The 2018 Narcotics Anonymous Membership Survey – Europe

The 2018 survey received the highest member participation to date. There were 28,495 responses worldwide and 2,260 from Europe. Members were able to complete a survey at the 2018 World Convention of NA (WCNA) in Orlando, Florida, USA, or online. There were a few responses via mail. For this survey, we had responses from 27 European countries and Russia. We collect these data to provide information about the NA Fellowship to strengthen our public relations efforts, and to learn more about how and where we carry our message of recovery We initiated a Membership Survey at WCNA in 1996 and have continued it for 22 years.

NA Membership

NA is composed of people who come from many races, cultures, age groups, professions, and backgrounds. The only requirement to become an NA member is the desire to stop using drugs. The decision of membership in the NA Fellowship rests with the individual.

There are no annual dues or fees for membership: We are self-supporting through member contributions and the sales of recovery literature.

NA is a community-based organization that holds over 70,000 weekly meetings in 144 countries*.

Gender

Female 39%

Male 60%

Ethnicity

The ethnic diversity of our membership tends to be representative of the geographic location; however, the ethnicity responses for the 2018 survey were primarily received via online surveys and fax/mail. When we conducted this survey in 2018,

- 89% of respondents were White (Caucasian; of European descent);
- 3% identified as multiracial;
- 1% were Asian;
- 1% were Black;
- 1% were Hispanic;
- 1% were Middle Eastern; and
- 4% were other.

Age

Based on survey responses, the average age of NA members in Europe is 43.74 years.

Importance of First NA Meeting

Very important 53%

Neutral 17%

Important 14%

Somewhat important 9%

Not at all important 6%

Years Drug-Free

The European average length of cleantime in NA is 8.86 years slightly higher than 2015 average of 7.88.

Influence to Attend First NA Meeting

Multiple answers were permitted; only the top seven choices are shown.

Meeting Attendance

Regular attendance at NA meetings provides the opportunity to experience the NA message of recovery. Members surveyed attend an average of 2.25 meetings per week.

Employment Status

Full time 66%

Part time 34%

Unemployed 5%

Student 12%

Retired 16%

Homemaker 20%

Drugs Used on a Regular Basis

Multiple answers were allowed.

Involvement in Other Twelve-Step Fellowships

No 61%  Yes 39%

*As of MAY 2018
In 2018, the two areas that received overwhelming improvement with NA attendance were family relationships where 87% of our members stated enrichment, and social connectedness realized by 88% of the respondents. NA literature states that active addiction is marked by increased isolation and destruction of relationships. Recovery in NA has helped survey respondents to repair the damage in their lives from drug addiction.

Areas of Life Affected by Drug Use

For several years, professionals and members alike wondered whether addicts were able to maintain employment, familial relationships, and housing while using drugs. In the 2015 Membership Survey, the question was posed to the members; 47% of the respondents indicated that all areas of their lives were affected with drug use, and 34% stated that they were able to maintain employment. Areas most notably affected by drug use were familial relationships and providing for a family.

Before Coming to NA…

Multiple answers were allowed.

About NA

Narcotics Anonymous is a worldwide fellowship of recovering addicts whose primary purpose is to help addicts stop using drugs by utilizing a twelve-step approach. NA is not a religious organization and does not require any particular belief system. It teaches basic spiritual principles such as honesty, open-mindedness, and willingness, to name a few. The specific practical application of these principles is determined by the individual member. NA members learn from one another how to live drug-free and recover from the effects of addiction. Although not associated with any religion, political group, organization, or institution, NA cooperates with professionals and the public by providing information about the fellowship.

Questions about NA meetings in other countries, general information about the fellowship, and the entire fellowship Membership Survey can be obtained by contacting NA World Services. The link for the full survey is www.na.org/PR.