

Impact of covid-19 on consumption patterns in the general population in Austria

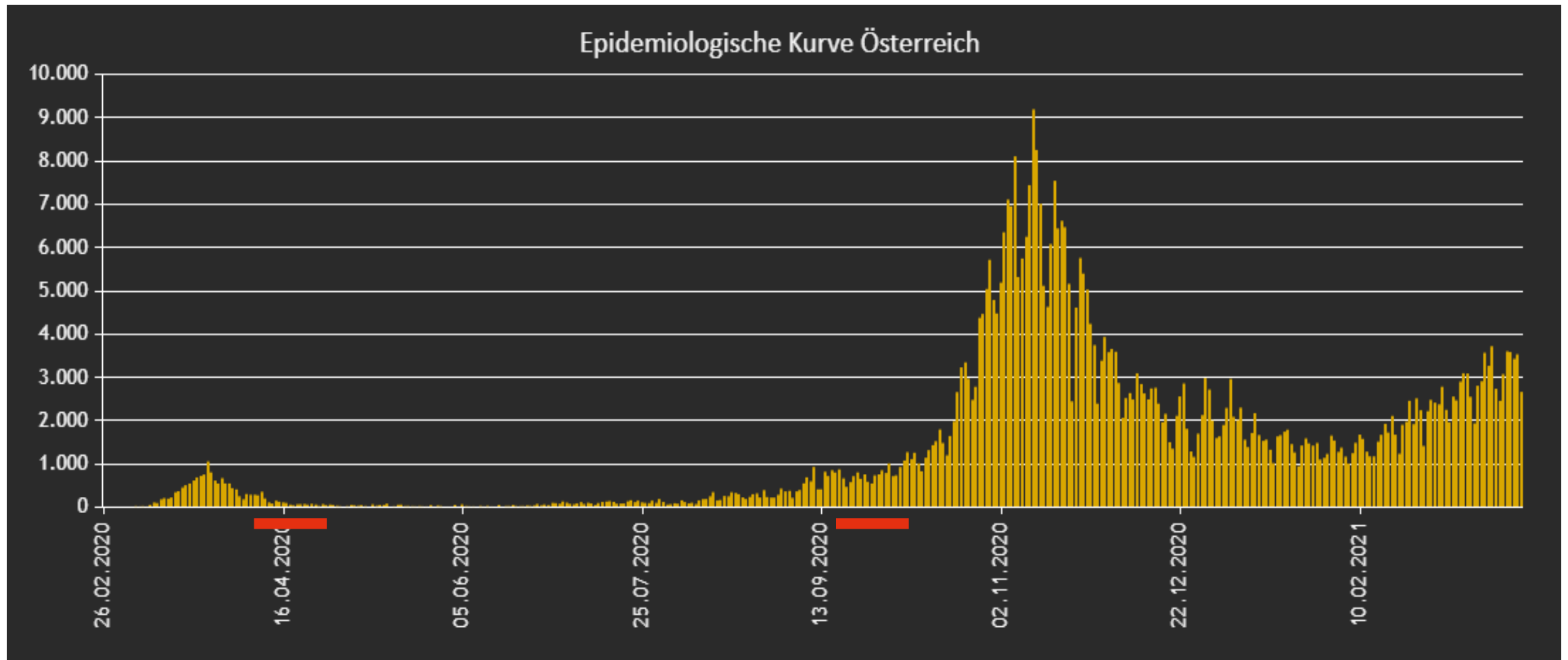
Julian Strizek

GPS meeting, 30.03.2021

Background 1

- » GPS 2020 coincided with first wave of COVID-19 pandemic in Austria
- » **Two waves** of data collections (panel design) to assess changes in consumption
- » Data collection was done completely **online**, first wave April/May (n = 6.000) and second wave in October (n = 3.500)
- » Data on **addictive behaviour** in general (licit, illicit, gambling, gaming)

Background 2

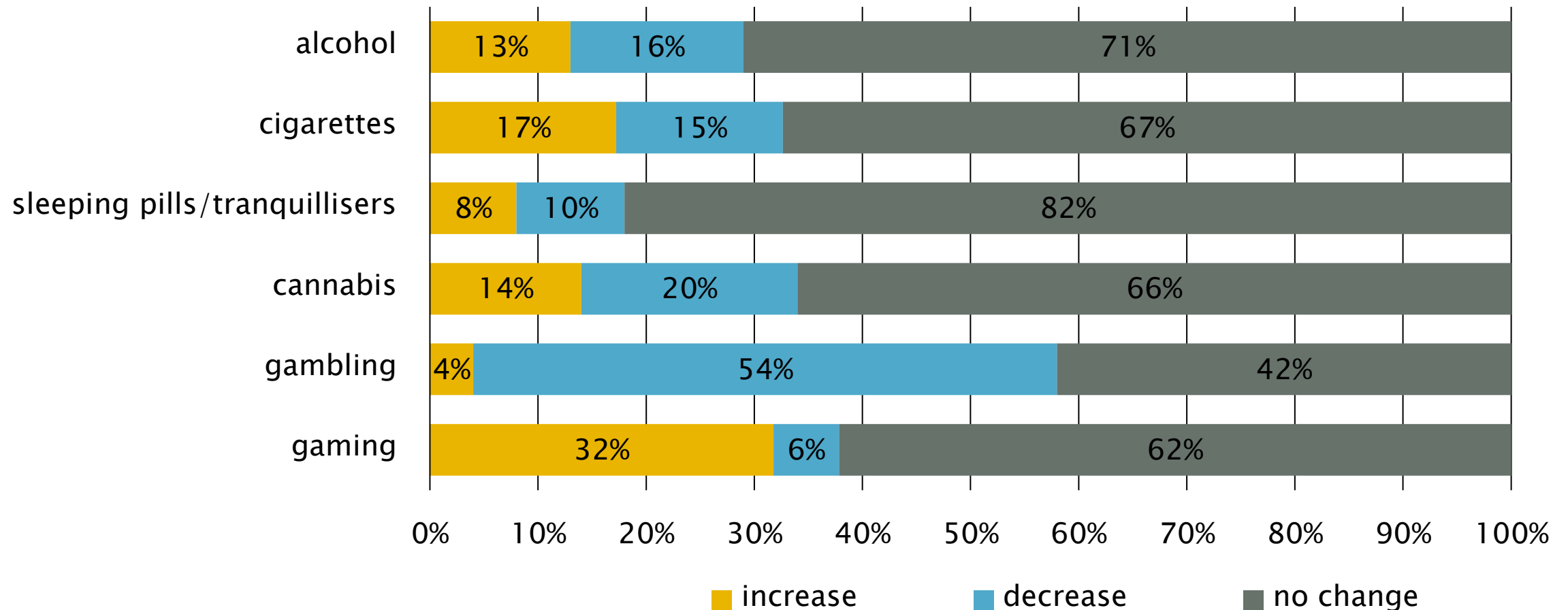


FIRST WAVE OF DATA COLLECTION: APRIL/MAY 2020

short time changed due to first wave of COVID-19,
motives for changes

Results from survey wave 1 (1)

- indicator: substance use, no distinction between frequency and quantity
- timeframe: changes in consumption in April/May compared to before COVID-19



Results from survey wave 1 (2)

- indicator: substance use, no distinction between frequency and quantity
 - timeframe: changes in consumption in April/May compared to before COVID-19
-
- » **Young people** reported changes in behaviour more often than elderly people.
 - » **Women** reported increase of substance use more often for tobacco and for tranquillizers/sleeping pills
 - » Main reasons for increase were more **free time** and **more stress** (due to Corona).
 - » Main reasons for decrease was **lack of opportunities** (no parties, no restaurants).

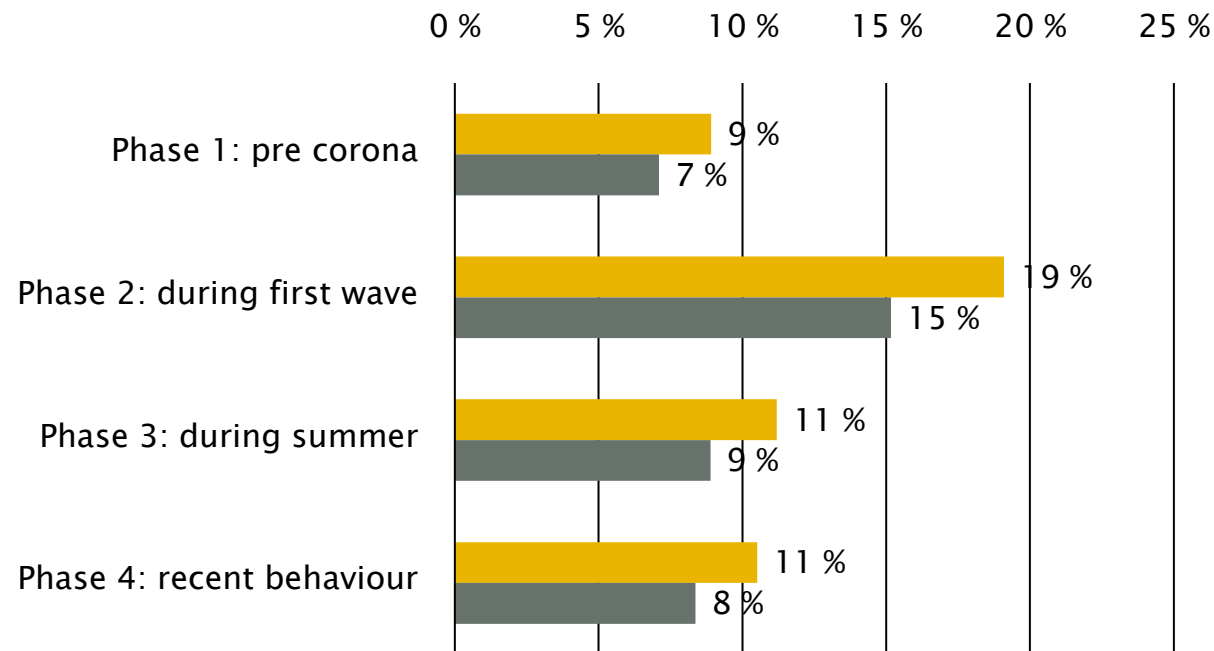
SECOND WAVE OF DATA COLLECTION: OCTOBER 2020

retrospective assessment of frequency and quantity
sources of supply, patterns of use

Results from survey wave 2 (1)

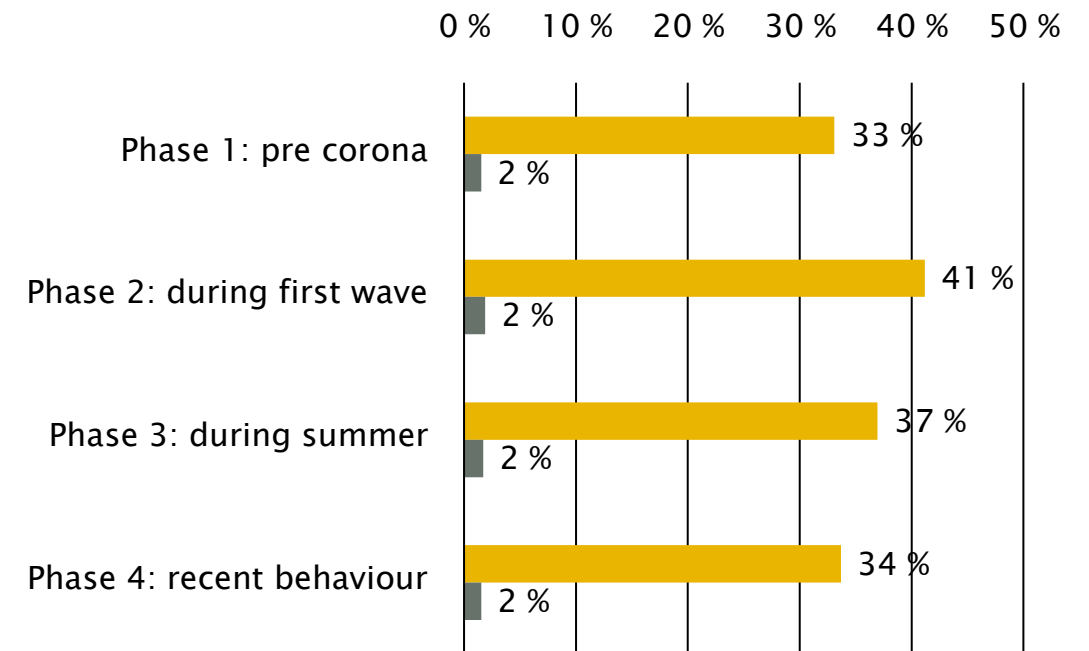
- Indicator: frequency
- timeframe: changes in consumption between four time periods

Alcohol: daily or almost daily use



■ people using alcohol in 2020 (n = 2.605)
■ all respondents (n = 3.278)

Cannabis: once a week (or more often)

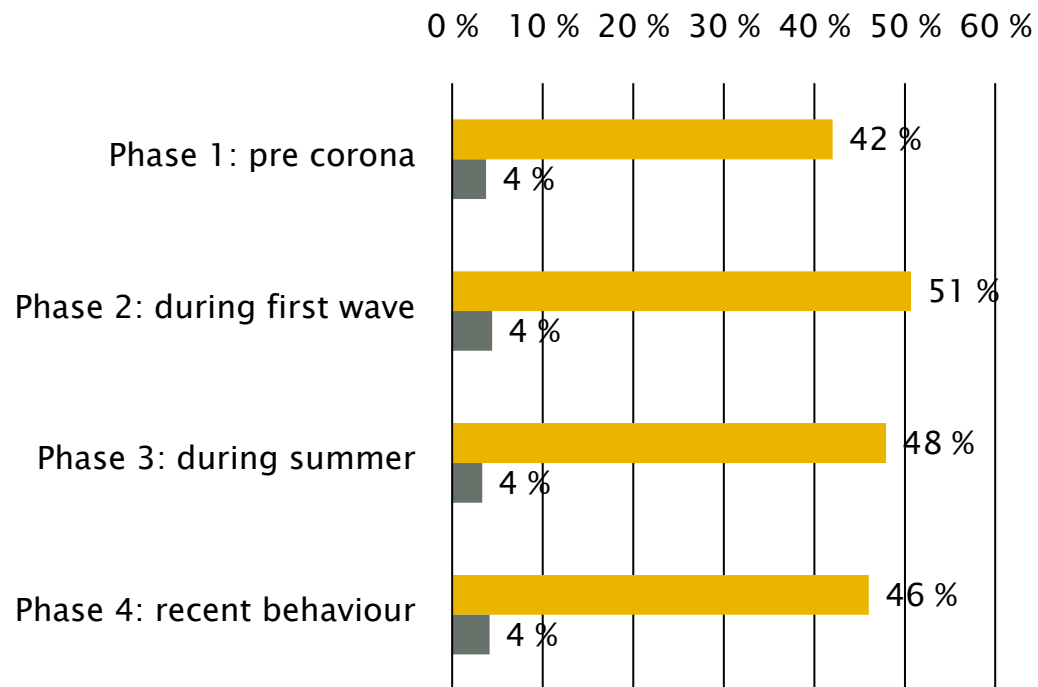


■ people using Cannabis in 2020 (n = 151)
■ all respondents (n = 3.278)

Results from survey wave 2 (2)

- Indicator: frequency
- timeframe: changes in consumption between four time periods

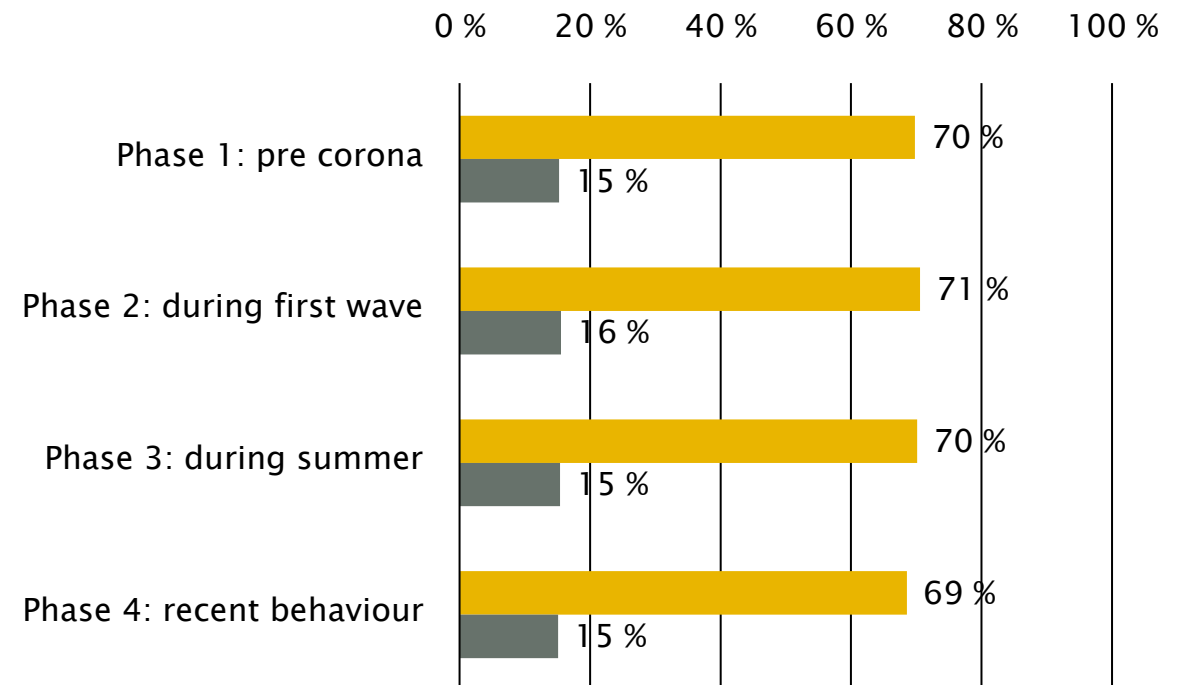
Tranquillizers: more than once a week



■ people using tranquilizers in 2020 (n = 293)

■ all respondents (n = 3.278)

Cigarettes: daily or almost daily use



■ people using cigarettes in 2020 (n = 722)

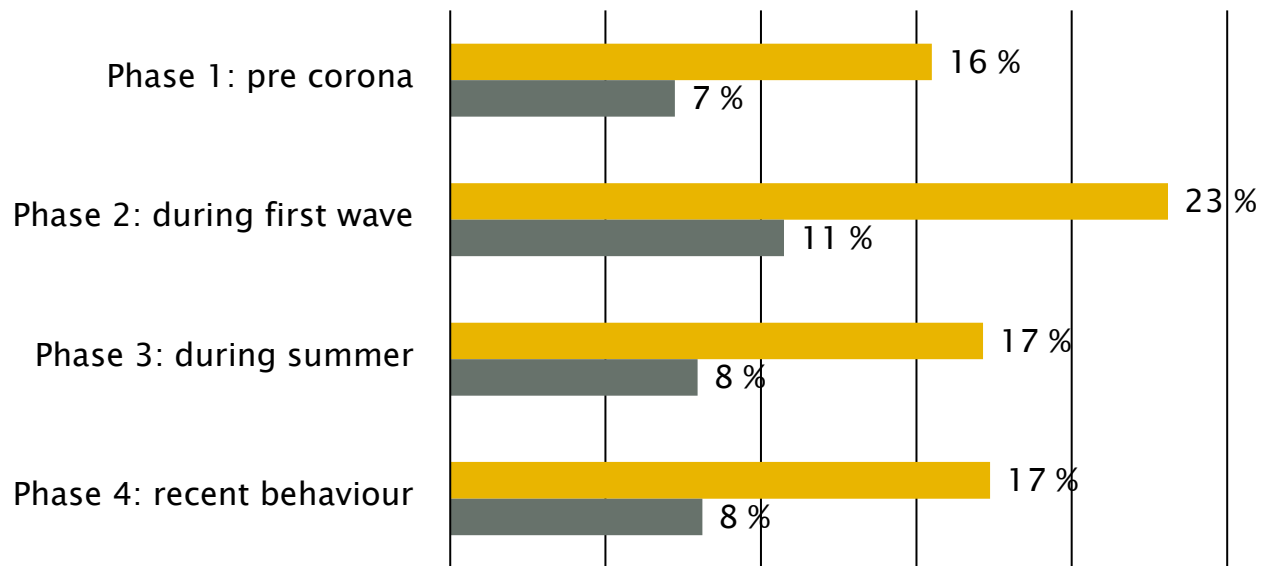
■ all respondents (n = 3.278)

Results from survey wave 2 (3)

- Indicator: frequency
- timeframe: changes in consumption between four time periods

Digital games: daily use

0 % 5 % 10 % 15 % 20 % 25 %

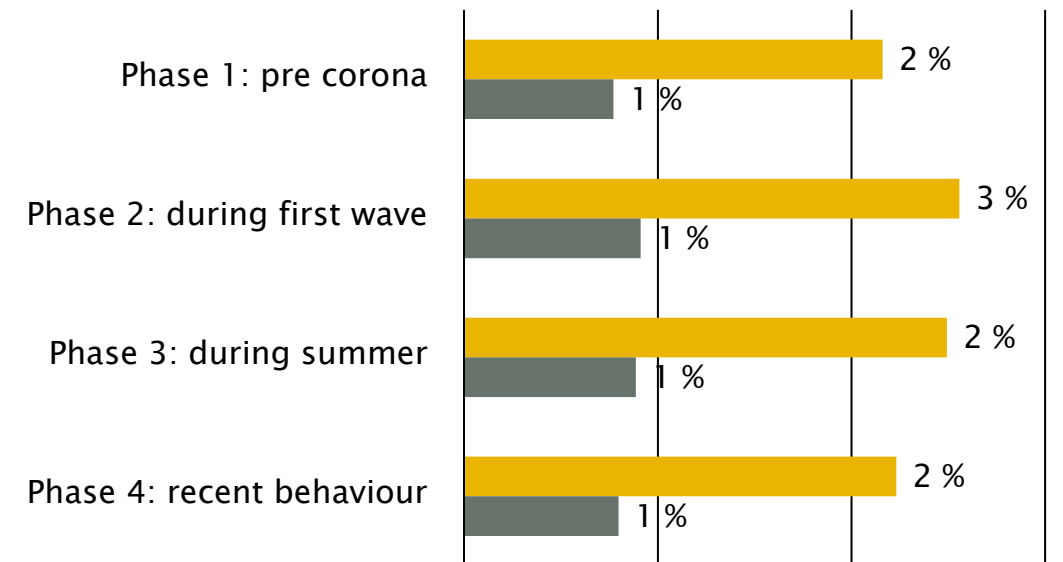


■ people playing digital games in 2020 (n = 1.529)

■ all respondents (n = 3.278)

Gambling: daily or almost daily sue

0 % 1 % 2 % 3 %



■ people gambling in 2020 (n = 1.171)

■ all respondents (n = 3.262)

Results from survey wave 2 (4)

Indicator: quantity

timeframe: changes in consumption between two time periods

	Phase 1: pre corona (before march)	Phase 4: recent behaviour (September–October)	Relative change
Cigarettes (= average number of cigarettes per day among people who smoked in 2020)	11,0	11,0	0 %
Alcohol (= average per capita consumption in gram alcohol among people who drank alcohol in 2020)	8,1	8,8	9 %
Gambling (= average monthly expenses among people who gambled in 2020)	76 €	77 €	2 %
Gaming (= average game time among people using digital games in 2020)	1,7	1,8	6 %

- » indication of **polarization** (heavy user show a stronger increase than low level users) for alcohol and gambling
- » Indication of **educational effect** (people with low levels of educational attainment show a stronger increase) for alcohol, but not for tobacco consumption.

Results from survey wave 2 (5)

Indicator: consumption patterns and sources of supply
timeframe: changes in consumption between two time periods

- » People drinking **predominantly alone** (from 10 to 13 %) and people drinking **predominantly at home** (from 38 to 49 %) both increased by 1/3, however those subgroups did not increase their drinking more pronounced than others.
- » 70 % did report no change in availability for cannabis during the first lockdown, **25 % report reduced availability**
- » Hardly any changes in **sources of supply for sleeping pills/tranquillizers** (medical prescription, pharmacies without prescription, friends and relatives)
- » Strong increase in **online gambling**

Working hypothesis: For the general population, consumption of substances in many ways remains surprisingly stable during COVID-19 pandemic in Austria.

THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION