

- Alcohol and other addiction -

## Differences in substance use by occupational situation among adults in Germany

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**Introduction:** Socioeconomic status (SES) is described by indicators like education, income or occupation; and it is known that substance use is associated with socioeconomic status. The aim of this study was to evaluate differences in substance use by different occupational indicators.

**Methods:** Data was taken from the 2012 German Epidemiological Survey of Substance Abuse (ESA). The study sample was drawn from the 18 to 64 years old German-speaking population living in private households and comprised n=9,084 individuals (response rate: 53.6%). Outcomes were use and heavy use of alcohol, cigarettes, cannabis and analgesics. Three indicators of occupational situation were used for stratification: employment status (six groups), occupational status (five groups, low to high) and occupational social class (blue- vs. white-collar). To estimate differences between occupational groups, absolute (prevalence) and relative (odds ratios via logistic regressions) differences were calculated.

**Results:** The presentation focuses on alcohol-related results. Retired persons, people with low occupational status and female blue-collar workers had a diminished risk for alcohol consumption, whereas apprentices had an increased risk. Males with low occupational status and male blue-collar workers had an increased risk for episodic heavy drinking, while no differences were found by employment status and among females.

**Conclusion:** The results suggest that conclusions on the association between substance use and occupational situation differ depending on the operationalization and the substance use indicator. Even though individuals with lower SES have a lower prevalence of alcohol use, they seem to exhibit more problematic drinking patterns.

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