

LEGAL OR NOT

Belgian and Uruguayan CSC members' profile and policy preferences

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Motivation

What do we know about CSC members?

By the time we wrote this chapter:

- We knew more about CSC structure and organization
- We wanted to learn more about CSCs members: sociodemographic characteristics, why they choose CSCs to get cannabis rather than other supply channels, or about their preferences regarding cannabis policies
- Specially, compare the differences/similarities among users from legal and illegal contexts

Methods and data

Seeking for hard to reach population...

Methods and data

- Two online surveys
- Non representative (self selection)
- AND...we had the opportunity to apply the same survey in Uruguay that was applied in Belgium

Country	Year	Estimated N	n (survey)	n / N (%)
Belgium	2017	677	190	27 %
Uruguay	2018	2831	135	4,7 %

Results

What did we learn?

Results I: sociodemographic features

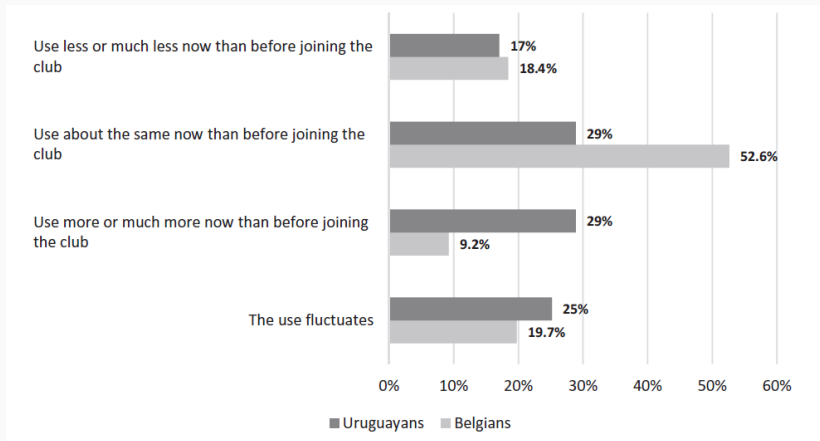
Similar profiles (mainly):

- men
- middle age
- middle class
- educated

→ Should we expect more diversity en Uruguay because of the legal framework?

→ Maybe the CSCs fees are better suited to middle and high income users

Results II: Self-reported cannabis use evolution by country



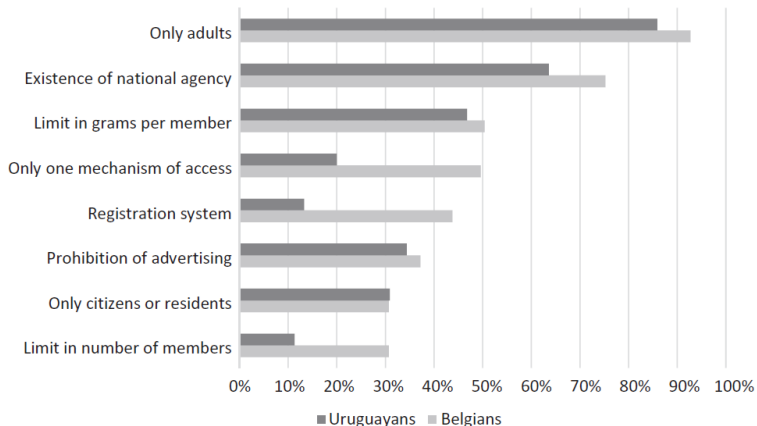
Results II: Why uruguayan CSC members report an increase in cannabis use

No causal claims!!! BUT three hypothesis:

- 40 gr/month pushes for more cannabis use for some users
- Higher potency cannabis increases consumption over time
- Normalization effect: people talk more their consumption

Results III: Policy preferences

Almost all agreed with regulating CSC (Belgium: 93% - Uruguay: 92%)

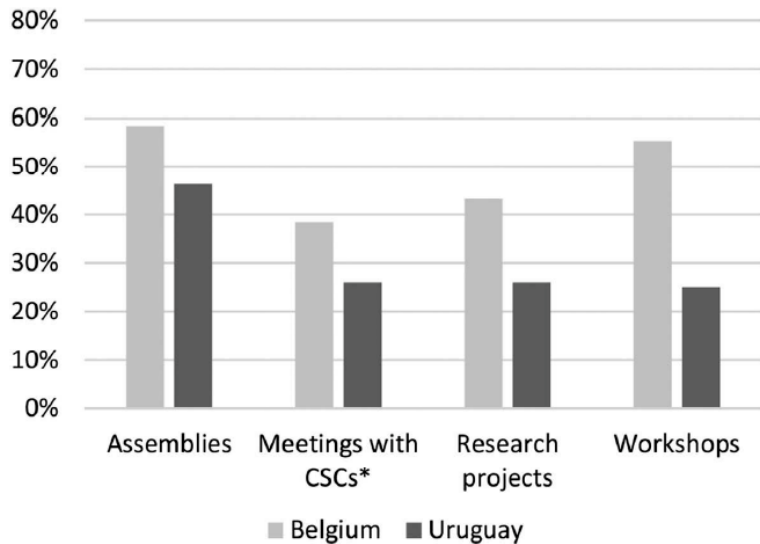


Agreement with uruguayan rules for CSCs

Results IV: the harm reduction role of CSC

- CSC are different from dispensaries
- They have information about cannabis harms they can share with their members to develop healthier links with the substance
- How?: organizing workshops, lectures or meetings with experts; encouraging CSC members' participation in research projects; and others

Results III: Organization of activities by CSC by country



Final remarks for CSC future

- Seems to be room for improving the harm reduction role of CSC: potency and engaging activities
- Most CSC members no longer get their cannabis from dealers or illegal suppliers (72 % of the belgian participants)
- 85 % respondents in Uruguay reported the get cannabis **exclusively** from their CSC → **what happens with the other 15 % of the respondents?**

Forthcoming

**We want to learn more about CSC in contexts
of legalization**

Forthcoming: CSC and grey market in Uruguay

Preliminary analysis from a running project:

- CSC in Uruguay: between 15 - 45 members — up to 99 plants
- CSC members “must” take 40 grams/month

What happens with surplus from clubs and members?



Different grey markets

+ Production / Distribution

+ Profit / Non profit

Thanks!

Questions are welcome!

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