

# Towards a new EMQ Module – Questions on Availability of Illicit Drugs

## MODEL QUESTIONS

The following questions should be inserted in each drug-specific section of the module on illicit drugs.

**Q3 and Q6 are priority questions, whereas all the other questions are optional within the module.**

<drug> should be replaced by the name of each illicit drug – cannabis, amphetamine, ecstasy, cocaine, heroin, LSD, hallucinogenic mushrooms – where appropriate.

<b>EXPOSURE</b>
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**Q1** (*optional*) How many of your friends would you estimate take <drug>?

	None	Only a few	About half	Most	All
<drug>					

OR

- 1 none of my friends
- 2 only a few of my friends
- 3 about half of my friends
- 4 most of my friends
- 5 all of my friends

Notes:

1. Respondents should know all the modalities before answering.
2. The answering modalities available should be seen as reflecting the following distribution: 0%, 25%, 50%, 75% and 100% of my friends.
3. 'Friends' may be understood as the persons whom the respondent meets often or on a regular basis.
4. This question refers to the current situation of the respondent.
5. This optional question may be seen as an alternative to the warming question on illicit drugs 'Do you personally know people who take <drug>?'.
6. This optional question, if used, should be either placed at the beginning of each drug section before questions on drug use, or as the first of each drug availability series of questions.

**Q2, Q3, Q4** How many times have you been offered <drug> (*either free of charge or to buy*) in your lifetime (*optional*) (Q2), and in the last 12 months (Q3)? (Q4) How many times have you been offered <drug> to buy only, in the last 12 months (*optional*)?

	0	1-2	3-5	6-9	10-19	20-39	40 or more
(Q2) ( <i>optional</i> ) Lifetime offer –							

(either free of charge or to buy)							
(Q3) Offer in last 12 months – (either free of charge or to buy)							
(Q4) ( <i>optional</i> ) Offer in last 12 months – to buy only							

OR

**Q2 (*optional*)** In your lifetime, how many times have you been offered <drug> (either free of charge or to buy)?

- 1 none → go to Q7
- 2 once or twice
- 3 3 to 5 times
- 4 6 to 9 times
- 5 10 to 19 times
- 6 20 to 39 times
- 7 40 times or more

Note: Ideally, it would be better to distinguish between exposure within the country and abroad. This may be more easily done if the respondent is able to provide a number of times s/he was offered rather than checking one of the options offered.

**Q3** Within the last 12 months, how many times have you been offered <drug> (either free of charge or to buy)?

- 1 none → go to Q7
- 2 once or twice
- 3 3 to 5 times
- 4 6 to 9 times
- 5 10 to 19 times
- 6 20 to 39 times
- 7 40 times or more

Notes:

- 1. Ideally, it would be better to distinguish between exposure within the country and abroad. This may be more easily done if the respondent is able to provide a number of times s/he was offered rather than checking one of the options offered.
- 2. If filters can be used, Q3 should be asked only to those who reported they have been offered <drug> either free of charge or to buy in their lifetime (i.e. when Q2 = 2 to 7).

**Q4 (*optional*)** Within the last 12 months, how many times have you been offered <drug> to buy only?

- 1 none → go to Q7
- 2 once or twice
- 3 3 to 5 times
- 4 6 to 9 times
- 5 10 to 19 times

- 6 20 to 39 times
- 7 40 times or more

Notes:

1. Ideally, it would be better to distinguish between exposure within the country and abroad. This may be more easily done if the respondent is able to provide a number of times s/he was offered rather than checking one of the options offered.
2. If filters can be used, Q4 should be asked only to those who reported they have been offered <drug> either free of charge or to buy in the last 12 months (i.e. when Q3 = 2 to 7).

**Q5 (optional)** Within the last 12 months, on the last occasion you were offered <drug> (either free of charge or to buy), where was it? (*only one answer possible*)

	Private place (private home)	Open public space (e.g. train station, street, park, beach)	Workplace	School/ high school/ university	Bar/ restaurant	Club/ disco	Music concert/ festival	Another place (specify)
<drug>								

OR

- 1 in a private place (private home)
- 2 in an open public space (e.g. train station, street, park, beach)
- 3 at the workplace
- 4 at school/high school/university
- 5 in a bar/restaurant
- 6 in a club/disco
- 7 in a music concert/festival
- 8 in another place (specify)

Notes:

1. Additional (sub-)categories can be included according to national interest, as long as they can be then merged with those listed here.
2. An additional sub-question may be included here: whether the last occasion took place within the country or abroad.
2. If filters can be used, Q5 should be asked only to those who reported they have been offered <drug> either free of charge or to buy in the last 12 months (i.e. when Q3 = 2 to 7).
3. If no filter can be used, then a first category 'I was not offered <drug> in the last 12 months' should be included.

<b>PERCEIVED AVAILABILITY</b>
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**Q6** How difficult or easy do you think it would be for you personally to obtain <drug> within 24 hours, if you wanted some?

	Impossible	Very difficult	Fairly difficult	Fairly easy	Very easy
<drug>					

OR

- 1 impossible
- 2 very difficult
- 3 fairly difficult
- 4 fairly easy
- 5 very easy

**ACCESS**

Questions on 'access' are addressed **to last year users only**.

They should be asked for **cannabis at least**, and where prevalence rates are sufficiently high for amphetamine, ecstasy, cocaine and hallucinogenic mushrooms (depending on sample size and last survey data on last year prevalence of drug use).

All questions on 'access' should be seen as **optional** within the module on drug availability, although cannabis questions should be included in priority (vs. other drugs).

**Q7-1 (optional)** Within the last 12 months, how did you obtain cannabis last time you used it?

	I bought it	It was given to me or shared	I grow it myself
cannabis			

OR

- 1 I bought it
- 2 it was given to me or shared
- 3 I grow it myself → go to the end of the questionnaire

Note: If filters can be used, Q7.1 should be asked only to those who reported they have taken <drug> during last 12 months (i.e. when variable of EMQ LYP\_<DRUG> = 1).

**Q7-2 (optional)** Within the last 12 months, how did you obtain <drug> last time you used it?

	I bought it	It was given to me or shared
<drug>		

OR

- 1 I bought it
- 2 it was given to me or shared

Notes:

- 1. <drug> should be replaced here by the name of each of the following illicit drug – amphetamine, ecstasy, cocaine, heroin, LSD.
- 2. If filters can be used, Q7.2 should be asked only to those who reported they have taken <drug> during last 12 months (i.e. when variable of EMQ LYP\_<DRUG> = 1).

**Q7-3 (optional)** Within the last 12 months, how did you obtain hallucinogenic mushrooms last time you used some?

	I bought it	It was given to me or shared	I grow them myself / I picked them
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cannabis			
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OR

- 1 I bought it
- 2 it was given to me or shared
- 3 I grow them myself / I picked them → go to the end of the questionnaire

**Note:** If filters can be used, Q7.1 should be asked only to those who reported they have taken <drug> during last 12 months (i.e. when variable of EMQ LYP\_<DRUG> = 1).

**Q8 (optional)** Within the last 12 months, by whom did you obtain <drug> last time you used it? (*multiple answers possible*)

	Friend	Relative	Someone else I know, acquaintance	Unknown person	Dealer	Internet	Delivery service	Other (specify)
<drug>								

OR

- 1 friend
- 2 relative
- 3 someone else known, acquaintance
- 4 unknown person
- 5 dealer
- 6 internet
- 7 delivery service
- 8 other (specify)

**Notes:**

1. Respondents should know all the modalities before answering.
2. Multiple answers are possible. For example, if the respondent obtained his last product from a dealer who is also a friend, both modalities will be checked.
3. Additional (sub-)categories can be included according to national interest, as long as they can be then merged with those listed here.
4. If filters can be used, this optional question should be asked only to those who reported they have used <drug> in the last 12 months.
5. If no filter can be used, then a first category 'I did not use <drug> in the last 12 months' should be included.
6. If filters can be used, this optional question should not be asked to those who reported having grown cannabis the last time they used it in the last 12 months (if Q7-1=3).
7. If filters can be used, this optional question should not be asked to those who reported having grown/picked hallucinogenic mushrooms the last time they used some in the last 12 months (if Q7-3=3).

**Q9 (optional)** Within the last 12 months, where did you obtain <drug> last time you used it?

	Private place (private home)	Open public space (e.g. train station, street, park, beach)	Workplace	School/ high school/ university	Bar/ restaurant	Club/ disco	Music concert/ festival	Another place (specify)
<drug>								

OR

- 1 in a private place (private home)
- 2 in an open public space (e.g. train station, street, park, beach)
- 3 at the workplace
- 4 at school/college/university
- 5 in a bar/restaurant
- 6 in a club/disco
- 7 in a music concert/festival
- 8 in another place (specify)

Notes:

1. Respondents should know all the modalities before answering.
2. Places such as “coffeeshops” (selling cannabis, as in the Netherlands), smart shops and pharmacies should be included into Q7.
3. Additional (sub-)categories can be included according to national interest, as long as they can be then merged with those listed here.
4. If filters can be used, this optional question should be asked only to those who reported they have used <drug> in the last 12 months.
5. If no filter can be used, then a first category ‘I did not use <drug> in the last 12 months’ should be included.
6. If filters can be used, this optional question should not be asked to those who reported having grown cannabis the last time they used it in the last 12 months (if Q7-1=3).
7. If filters can be used, this optional question should not be asked to those who reported having grown/picked hallucinogenic mushrooms the last time they used some in the last 12 months (if Q7-3=3).

## IV. MODE IMPLICATIONS

### Self-completion

Q2, Q3, Q4: Respondents should be instructed to choose the pre-coded answer that best applies to them. *Note: this should be adapted if Q2, Q3 and Q4 are answered by a number of times instead of pre-coded categories.*

Q1, Q5, Q6, Q7, Q8 and Q9: Respondents should be instructed to choose the pre-coded answer that best applies to them.

### Face-to-face interviews

Q2, Q3, Q4: Interviewers should be instructed to read the answer categories one by one in sequence and mark the first one that applies. *Note: this should be adapted if Q2, Q3 and Q4 are answered by a number of times instead of pre-coded categories.*

Q1, Q5, Q6, Q7, Q8 and Q9: Interviewers should be instructed to read the answer categories one by one in sequence and show also a card displaying the answer categories, so that respondents can choose between the alternatives.

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Q2, Q3, Q4: Interviewers should be instructed to read the answer categories one by one in sequence and mark the first one that applies. *Note: this should be adapted if Q2, Q3 and Q4 are answered by a number of times instead of pre-coded categories.*

Q1, Q5, Q7, Q8 and Q9: Interviewers should be instructed to read the answer categories one by one in sequence and then ask respondents about the pre-coded answer that best applies to them.

Q6: Interviewers should be instructed to read the acceptable answer categories. However, many interviewers will not always do this, but instead score respondents' answers according to what they believe respondents mean to say. This may result in an overestimate of 'do not know', as respondents may not always be clear whether they actually hold opinion 3 or 4.