

## Anti-doping Green Seal

### Relevant UK survey in anti-doping. *(Length up to 1,2 pages)*

**Title of the survey:** BBC State of Sport.

**Publication date:** 20 March 2017 (survey conducted 27 January – 31 January.)

**Author/Organization:** British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC.)

**Target audience:** British adults, who are members of sports clubs, teams or gyms.

**Objective:** To find out the extent of doping in amateur sport, risk factors, user perceptions and motivations and whether doping is a sporting or societal issue.

#### Location/Geographical coverage:

BBC Sport - using ComRes (a London-based market research consultancy) to conduct the poll - interviewed 1,025 British adults, who are members of sports clubs, teams or gyms, online.

#### Summary:

According to figures from UK Anti-Doping (UKAD), there are currently 52 athletes and coaches serving bans. Of these, only 12% are professional sports men or women; 62% are amateurs, 21% are semi-professional, and 5% are coaches. Of the 186 sanctions handed out across 22 separate sports by UKAD since it formed in 2009, 46% have been rugby union or league players - mainly at amateur and semi-professional levels.

UKAD chief Nicole Sapstead admitted:

- "I don't think that any sport can say that they don't have a problem at an amateur level."
- "I think now is the time for everybody to sit up and acknowledge that this is a reality in every single sport and that you can't just be washing your hands of it or hoping that someone else will address it."
- UKAD needs an extension of powers and extra cash from individual sports governing bodies to "address what is fast becoming a crisis for sport."
- There is a "woeful lack of education" at amateur level about the health risks of doping.
- There is a "robust" anti-doping programme in the UK, but it faces "challenges"

Risk factors include society's growing obsession with self-image, desensitisation resulting from living in a "pharmacised world" and the UK's pill-taking culture in amateur sport and general society, serving as a "gateway" to stronger substances.



Doping perceptions differ in context. In terms of motivation, of the 79 people interviewed who had specifically taken anabolic steroids, 41% said improving performance was the main reason for taking them, followed by pain relief (40%) and improving how they look (34%). The UK pushes people into exercise to promote the health benefits but forgets that people in most exercise settings might consider using substances. Substance users don't care sufficiently for their health. They care about performance and how they look to other people - or themselves.

**URL of the survey/Related Website:**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/38884801>

<http://www.comresglobal.com/polls/bbc-sport-amateur-sports-doping-survey/>

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