

## Quality of life and drug use: a gender analysis

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Quality of life is the general well-being of individuals and societies. In particular, objective well-being (OWB) is usually focused around the evaluation of aspects of life that can be confirmed by others, such as health, living conditions, income and education. By contrast, subjective well-being (SWB) refers to an individual's evaluation (life satisfaction) or affective response to domains, such as goals, values, accomplishments and personal situation. In this context, observational studies that evaluated the relationships between gender differences in drug use and the OWB and SWB are lacking. We evaluated the data collected by multi-purpose investigations performed by Italy's National Statistics Institute through questionnaires acquiring information about various aspects of daily life, including OWB and SWB indicators, Italian individuals and families. In particular, we evaluated the data about the gender differences in drug use with respect to housing, income, jobs, community, education, environment, civic commitment, health condition, perception of health condition, life satisfaction, safety and work-life balance. Among the various findings, it is relevant that women consume more drugs than men in the absence of chronic disease in every age range investigated (from 15 years to over 75 years). The same analysis showed similar results for women with chronic diseases from 15 years to 45 years. In parallel, the women that used drugs in the presence of chronic diseases also showed a higher decrease of perception of good health and life satisfaction than men, especially from the age of 65 years on. Taken together, these results suggest that SWB determinants such as the perception of good health and life satisfaction could affect the gender differences in drug use.