

# The relationship between drugs consumption and dating app use: results from an Italian survey

## Supplementary Material

### Questionnaire items

Indicate your biological sex:

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

Indicate your age:

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Indicate your educational level (indicate the highest qualification obtained):

- ☐ Elementary school
- ☐ Secondary school
- ☐ High school
- ☐ Three-year degree
- ☐ Master's degree
- ☐ Master/Doctorate/Specialization

Indicate your relational status:

- ☐ Single
- ☐ In a stable relationship
- ☐ In an informal relationship

Indicate your sexual orientation:

- ☐ Heterosexual
- ☐ Homosexual
- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Fluid
- ☐ Other

Did you use cannabis or marijuana in the past 12 months? If so, how much?

- ☐ No, never
- ☐ Rarely (up to twice in the past 12 months)
- ☐ Occasionally (up to once a month)
- ☐ Frequently (up to once a week)
- ☐ Daily

Did you use other illicit drugs (like cocaine, ecstasy, methamphetamine, heroin, etc.) in the past 12 months? If so, how much?

- ☐ No, never
- ☐ Rarely (up to twice in the past 12 months)
- ☐ Occasionally (up to once a month)
- ☐ Frequently (up to once a week)
- ☐ Daily

Do you use dating apps?

- ☐ No, I've never used them
- ☐ No, I used them in the past
- ☐ Yes, I do

How much time have you used them? (only for former users)

- ☐ 1-5 days
- ☐ 6-30 days
- ☐ 1-6 months
- ☐ more than 6 months

Questions for active users only

At what age did you use a dating app for the first time?

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What was your primary aim, when installing dating apps?

- ☐ Meet new people
- ☐ Casual sex
- ☐ Begin a relation
- ☐ Transgression
- ☐ I didn't know

How often do you enter apps?

- ☐ Almost never
- ☐ Once or twice a month
- ☐ Once or twice a week
- ☐ Once a day
- ☐ Two or three times per day
- ☐ More than three times per day

How often do you check your apps notification?

- ☐ rarely without hearing the notification signal or vibration, or only hearing signals or vibrations
- ☐ sometimes also without hearing the notification signal or vibration
- ☐ often also without hearing the notification signal or vibration
- ☐ very often also without hearing the notification signal or vibration

Do you ever stop what you're doing to check if you have app notifications?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Sometimes
- ☐ Often
- ☐ Very often

On average, how much time do you spend in the apps in a day?

- ☐ less than 5 minutes
- ☐ from 5 to 15 minutes
- ☐ from 15 minutes to half an hour
- ☐ from half an hour to one hour
- ☐ from one to three hours
- ☐ from three to six hours
- ☐ I'm not able to quantify it

Do you happen to use the apps more than you would like?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Often

Do you happen to access the apps without thinking about it and realize it later?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Often

Do you happen to give up hours of sleep to check app notifications?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Often

Have you ever proposed yourself to reduce the time you spend in the apps?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Often

Do you get anxious or do you miss something if you can't use the apps for some reason?

- ☐ Never
- ☐ Rarely
- ☐ Often

### **List of variables**

The table reports the 32 variables that were extracted from the responses to the questionnaire.

**Be\_male** = this is a dichotomous variable indicating the gender of the participant (1=male, 0=female).

**Age** = this is a continuous variable indicating the age of the participant.

**Education\_level** = this variable indicates years of education of the participant. The response was coded as follows: 8= “middle school”, 13= “high school”, 16= “triennial degree”, 18= “master degree or more years of education”.

**Relational\_status** = this is a dichotomous variable indicating the sentimental status of the participant (1=single, 0= in a relationship).

**Sexual\_orientation** = this is a dichotomous variable indicating the sexual orientation of the participant (1= heterosexual, 0= non-heterosexual).

**Cannabis\_use** = this is a dichotomous variable indicating the use of soft drugs by participants in the past 12 months (1= use, 0= non-use).

**Regular\_cannabis\_use** = this is a dichotomous variable indicating participants who used regularly (frequently or daily) soft drugs (1= regular use, 0= minor use).

**Other\_drugs\_use** = this is a dichotomous variable indicating the use of hard drugs by participants the past 12 months (1= use, 0= non-use).

**Regular\_other\_drugs\_use** = this is a dichotomous variable indicating participants who used regularly (frequently) hard drugs (1= regular use, 0= minor use).

**Dating\_app\_user** = this categorical variable indicates types of dating app users (former user, active user, non-user).

**Active\_user** = this dichotomous variable indicates active dating app users (1= active users, 0 = other users).

**Former\_user** = this dichotomous variable indicates former dating app users (1= former users, 0 = other users).

**Non\_user** = this dichotomous variable indicates non-users of dating apps (1= non-users, 0 = other users).

**Beginning\_age** = this is a continuous variable indicating the age at which active users installed dating apps.

**Usage\_years** = this is a continuous variable indicating active users' years of dating apps utilization.

**Past\_time** = this variable indicates how much time former users have used dating apps. The response was coded as follows: 1= "1-5 days", 2= "6-30 days", 3= "1-6 months" 4= "more than 6 months".

**Past\_time\_6\_months** = this dichotomous variable indicates former dating app users who utilized for more than 6 months dating apps (1= more than 6 months, 0 = other utilization time).

**Motivation\_new\_people**= this dichotomous variable indicates active users who have installed dating apps to find friends (1= to find friends, 0 = other motivations).

**Motivation\_begin\_relationship** = this dichotomous variable indicates active users who have installed dating apps to find romantic partners (1= to find romantic partners, 0 = other motivations).

**Motivation\_casual\_sex** = this dichotomous variable indicates active users who have installed dating apps to find sexual partners (1= to find sexual partners, 0 = other motivations).

**Motivation\_transgression** = this dichotomous variable indicates active users who have installed dating apps to find transgression (1= to find transgression, 0 = other motivations).

**Motivation\_didn't\_know** = this dichotomous variable indicates active users who have installed dating apps without a specific motivation (1= no specific motivation, 0 = other motivations).

**App\_access** = this variable indicates how many times active users enter their dating apps. The response was coded as follows: 1= “almost never”, 2 = “once or twice per month”, 3 = “once or twice a week”, 4 = “only once a day”, 5 = “two or three times a day”, 6 = “more than 3 times per day”,

**Check\_notifications** = this variable indicates how often per day active users check their dating apps notifications. The response was coded as follows: 1= “rarely check notifications without hearing the notification signal or vibration, or check notifications only hearing signals or vibrations”, 2= “sometimes check notifications also without hearing the notification signal or vibration”, 3= “often check notifications also without hearing the notification signal or vibration”, 4 = “very often check notifications also without hearing the notification signal or vibration”.

**Stop\_activities** = this variable indicates how often active users stop other activities to check their dating apps. The response was coded as follows: 0= “never stop other activities”, 1= “rarely stop other activities”, 2= “sometimes stop other activities”, 3= “often stop other activities”, 4= “very often stop other activities”.

**Daily\_time** = this variable indicates how much time per day active users spend using dating apps. The response was coded as follows: 1= “less than 5 minutes”, 2= “from 5 to 15 minutes”, 3= “from 15 minutes to half an hour”, 4= “from half an hour to one hour”, 5= “from one to three hours”, 6= “from three to six hours”. Note: “not able to quantify it” responses were not included in the analysis.

**Uncontrolled\_use** = this variable indicates how much the active users think they are using too much the apps. The response was coded as follows: 0 = “never”, 1= “rarely”, 2= “often”.

**Unaware\_accesses** = this variable indicates how much the active users enter dating apps without thinking of it and realizing it later. The response was coded as follows: 0 = “never”, 1= “rarely”, 2= “often”.

**Give\_up\_sleep** = this variable indicates how much the active users give up hours of sleep to check app notifications. The response was coded as follows: 0 = “never”, 1= “rarely”, 2= “often”.

**Desire\_to\_reduce\_time** = this variable indicates how much the active users have proposed to themselves reduce the time spent on dating apps. The response was coded as follows: 0 = “never”, 1= “rarely”, 2= “often”.

**Anxiety\_feelings** = this variable indicates how much the active users get anxious or miss something when they are unable to use the apps. The response was coded as follows: 0 = “never”, 1= “rarely”, 2= “often”.