

**ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS)
INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)**

**BUILDING REGIONAL EPIDEMIOLOGY RESOURCES
AND MONITORING
DRUG USE IN THE AMERICAS 2019**



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The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission

The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (known by its Spanish language acronym, CICAD) is the consultative and advisory body of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the drug issue.

Since its establishment in 1986, CICAD and its Executive Secretariat have responded to the ever-changing challenges of drug control by promoting regional coordination and cooperation with and among OAS member states.

The OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy, adopted in 2010, approaches the world drug problem as a complex, dynamic and multi-causal phenomenon requiring a comprehensive, balanced, and multidisciplinary approach.


CICAD's Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs (2016 – 2020), a guide for the implementation of the Strategy, sets priority actions for OAS member states, placing individuals at the core of drug policies and including a cross-cutting perspective on human rights, gender, and development, with a focus on evidence-based drug policies.



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The Inter-American Observatory on Drugs



**Inter-American
Observatory on
Drugs (OID)**

The Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (known by its Spanish language acronym, OID) is CICAD's research unit, providing support to OAS member states in the collection and analysis of data on the drug problem so that they can design more effective drug policies.



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Report on Drug Use in the Americas 2019

The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) published the **Report on Drug Use in the Americas 2019** in March, 2019.

The report provides an overview of drug use across the Hemisphere based on data submitted by 33 OAS member states.

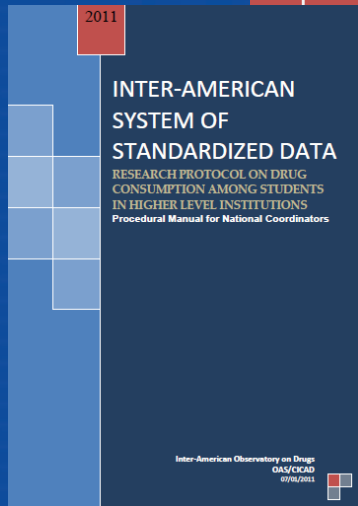
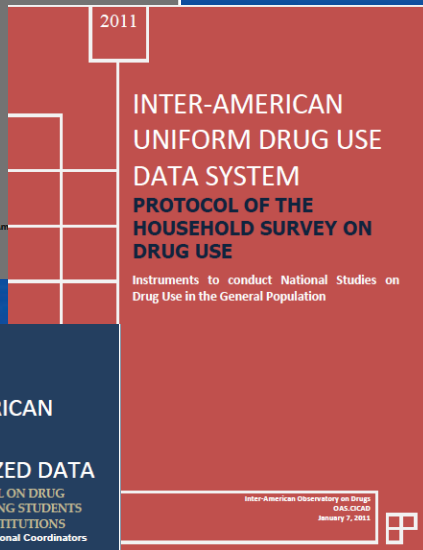
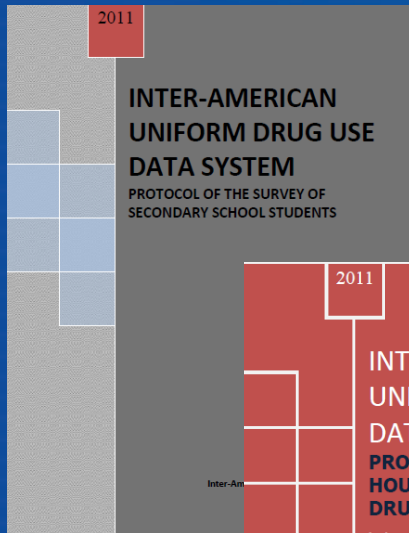


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Methods

- Standardized research protocols
- Used in the majority of member states
- Based on Monitoring the Future (MTF), and National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)
- Basic indicators are standardized (prevalence, perception of risk, ease of access, offers among others.)



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Review Process

- Technical working group carried out review from March 7-9, 2018 with representatives from national drug observatories (NDOs), and external experts in drug research.
- Presentation to NDOs
 - Caribbean - Guyana, May 2018
 - Latin American - Guatemala, August 2018
- Review by external experts.
- Final review by NDOs.
- Editorial review.



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Countries that contributed data to the report

1. Antigua and Barbuda
2. Argentina
3. The Bahamas
4. Barbados
5. Belize
6. Bolivia
7. Brazil
8. Canada
9. Chile
10. Colombia
11. Costa Rica
12. Dominica
13. Dominican Republic
14. Ecuador
15. El Salvador
18. Grenada
19. Guatemala
20. Guyana
21. Haiti
22. Honduras
23. Jamaica
24. Mexico
25. Panama
26. Paraguay
27. Peru
28. Saint Kitts and Nevis
29. Saint Lucia
30. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
31. Suriname
32. Trinidad and Tobago
33. United States
34. Uruguay
35. Venezuela



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Challenges and limitations

- Official data from countries
- Year of study
- Outdated data
- Methodological differences by region (concepts of risk and harms)
- Comparability (size of country, language)
- Statistical significance



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Report on Drug Use in the Americas 2019

Four main areas relevant to hemispheric drug policy

- Trends in drug use
- Early onset of drug use
- Use by sex
- New challenges



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Report on Drug Use in the Americas 2019

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Report on Drug Use in the Americas 2019

Key findings and recommendations

Early onset of drug use

- Drug use is appearing at young ages, in many countries as young as the eighth grade.
- The younger people begin using drugs, the greater the health risks and other consequences.
- Prevention programs and interventions that can delay the age when someone first uses drugs should be accorded high priority.



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Report on Drug Use in the Americas 2019

Drug Use Trends



Cannabis use among secondary school students is increasing in most countries that have trend data.



Cannabis use in the general population is increasing in most countries that have trend data.



Tobacco appears to be the only substance that is showing systematic decreases in use over time in the general population.



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Drug Use Trends



About half of the countries show increases in cocaine use in the general population.



Cocaine shows more variability in secondary school students: increases, decreases, and plateaus in different countries.



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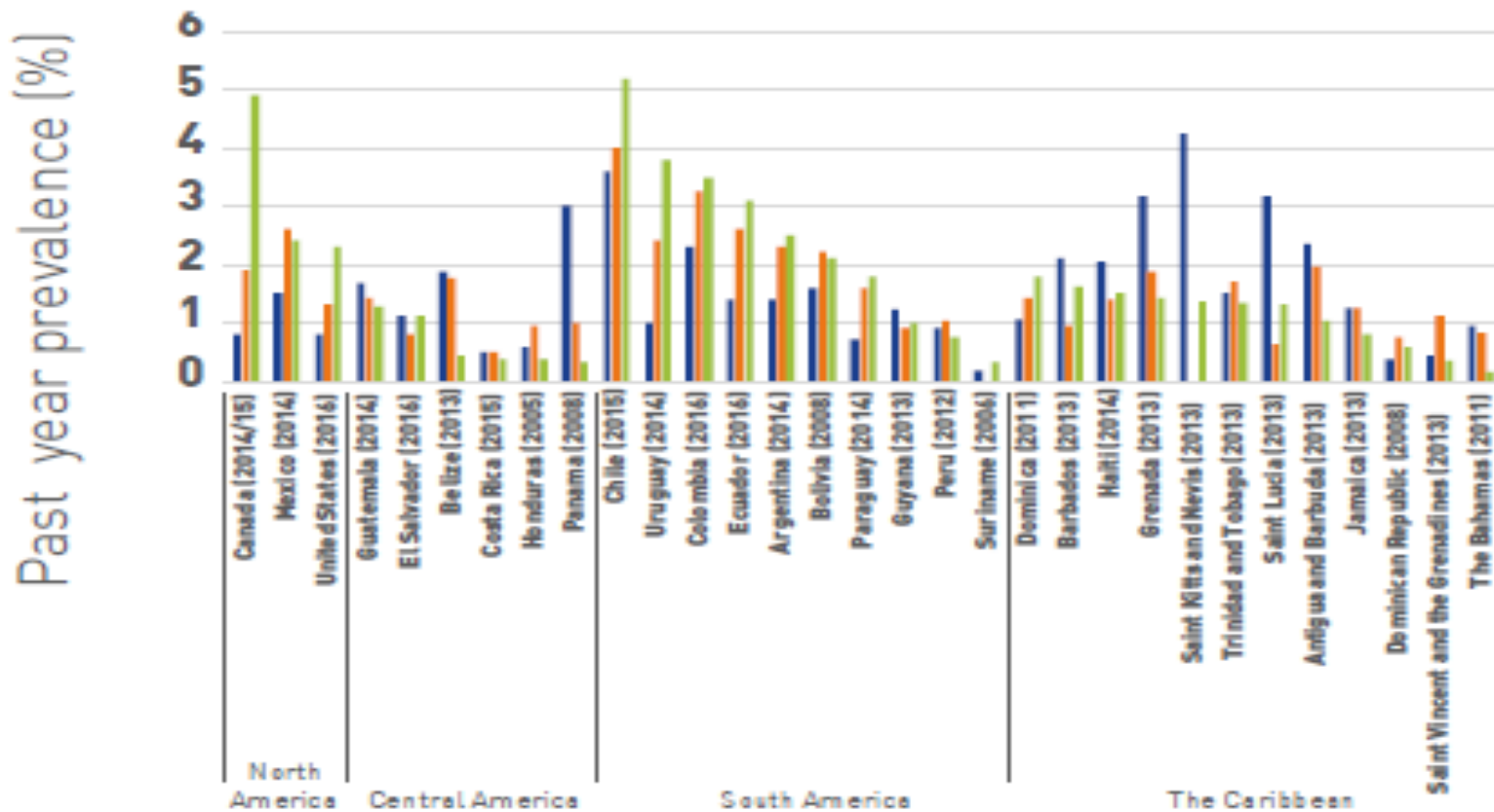


Early Use

Graph 5.17

8th 10th 12th

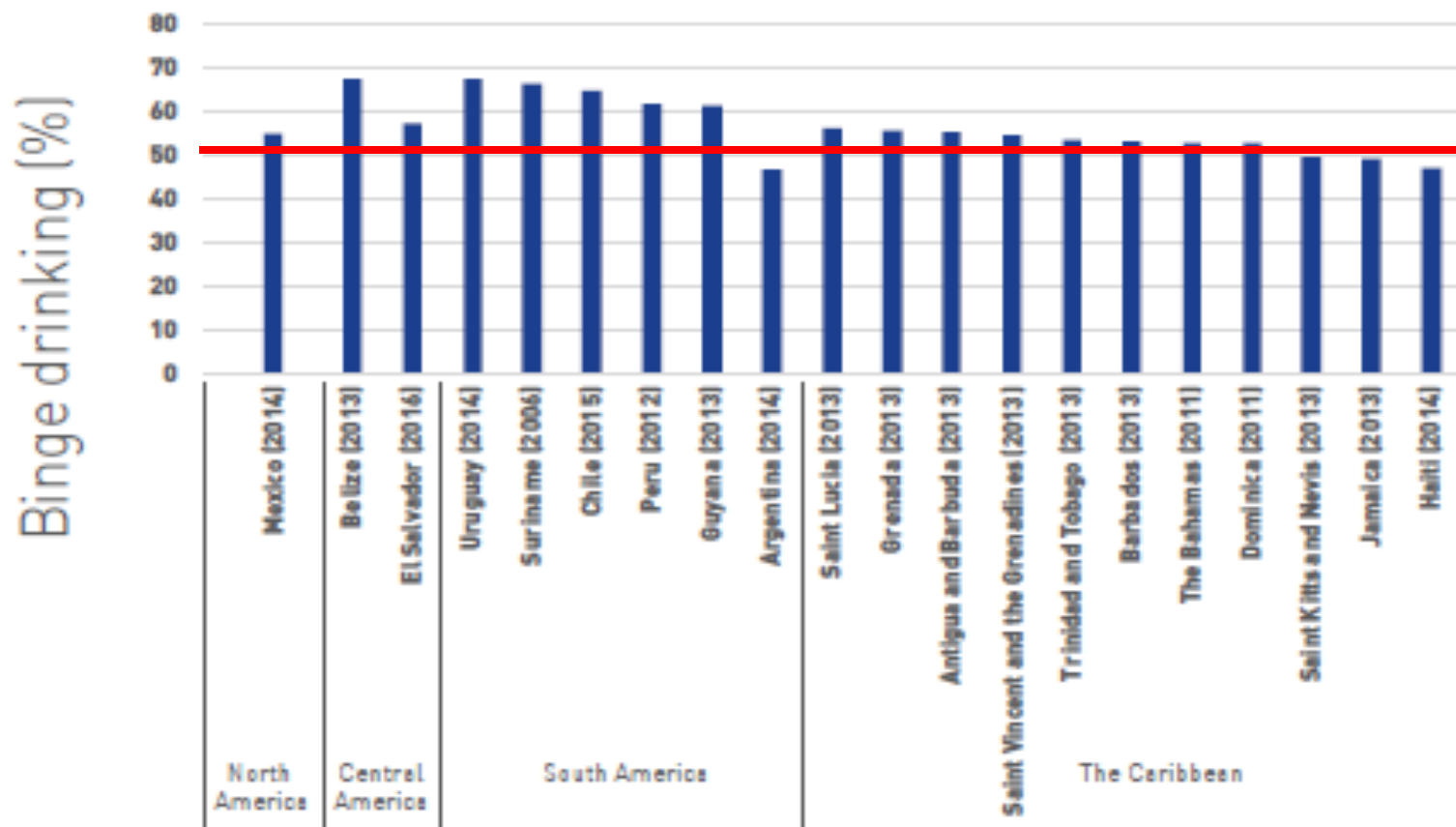
Past year prevalence of cocaine use among secondary school students, by grade and by country and subregion



Early Use

Graph 1.16

Percentage of secondary school students who engaged in binge drinking, out of all students who drank alcohol in the past month, by country, sorted by subregion

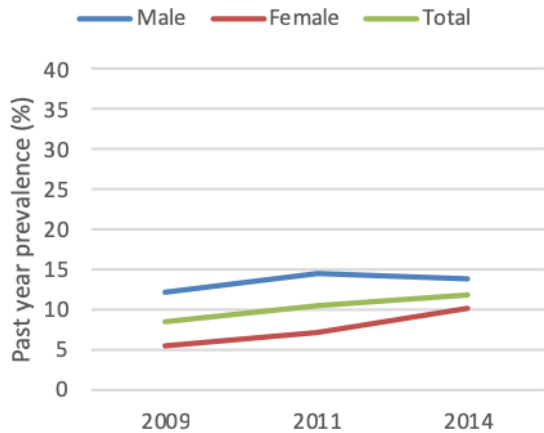


50%

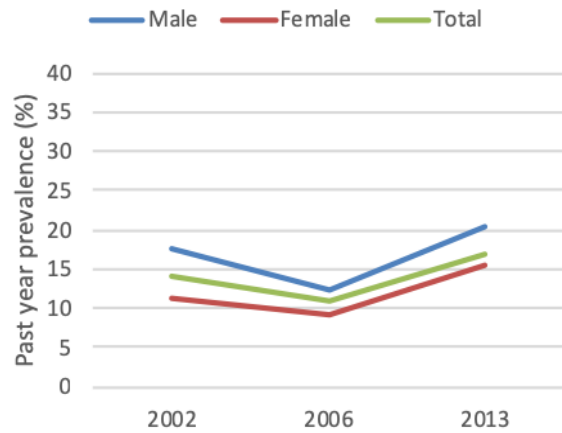


Trends: Past year prevalence of marijuana among high school students

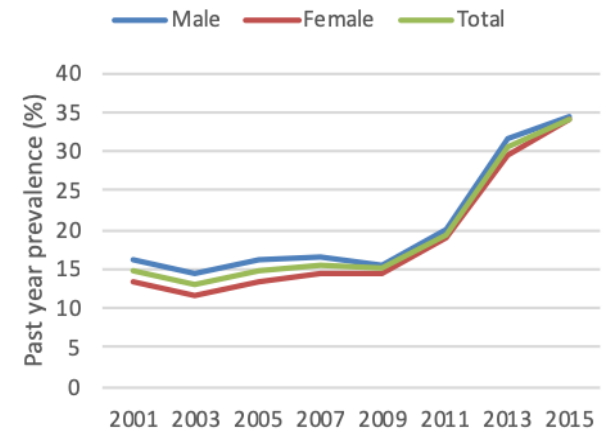
Argentina



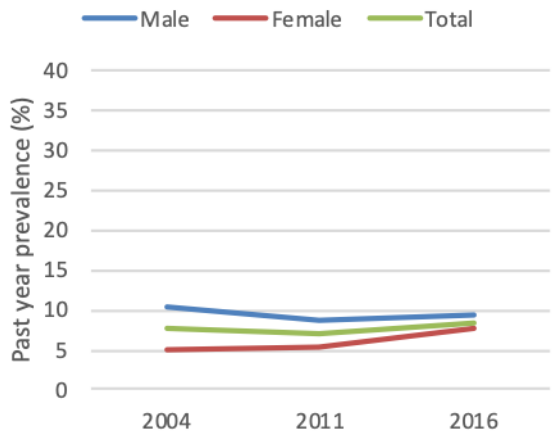
Barbados



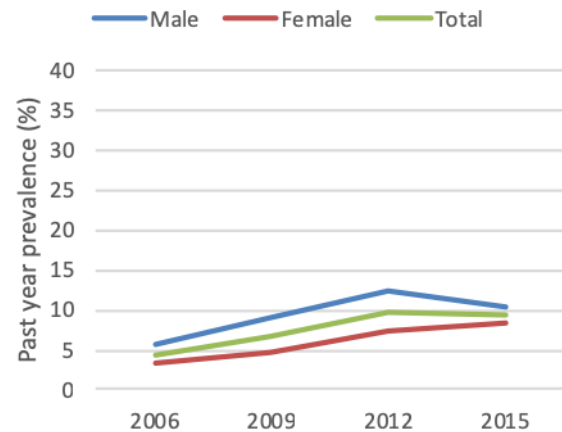
Chile



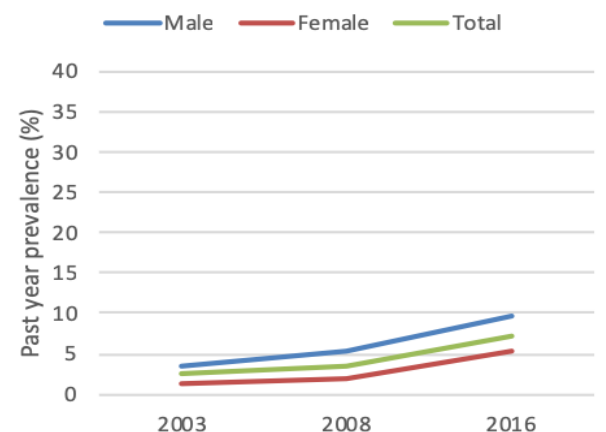
Colombia



Costa Rica

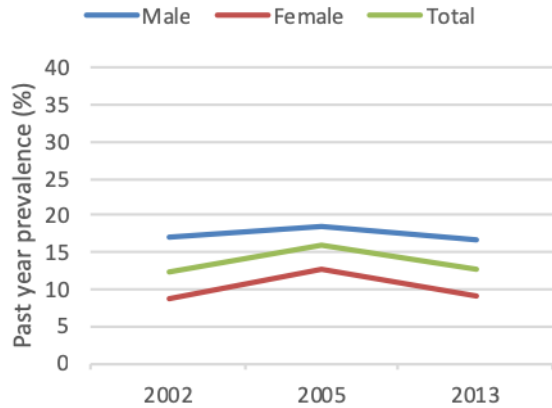


El Salvador

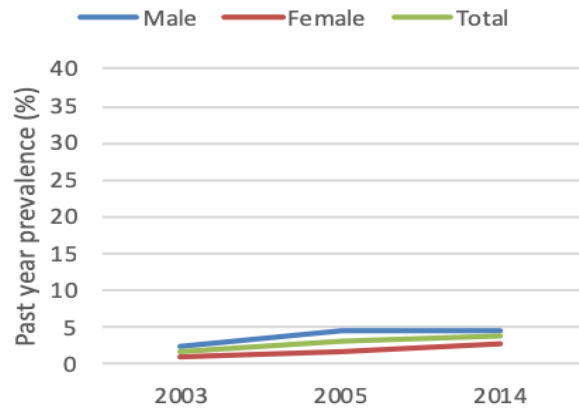


Trends: Past year prevalence of marijuana among high school students

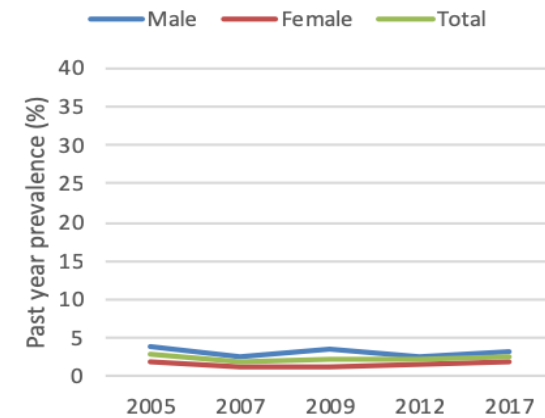
Grenada



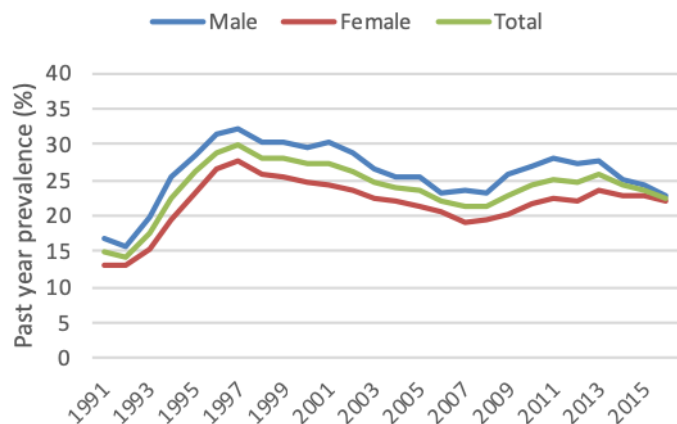
Paraguay



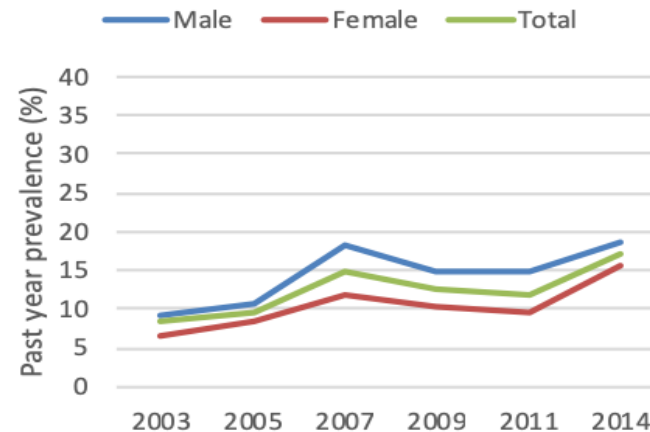
Perú



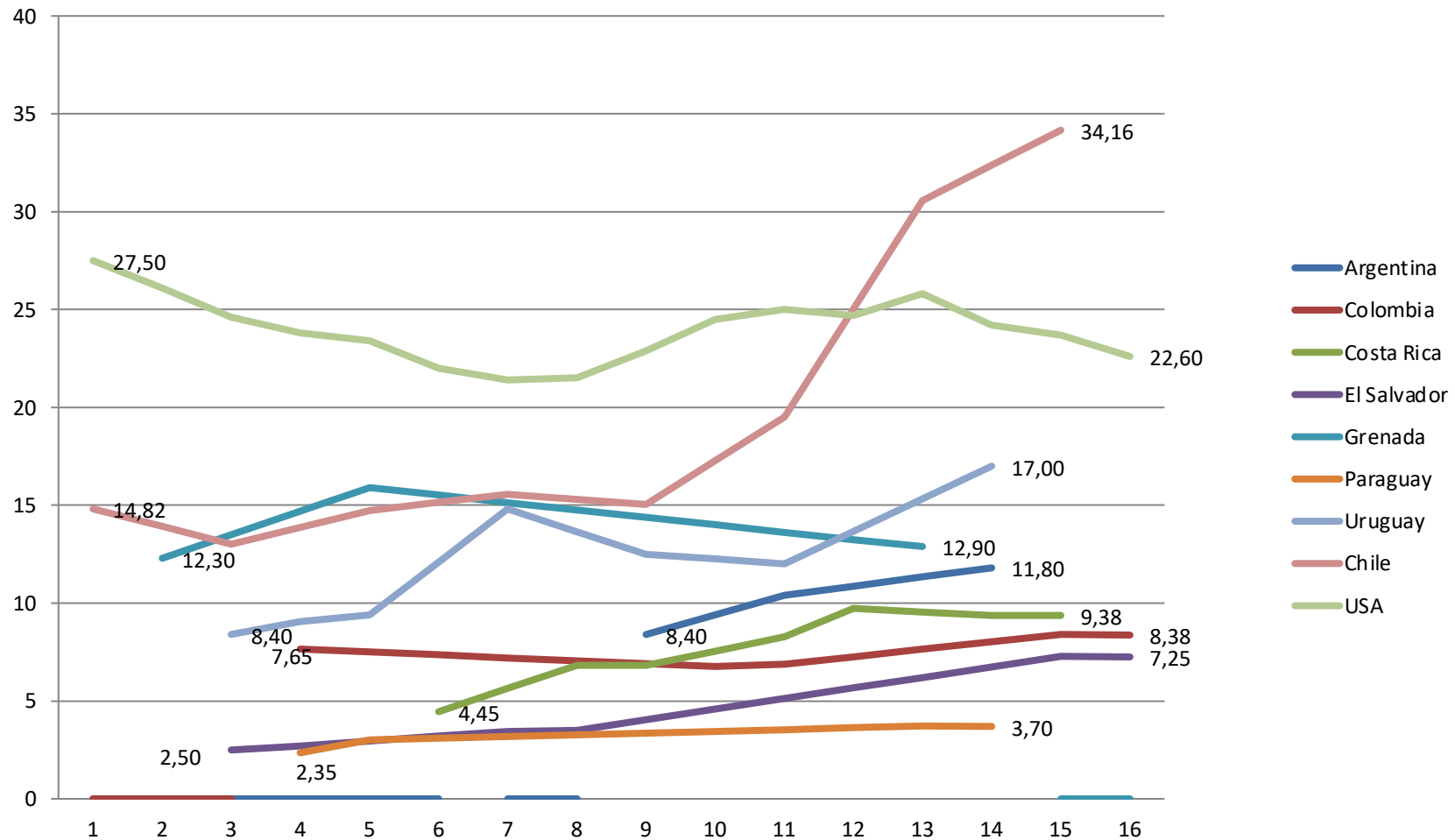
United States



Uruguay



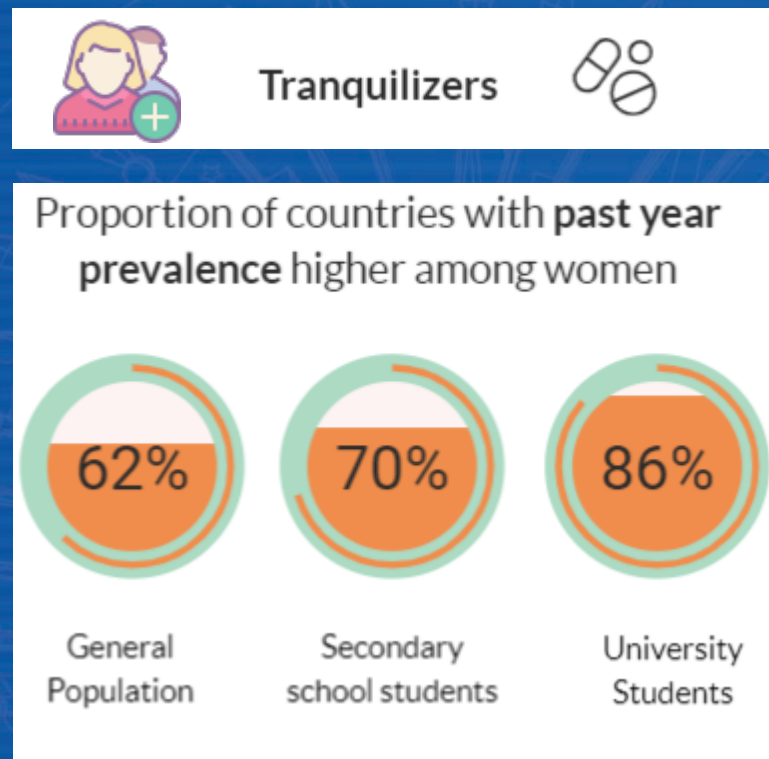
Past year marijuana use among secondary school students, Combined, time-adjusted trends



Report on Drug Use in the Americas 2019

Changes in use by sex

- Drug use has historically been seen as a male phenomenon, but recent data show that females in some countries are now using certain drugs either at the same, or at higher rates, than males.
- Misuse of tranquilizer pharmaceuticals is higher among females in every population in nearly every country.



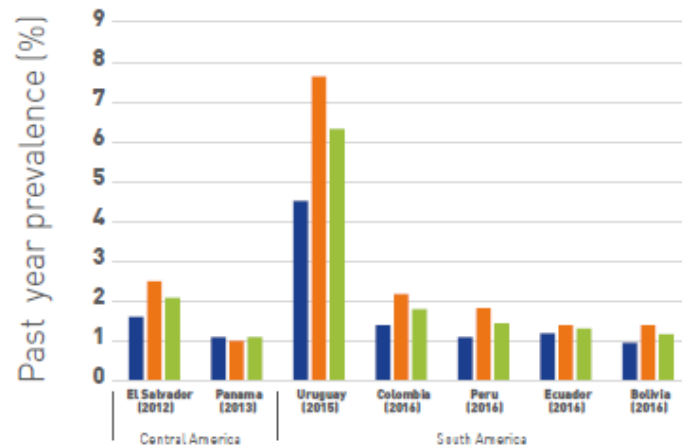
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Graph 7.8

Male Female Total

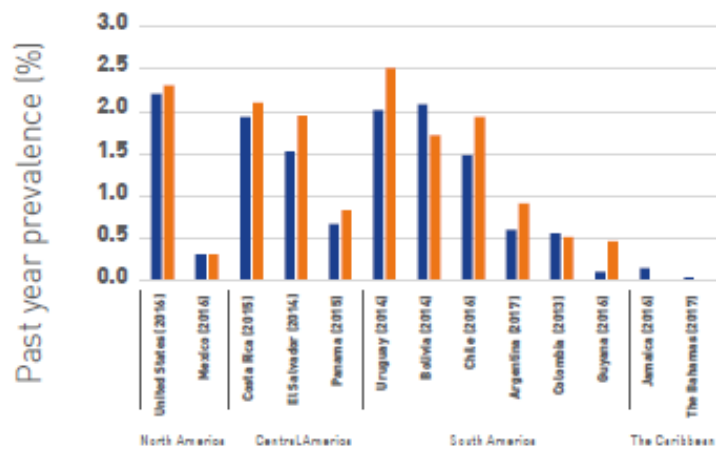
Past year prevalence of the use of tranquilizers without a medical prescription among university students by sex, total, and country, sorted by subregion



Graph 7.2

Male Female

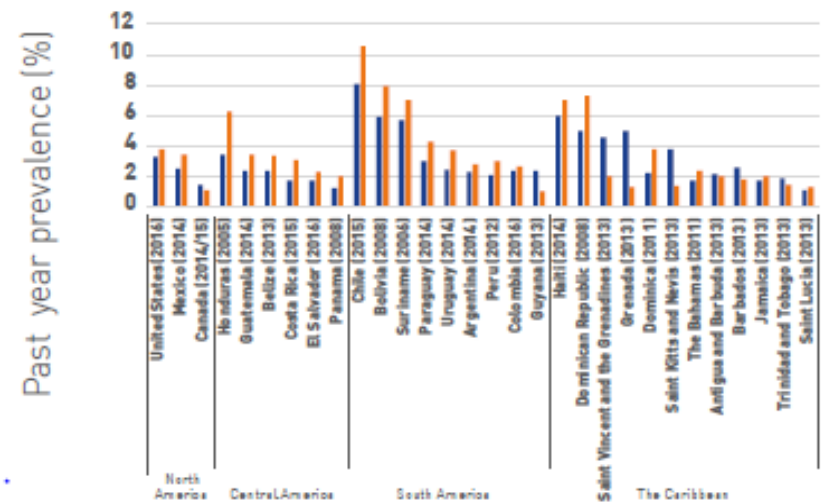
Past year prevalence of the use of tranquilizers without a medical prescription in the general population, by sex and country, sorted by subregion



Graph 7.5

Male Female

Past year prevalence of the use of tranquilizers among secondary school students, by sex and by country, sorted by subregion



Report on Drug Use in the Americas 2019

New Challenges for Drug Policy

The prevalence of new psychoactive substances (NPS), opioids, and benzodiazepines presents new challenges for drug treatment and public health.

The United States and Canada are experiencing serious epidemics of opioids and NPS, resulting in some of the highest overdose rates in the history of drug use.

High-risk behaviors associated with alcohol, such as early initiation of use and binge drinking, are a concern across the region.

Changes in the legal and regulatory status of marijuana have continued unabated throughout the Hemisphere and the decriminalization of marijuana for recreational or medicinal purposes has led to increased access for adults.



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