NATIONALE ANTI - DRUGS RAAD

SURINAME

NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD DRUG PREVALENCE SURVEY 2007

CONDUCTED BY

THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL ANTI - DRUG COUNCIL (UBN)

IN COLLABORATION WITH

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)/ORGANISATION OF AMERICAN STATES

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1. Background and introduction

Suriname has a total area of 163,270 km2 and 1,707 km of border (Brazil 597 km, French Guiana 510 km, and Guyana 600 km) with 386 km of coastline. The country has an estimated population of 440,000 (2006), with the following main ethnic groups: Hindustani, Creole, Javanese, and Maroon, with a literacy rate of 88%. Suriname is a constitutional republic divided into 10 different districts. The country has a GDP per capita (PPP1) of US$6,600 (2005 est.) and an inflation rate of 9.5%. The country's economy is dominated by the mining industry, which accounts for one third of its overall GDP. Suriname exports a total of US$881 million annually, relying on the principal exports of bauxite derived products, crude oil, lumber, shrimp, fish, rice, and bananas.

1.1 National Anti-Drug Strategy

Suriname has a National Drug Master Plan (2006–2010) in force, which was approved by the Council of Ministers in January 25, 2006 and signed by the Minister of Health and Justice and Police. The Plan covers actions in the following areas: demand reduction, supply reduction, and control measures.

The National Anti-Drug Council (NAR) was established in 1998 under the Ministry of Health, as the national authority which coordinates national anti-drug policies. The NAR is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the National Plan. The Council has a legal basis and an Executive Office (UBN), established in May 2006 under the Ministry of Health, which carries out its mandates.

1.2 Suriname National Household Drug Prevalence Survey

The Suriname National Household Survey was a joint effort between (Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission) CICAD and the National Anti-Drug Council (NAR). Funding for the project was provided by CICAD and Suriname CICAD also provided technical assistance for the training of field interviewers, data entry personnel and for data processing.

The Suriname National Household Drug Prevalence Survey targeted a wide segment of the population between 12 and 65 years old. The topics covered included not only alcohol and drug use, but also health behaviour in general. The information gathered will provide valuable and useful information for policy formulation and programme development by NAR and its stakeholders.

The survey was coordinated by the NAR/UBN and field work was conducted between April 2007 and January 2008.

[1] Purchasing Power Parity

2. Methodology

The questionnaire used was the standardized household survey instrument from the Inter-American Uniform Drug Use Data System (SIDUC). The instrument consists of roughly 51 questions and respondents were asked if they have ever used each of 13 classes of drugs/substances including alcohol, cigarettes, marijuana, cocaine and heroin, inhalants and for non-medical purposes tranquilizers and stimulants.

2.1 Sampling Design

The sample is an approximate proportionate sample; the proportions of households in the non-institutional population and in the sample are approximately the same.

The survey employed a three stage sample design. The population was first divided into 5 strata, which are made up of 1 or more districts:

Stratum 1: Paramaribo
Stratum 2: Wanica and Para
Stratum 3: Nickerie, Coronie and Saramacca
Stratum 4: Commewijne and Marowijne
Stratum 5: Brokopondo and Sipaliwini.

Secondly Census Enumeration Areas (EAs) were selected out of a total of 844 EAs: All EAs were sorted by stratum, district and "ressort", to achieve implicit stratification. Through a sampling interval of 1355.79 and a random start (generated in excel), the 80 EAs were drawn in the first phase of the sample (systematic sampling).

Finally, within each EA 55 households were selected by way of systematic sampling, and this resulted in 4400 households.

3. Analysis of Findings

3.1 Demographic Characteristics

3.1.1 Gender, Age and Regions

Forty-two percent of respondents were males and 57% were females. The ages of respondents ranged from 12 – 65 years.

Table 1A: Age groups of respondents

Age Group (yrs)	Percent
12-18	17.3
19-25	17.1
26-34	19.6
35-44	20.1
45-65	25.9
Total	100

Proportionally, most respondents were grouped into the 45-65 years (25.9%) and the 35-44 years (20.1%) age grouping. About 19% were between 26-34 years old; 17% were between 19-25 years of age and about 17% of respondents were under 20 years old (between 12 and 18 years). (Table 1A)

The majority of the respondents live in Paramaribo, followed by Wanica and Para (11%). Eight percent were from Nickerie, Coronie en Saramacca and about 8% were from the interior (Brokopondo and Sipaliwini). (Table 1B)

Table 1B: Distribution by regions

Regions	Percent
Paramaribo	70.4
Wanica en Para	10.8
Nickerie, Coronie en Saramacca	7.8
Commewijne en Marowijne	3.1
Brokopondo en Sipaliwini	7.9
Total	100

3.1.2 Marital status

Table 1C: Marital Status

Marital Status	Percent
Married	27.8
Living together	24.9
Single	36.2
Divorced, Separated or Widowed	11.1
Total	100

Thirty-six percent of respondents were single while a quarter (25%) was living together and 28% was married. Eleven percent of respondents were divorced, separated or widowed (Table 1C).

3.1.3 Work status

Table 1D: Work Status

Work Status	Percent
Working/Self-employed	46.7
Working and studying	5.8
Unemployed	8.0
Not working, student	16.1
Housewife	15.4
Not working (retired, of independent means)	4.1
Not working (other, specify)	4.0
Total	100

Most respondents indicated that they were working or self-employed (46.7%). Six percent were working and studying; 16,1 % were students (not working); 15.4% were housewives and 8.1% were not working (retired, of independent means or other reasons). It therefore means that only 52.5% of respondents were working. (Table 1D)

3.1.4 Level of education

Table 1E: Level of Education Completed

Education Levels	Percent
Did not complete primary school	18.9
Completed primary education	11.7
Did not complete secondary school	24.9
Completed secondary school	15.7
Did not complete tertiary school	11.9
Completed tertiary school	10.1
Did not complete university education	3.6
Completed university education	3.1
Total	100

Respondents were asked to indicate the level of education they had completed. Most of the respondents had completed secondary school (15.7%) followed by primary level (11.7%). About 10% had completed tertiary level and a further 3% had completed university education.

About nineteen percent (18.9%) had not completed primary level; 24.9% had not completed secondary; 11.9% had not completed tertiary and 3.6% had not completed university. (Table 1E)

4. Perception of Risk

Respondents were asked their opinions about the level of risk posed by using various substances. The level of risk ranged from no risk, low risk, moderate risk and high risk. Respondents also had the option to indicate that they did not know the risk.

Table 2: Respondent's Perception of Risk

Q. In your opinion, please indicate the risk of ….	**Perception of Risk**				
	No risk	Low risk	Mod risk	High risk	Don't know
Smoking cigarettes often	1.7	2.3	8.1	80.3	7.7
Drinking alcoholic beverages often	1.7	2.0	7.9	81.8	6.6
Smoking marijuana sometimes	3.0	5.4	10.2	72.2	9.0
Smoking marijuana frequently	1.0	2.0	4.5	83.6	9.0
Using cocaine sometimes	0.4	0.6	2.7	87.7	8.6
Using cocaine frequently	0.1	0.1	0.6	90.5	8.7

4.1 Smoking Cigarettes often:

- 80.3% of respondents felt there was high risk or moderate risk (8.1%) from smoking cigarettes often. A small proportion (1.7%) felt there was no risk and a further 7.7% did not know the risk.

4.2 Drinking Alcoholic Beverages Often:

- 81.8% of respondents felt that drinking alcoholic beverages often incurred high risk and 7.9% felt it had moderate risk. A small proportion (1.7%) felt there was no risk, while 6.6% said they did not know of the risk.

4.3 Smoking Marijuana Sometimes:

- Seventy-two percent (72.2%) and 10.2% of respondents felt there was high risk and moderate risk respectively with smoking marijuana sometimes. Five percent felt there was slight risk and 3.0% no risk. However, 9.0% did not know the risk.

4.4 Smoking Marijuana Frequently:

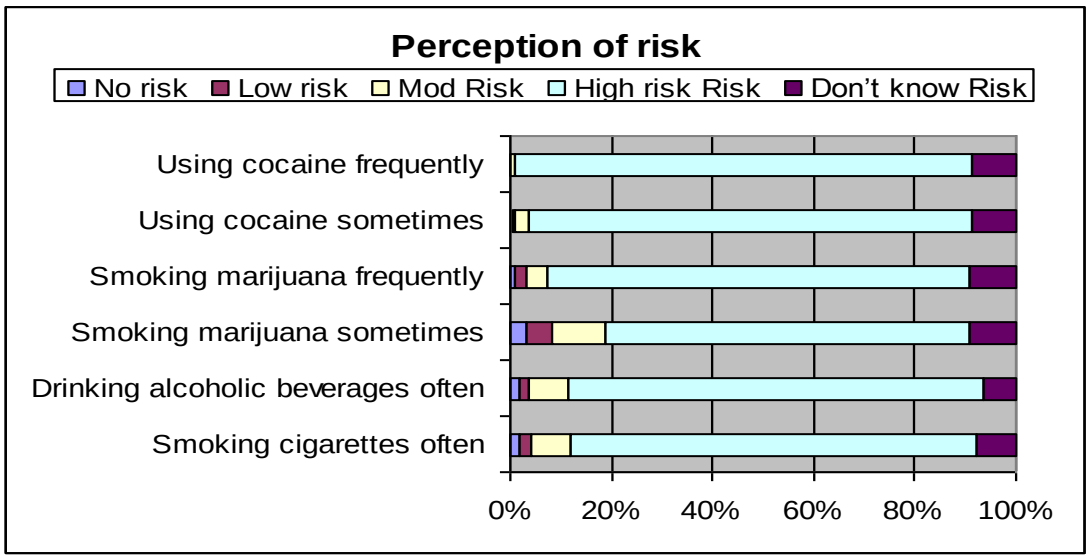
- Unlike smoking marijuana sometimes, 83.6% of respondents felt there was high risk related to smoking marijuana frequently. Only 4.5% felt there was moderate risk while 1.0% felt there was no risk. Nine percent did not know of the risk.

4.5 Using Cocaine Sometimes:

- A relatively high proportion of respondents felt there was high risk (87.7%) to using cocaine sometimes. A notable high proportion (8.6%) did not know of the risk. About 3% felt there were moderate risk and less then one percent (0.4%) felt there was no risk involved.

4.6 Using Cocaine frequently:

- Almost all respondents felt there was high risk (91%) to using cocaine frequently. Nine percent did not know of the risk.



5. Cigarette Prevalence

5.1 Age of First Use

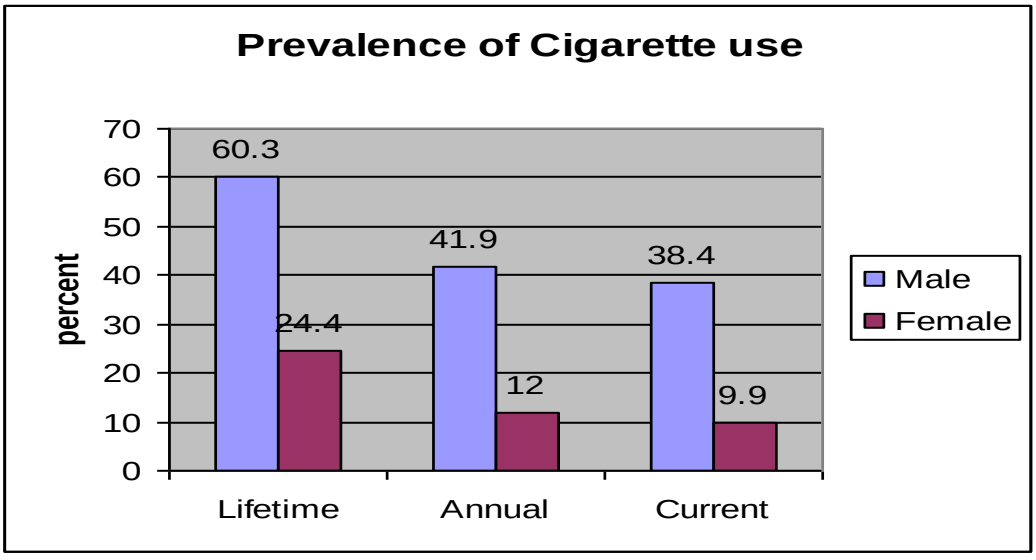
The mean age of first use of cigarettes overall was 17.7 years. The median age was 16 years

5.2 Prevalence of Cigarette Use

More than half of all males reported ever smoking (60.3%) compared to more than one-fifth of all females (24.4%). About three and a half times more males reported annual use compared to females (41.9% males vs. 12.0% females). In terms of recent use, four times more males reported this compared to females (38.4% males vs. 9.9% females). (Table 3A)

Table 3A: Cigarette Use

Prevalence	Male	Female
Lifetime	60.3	24.4
Annual	41.9	12.0
Current	38.4	9.9



5.3 Prevalence of Cigarette by age groups

Table 3B: Prevalence by age groups (1)

Age groups	Lifetime	Annual	Current
12 - 18	20.7	12.0	8.3
19 - 25	36.1	23.0	19.4
26 – 34	41.1	24.3	22.9
35 – 44	46.3	31.2	27.8
45 - 65	49.5	29.7	27.0

In terms of prevalence at the differing age groups, a higher proportion of cigarette use was reported by respondents of the age groups 35 – 44 and 45 – 65.

Table 3C: Prevalence by age groups (2)

Age groups	Lifetime	Annual	Current
15 - 34	35.7	21.6	18.5
35 - 64	48.4	30.5	27.4

At the second age groups tobacco use was higher among people between 35 – 64 years of age than among people between 15 – 34 years of age.

5.4 Current Smokers

Table 3D: Relationship of Current Smoking to Work and Marital Status

Work Status	Current smokers
Working/Self-employed	29.6
Working and studying	25.3
Unemployed	29.3
Not working, student	8.6
Housewife	11.7
Not working (retired, of independent means)	28.0
Not working (other, specify)	9.3
Marital Status	
Married	22.6
Living together	22.4
Single	18.6
Other (Divorced, Separated, Widowed)	29.0

5.5 Current Smokers and Marital Status

Most of the current smokers indicated that they were divorced, separated or widowed (29.0%); Twenty-two percent were living together and 23% was married. About 19% was single.

5.6 Current Smokers and Work Status

Fifty-five percent of current smoker were working (29.6% working/self employed and 25.3% working/student). The remaining 45% were not working

6. Alcohol Prevalence

6.1 Age of First Use

The mean age of first use of alcohol overall was 18.6 years. The median age was 18 years.

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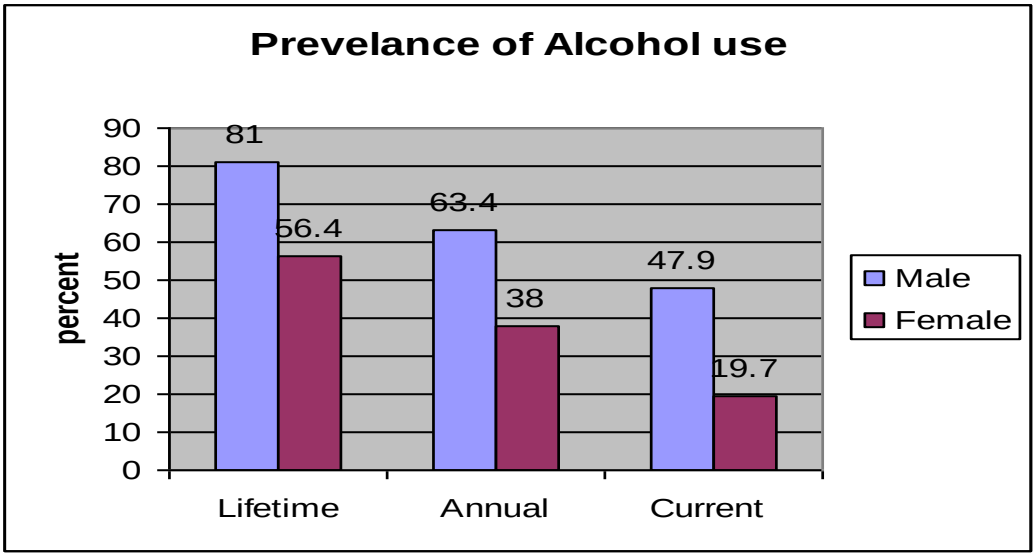
Table 4A: Alcohol Use

	Male	Female
Prevalence		
Lifetime	81.0	56.4
Annual	63.4	38.0
Current	47.9	19.7

6.2 Prevalence of Alcohol Use

Just about eight of every ten male respondents (81.0%) reported that they had an alcoholic beverage at some time in their life. More males reported annual use compared to females (64.4% males vs. 38.0% females). Less that half the proportions of females compared to males were currently consuming alcoholic beverages (47.9% of males vs. 19.7% of females). (Table 4A)



6.3 Prevalence of Alcohol by age groups

Table 4B: Prevalence by age groups (1)

Age groups	Lifetime	Annual	Current
12 - 18	51.1	34.1	14.7
19 - 25	67.0	48.3	36.3
26 – 34	74.6	57.3	36.8
35 – 44	69.7	50.9	34.4
45 - 65	69.2	50.1	33.1

In terms of prevalence at the differing age groups, a higher proportion of alcohol use was reported by respondents of the age group 26 – 34.

Table 4C: Prevalence by age groups (2)

Age groups	Lifetime	Annual	Current
15 - 34	67.3	49.0	31.4
35 - 64	69.6	50.6	33.9

At the second age groups about equal proportions of people of alcohol use were reported.

6.4 Current Drinkers

Table 4D: Relationship of Current Drinking to Work and Marital Status

Work Status	**Current drinkers**
Working/Self-employed	40.9
Working and studying	40.3
Unemployed	32.7
Not working, student	19.4
Housewife	17.1
Not working (retired, of independent means)	35.8
Not working (other, specify)	22.1
Marital Status	
Married	31.9
Living together	35.9
Single	26.8
Other (Divorced, Separated, Widowed)	37.4

6.5 Current Drinkers and Marital Status

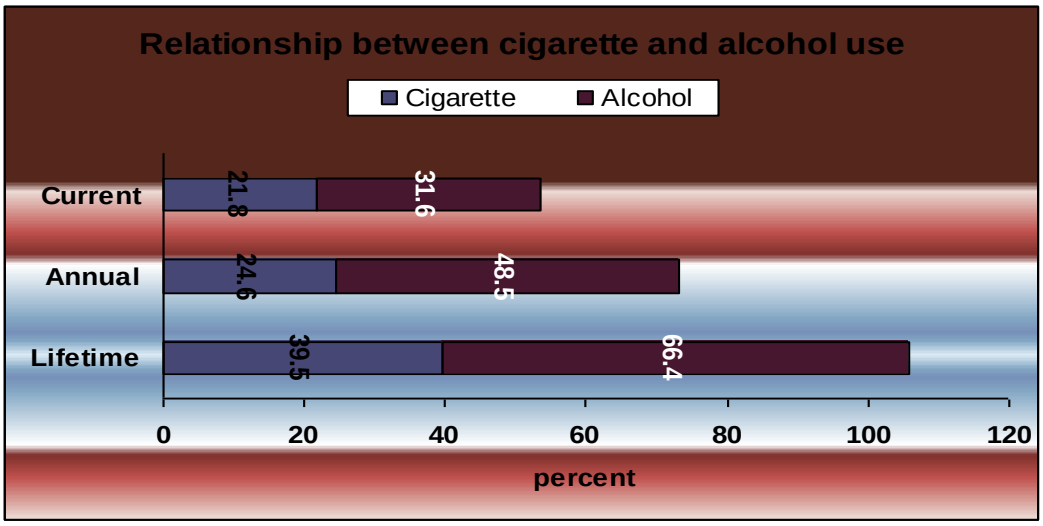
One third (32.0%) of current drinkers were married and a little more than one quarter (26.8%) were single. About 36% were living together and the other 37% were divorced, separated or widowed.

6.6 Current Drinkers and Work Status

Eighty percent of respondents were working (40.9% working/self employed and 40.3% working/student).

6.7 Relationship between Cigarette and Alcohol use

There was a strong relationship between the prevalence of cigarette and alcohol use. Respondents with the highest levels of alcohol use also had the highest levels of cigarette use.



7. Access to Drugs

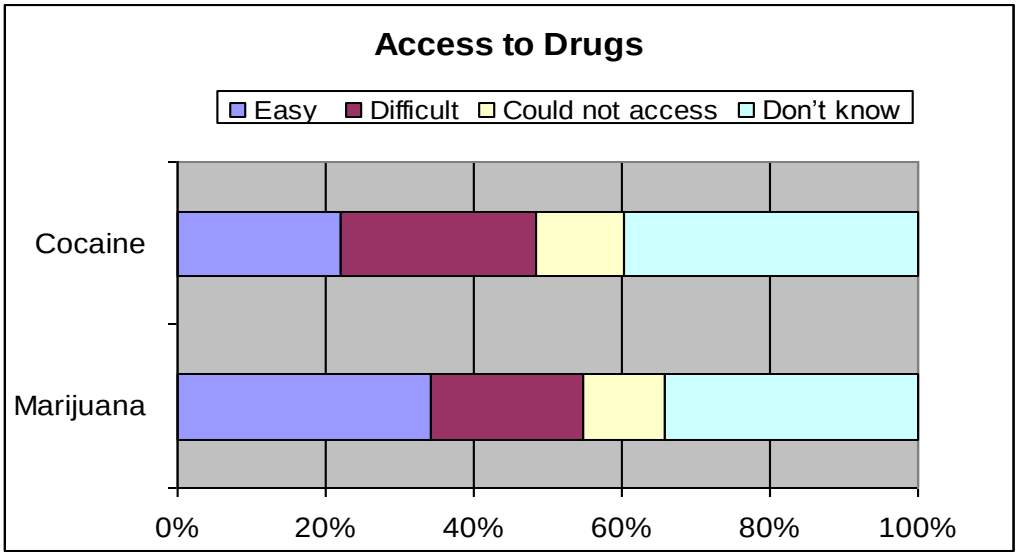
Respondents were questioned on the degree of difficulty in obtaining drugs.
The following responses were given:

7.1 Marijuana – Thirty-four percent of all respondents felt it was easy to obtain marijuana while 31.6% said it was either difficult (20.7%) or they could not have access (10.9%). Some 34% did not know what it would be like to access it.

Table 5A: Access to Drugs

Drugs	Easy	Difficult	Could not access	Don't know
Marijuana	34.1	20.7	10.9	34.2
Cocaine	22.0	26.5	11.8	39.7

7.2 Cocaine - Compared to marijuana, significantly fewer respondents (22%) felt it would be easy to obtain cocaine. About 26.5% felt it would be difficult, 11.8% could not have access to it and almost 40% of all respondents did not know how easy it would be to access.



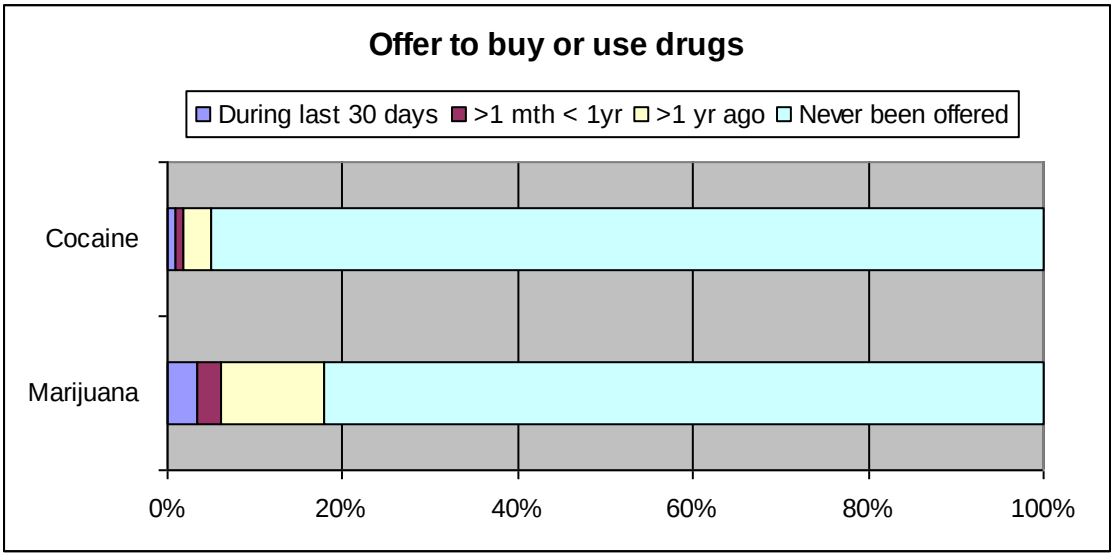
8. Drugs offered

Most respondents indicated that they had never been offered marijuana (82%) or cocaine (95%).

Table 5B: Last Time Drugs offered (to buy or to use)

	During last 30 days	>1 mth < 1yr	>1 yr ago	Never been offered
Marijuana	3.4	2.6	11.8	82.2
Cocaine	1.0	0.8	3.1	95.2

Some 3.4% of respondents had been offered marijuana in the past 30 days. Cocaine was offered to 3.1% of respondents more than a year ago; marijuana was offered to 11.8% of respondents more than a year ago.



9. Illicit drug Prevalence

9.1 Marijuana

The mean age of first use of marijuana overall was 18.2 years. The median age was 17 years.

Table 6A: Marijuana Prevalence by Characteristic Sub-groups

	Lifetime	Annual	Current
Gender			
Male	18.7	7.3	6.3
Female	2.6	1.2	0.8
Age			
12 – 18	4.7	3.2	2.1
19 – 25	13.9	6.7	6.1
26 – 34	11.8	5.4	4.4
35 – 44	9.9	3.2	3.2
45 – 65	7.6	1.7	1.2
Marital Status			
Married	7.3	1.1	1.1
Living together	8.9	4.4	3.8
Single	10.4	4.8	3.7
Other (Divorced , Separated ,Widowed)	13.0	6.4	5.7
Education			
Did not complete primary school	9.7	4.7	3.2
Completed primary education	9.4	4.9	4.8

Did not complete secondary school	9.9	5.0	4.7
Completed secondary school	9.2	3.2	1.8
Did not complete tertiary school	10.6	3.4	2.8
Completed tertiary school	6.2	0.2	0.2
Did not complete university education	6.1	3.1	3.0
Completed university education	12.7	0.2	-
Work Status			
Working/Self-employed	13.8	5.2	4.4
Working and studying	9.6	4.3	3.6
Unemployed	11.1	5.0	5.0
Not working, student	5.3	2.6	2.4
Housewife	2.9	1.6	0.5
Not working (retired)	1.9	0.7	0.7
Not working (other, specify)	9.0	3.1	3.1

9.1.1 Gender and Age

Males reported significantly higher proportion of lifetime (six times more – 18.7% vs. 2.6%), annual (six times more – 7.3% vs. 1.2%) and recent use (eight times more - 6.3% vs. 0.8%). Respondents in the 19-25 and 26-34 yrs age group reported higher lifetime, annual and current prevalence than other age groups.

9.1.2 Marital Status

Respondents who were divorced, separated or widowed reported the highest prevalence overall (lifetime (13.0%), annual (6.4%) and current (5.7%). Single respondents and those living together also reported high prevalence of current use (3.7% and 3.8% respectively).

9.1.3 Education

Lifetime and annual prevalence was highest among those respondents who had completed university education (12.7%), did not completed tertiary school (10.6) and did not completed secondary school (5.0%). Current use prevalence however was highest among respondents who completed primary school (4.8%) and did not complete secondary school (4.7%).

9.2 Cocaine

The mean age of first use of cocaine overall was 20.2 years. The median age was 21 years.

Table 6B: Cocaine Prevalence by Gender and Age groups

	Lifetime	Annual	Current
Gender			
Male	1.6	0.6	0.5
Female	0.4	0.1	0.1
Age groups			
12 – 18	0.6	0.0	0.0
19 – 25	1.0	0.6	0.5
26 – 34	1.4	0.1	0.1
35 – 44	1.3	0.8	0.6
45 – 65	0.5	0.1	0.1

9.2.1 Gender and Age

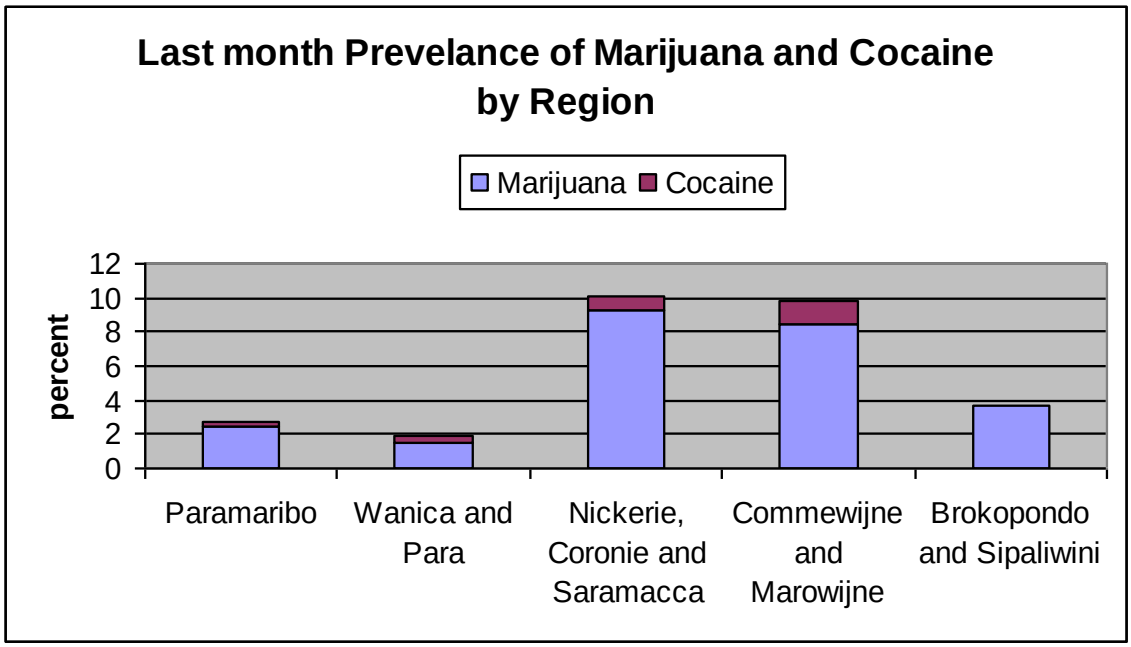
Males reported significantly higher prevalence of cocaine use then females. Respondents in the 35-44 yrs age group reported higher lifetime, annual and current prevalence than other age groups.

9.2.2 Last month Prevalence of Marijuana and Cocaine by Region

Table 6C: Marijuana and Cocaine Prevalence by Region

	Last month Prevalence	
Region	**Marijuana**	**Cocaine**
Paramaribo	2.4	0.3
Wanica and Para	1.5	0.4
Nickerie, Coronie and Saramacca	9.3	0.8
Commewijne and Marowijne	8.5	1.3
Brokopondo and Sipaliwini	3.7	0.0

Nickerie, Coronie and Saramacca are the regions with the highest prevalence of marijuana use (9.3%) followed by Commewijne and Marowijne (8.5%) and the Interior (Brokopondo and Sipaliwini) (3.7%). Current Cocaine users are more prevalent in Commewijne and Marowijne (1.3%) followed by Nickerie, Coronie and Saramacca. (0.8%)



9.3 Tranquilizers

Table 6D: Tranquilizers Prevalence by Gender and Age groups

	Lifetime	Annual	Current
	9.0	4.5	2.8
Gender			
Male	8.5	3.8	2.7
Female	9.2	4.9	2.8
Age groups			
12 - 18	5.9	2.9	1.5
19 - 25	15.7	8.2	6.0
26 – 34	6.7	4.0	1.5
35 – 44	10.0	5.8	3.5
45 - 65	7.6	3.0	2.4

9.3.1 Gender and Age

Nine percent of respondents reported using tranquilizers once in their life and there was no difference in current use of tranquilizers by gender.

Respondents in the 19-25 yrs age group reported higher lifetime, annual and current prevalence than other age groups.

9.4 Stimulants

Table 6E: Stimulants Prevalence by Gender and Age groups

	Lifetime	Annual	Current
	2.9	0.7	0.5
Gender			
Male	2.9	1.1	0.7
Female	2.9	0.5	0.4
Age groups			
12 - 18	1.8	1.0	0.7
19 - 25	4.8	1.6	1.3
26 – 34	3.3	0.9	0.4
35 – 44	2.5	0.4	0.1
45 - 65	1.8	0.2	0.2

9.4.1 Gender and Age

About three percent of respondents reported using stimulants once in their life and there was no difference in lifetime and current use of stimulants by gender.

Respondents in the 19-25 yrs age group reported higher lifetime, annual and current prevalence than other age groups.

9.5 Other illicit drugs

Table 6F: Prevalence of other illicit drugs

Substances	Lifetime	Annual	Current
Solvents and inhalants	4.3	2.6	1.6
Cocaine	0.9	0.3	0.2
Blaka Jonko	1.4	0.7	0.4
Hashish	2.1	-	-
Ecstasy	0.1	-	-

9.5.1 Lifetime Prevalence

In the case of solvents and inhalants, 4.3% of respondents reported using it at least once in their lifetime. Blaka Jonko use was reported by 1.4% of respondents, cocaine by 0.9%; hashish by 2.1%; and ecstasy by 0.1% of respondents.

9.5.2 Annual Prevalence

Solvents and inhalants use in the 12 months prior to the survey was reported by 2.6% and blaka jonko by 0.7%.

10. Incidence of drug use

Table 7A: Incidence of Drug Use

Substances	Incidence	
	One-year	One-month
Cigarette	5.2	2.5
Alcohol beverages	15.8	9.3
Tranquilizers	1.3	0.8
Stimulants	0.5	0.3

The one-year incidence rate for alcohol and cigarette was 15.8% and 5.2%. Other one-year incidence ranged from zero to 1.5%. The one-month incidence for alcohol was 9.3% and for cigarette 2.5%.

11. Discussions

- Tobacco and alcohol accounted for the highest consumption levels. The age at which people began using tobacco was about 18 years and tobacco use was higher among people between 35 and 64 years of age than among people between 15 and 34 years of age. In terms of tobacco consumption, lifetime prevalence was notably higher for males than females (60.3% of males and 24.4% of females). Current use of cigarettes among males was substantially higher (38.4%) compared to only 9.9% among females.

- Current tobacco use varied from region to region. In Paramaribo, Commewijne and Marowijne, about 23% of the population reported using tobacco; that number was about 28% in Nickerie, Coronie and Saramacca; 17% in Wanica and Para, and around 13% in Brokopondo and Sipaliwini. (Interior).

- The mean age at which people began consuming alcohol was about 19 years and alcohol use was about the same among people between 35 and 64 years of age and 15 and 34 years of age. Lifetime alcohol prevalence among males was higher than among females and current use prevalence among males was 47.9% and females 19.7%. With regard to alcohol prevalence by Region, in Paramaribo 33% reported current users and there was quite a bit of similarity between the other regions with an average percentage of around 28%.

- With regard to illicit drugs, marijuana was the most used drug primarily among young people. The highest levels of last year prevalence were observed in Nickerie, Coronie, Saramacca, Commewijne and Marowijne (about 10%); Men used marijuana more than women, and users were primarily concentrated in the age group between 15 – 34 years. The mean age of first use was about 18 years.

- The perception of the population in terms of the ease in obtaining certain drugs was relatively high: 34% of the respondents believed it was easy to obtain marijuana and 22% cocaine. Responses to the question of whether they were offered drugs (either to buy or to use), 82 of respondents indicated that they had never been offered marijuana and 95% cocaine.

- Little alcohol (9.3%) and cigarette (2.5%) use was initiated in the period 30 days before the survey.

12. Conclusions

- With regard to the legal drugs included in this report, tobacco and alcohol were the most commonly used among the adult population of Suriname.

- There was a strong relationship between the prevalence of cigarette and alcohol use. Respondents with the highest levels of alcohol use also had the highest levels of cigarette use.

- An important link between illegal drug use and the perception of ease of access to those drugs also emerged from the study. The reported high consumption of marijuana and cocaine also exhibited that these drugs were easily accessible.

- With regard to prevalence of illicit drugs, marijuana was the most used drug followed by solvents and inhalants, and blaka jonko. . Less than one percent of respondents reported using cocaine and about two percent (2.1%) reported using hashish.

- There were pronounced differences between men and women in rates of alcohol, cigarette, and marijuana use. Males generally reported higher current use rates than women. For alcoholic beverages there were 47.9% of males vs. 19.7% of females. For smoking cigarettes there were 38.4% males vs. 9.9% females. While 6.3% men used marijuana, less than one percent women reported using it.

- In terms of prevalence at the differing age groups, a higher proportion of alcohol use was reported by respondents of the age group 26 – 34.
  More of the young adults (age 19 to 25), smoked marijuana and the older group (35 – 44 yrs) used cocaine.

- Nickerie, Coronie and Saramamacca are the regions with the highest prevalence of marijuana use (9.3%) followed by Commewijne and Marowijne (8.5%) and the Interior (Brokopondo and Sipaliwini) (3.7%). Current Cocaine users are more prevalent in Commewijne and Marowijne (1.3%) followed by Nickerie, Coronie and Saramamacca. (0.8%)