, since 1986 the city of Copenhagen has made syringes and needles available free of charge through pharmacists, dispensing machines, hostels and other outlets. In 1999, a total of 613,932 sets were distributed, which is a small decline compared to 1998. Furthermore, an increasing number of separate needles were dispensed."

Source:

Report to the European Monitoring Center on Drugs and Drug Addiction by the Reitox National Focal Point of Denmark, Sundhedsstyrelsen (National Board of Health), "Denmark Drug Situation 2000: National Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in Denmark" (Denmark: National Board of Health and EMCDDA, December 2000), pp. 24-25.

Problem in Denmark" (Denmark: National Board of Health and EMCDDA, December 2000), pp. 30-31.

9.

"In 1995, the proportion of first-time HIV-positive where the source of infection has been reported as being intravenous-injecting drug addiction is 11% (34 persons). The percentage dropped to 6% (13 persons) in 1998 and had again gone up to 9% (24 persons) in 1999. Based on the data provided by the HIV reporting system, 'Statens Serum Institut' has estimated that the spread of the infection among drug addicts has dropped since the mid-80s. It is assumed that less than 4% of the drug addicts are HIV-infected. This estimate is based on the analysis, under which there are 11,000 injecting drug users in Denmark."

Source:

Report to the European Monitoring Center on Drugs and Drug Addiction by the Reitox National Focal Point of Denmark, Sundhedsstyrelsen (National Board of Health), "Denmark Drug Situation 2000: National Report on the State of the Drugs Problem in Denmark" (Denmark: National Board of Health and EMCDDA, December 2000), p. 41.

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