NATIONALE ANTI-DRUGS RAAD

N A R

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ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

IN SURINAME

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES

INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION

INTER-AMERICAN UNIFORM DRUG USE DATA SYSTEM
SIDUC/CICAD

cicad

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INTRODUCTION

The abuse of licit and illicit substances is a global problem that is influenced by a wide variety of factors that span social, economic, political and psychosocial arenas. The multiplicity of factors associated with drug abuse and their inter-relatedness makes the problem a complex one. The escalation of drug abuse over the last three to four decades, particularly among adolescents and young people, has created major public health problems and challenges. The development and delivery of effective and appropriate interventions in countries experiencing drug abuse problems are very much dependent on an understanding of patterns of drug use and their relationships to health and social problems.

The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), an entity of the OAS Organization of American States (OAS), has developed a comparable questionnaire to be used in surveys of high/secondary school students on a regular basis. Repetition of the survey every two years will also enable trends and patterns to be studied and compared nationally, regionally and hemispherically.

The aim of the present study is to estimate the prevalence of drug consumption in high schools in Suriname. CICAD has developed a system, the Inter-American Uniform Drug Use Data System (SIDUC), to improve the collection of comparable statistical information on the consumption of psychoactive substances. For the school surveys, a representative sample of the school population is drawn to complete SIDUCs standardized comparable questionnaire. The study targets the 2nd and 4th grade classes of the junior high schools and the second year of the senior high schools (public and private) in Suriname. In general, age range of the students is 13 -17 years.

The results of the survey will

(1) assist the government in the development of appropriate policies to effectively address the problems of drugs in schools.
(2) be used for the planning of educational drug prevention programmes within the national secondary school curriculum.
(3) be a valuable tool for the national drug councils in the creation of appropriate school based counselling and treatment programs.

The students were given the assurance that their completed questionnaire will not be shown to any of their teachers nor will any information on their attitude towards the questionnaire be revealed.
Also, in keeping with the principle of confidentiality, no student was allowed to obtain information, by any means, from another in the process of the completion of the questionnaire. Since no names were required on the questionnaire, responses cannot be linked to any particular individual. The information collected will be kept strictly confidential and neither the name of the school nor the class will be disclosed. The information collected was used solely in the preparation of tables and charts showing totals, not individuals' information.

This Report is the result of the second secondary school survey conducted in 2004, a repeat of the first survey in 2002.

The National Anti-Drug Council takes this opportunity to thank the OAS Office Paramaribo for the administrative support and guidance for this survey.
The hope is expressed that the findings of this survey will contribute in many ways to a better approach of the problem of abuse of psychoactive substances and that it will permit regional comparison within the OAS states of this common threat to society.

SUMMARY

The Secondary School Survey was implemented in the period November – December 2004 in the second and fourth grade classes of the junior secondary schools and the second year of the senior high schools in Suriname. A sample of schools and classes to be surveyed was drawn by the CICAD and submitted to the national coordinating committee, in charge of the implementation of the survey. The data acquired via the self-administered questionnaires was analyzed using statistical computer software and some of the results are summarized below:

1. Prevalence

Lifetime prevalence: 74.3% of students have used alcohol in their lifetime, 35.4% of the students have smoked cigarettes, and 8.8% have used Tranquillizers. 8% have used an illegal substance at some point in their lives.
One-year prevalence: show the same order for these substances
One-month prevalence: 47.6% of the students reported that they have used alcohol in the past month

2. Information

- The majority of the students, around 50%, in both the 2nd and the 4th grade, are well informed about the consequences of drugs (tobacco, alcoholic drinks, marijuana, cocaine, etc.)
- More than half of the students say that they have not taken any drug prevention courses.
- Those who had taken drug prevention courses said these were very useful or useful for them (70%). About 10% say that these courses were not useful to them, in total and among the 2nd and 4th grade students.
- For the majority of the students, (around two thirds) these courses did not change their attitude about drugs.

3. Perception of drugs

- 70% of the students say that smoking cigarettes is very harmful.
- Around two thirds (65%) of the students say that frequently drinking alcohol is very harmful..
- About 35% of the students say that sometimes taking tranquilizers is very harmful.
- About 56% of the students say that sometimes inhaling solvents is very harmful.
- About 60% of the students say that sometimes smoking marijuana is very harmful.
- Around 63% of the students say that they have no friends who occasionally drink too much alcohol.
- Around one third of the students they say they have some friends who occasionally drink too much alcohol.
- Around 82% of the students don't have friends who use illicit drugs. Around 15% say they have some friends who use illicit drugs.
- About 50% of the students say that it is very difficult to obtain illicit drugs. About 17% say that it is easy, while about 20% say that it is very easy to obtain illicit drugs.

- Around 88% of the students say that they never had the chance to try an illicit drug. Around 6% had the chance once and around 5.5% had the chance several times to try an illicit drug.
- Around 89% of the students have never been curious about trying an illicit drug. Around 6 % says that maybe they have been curious about trying an illicit drug, while about 5% says that they have indeed been curious about trying an illicit drug.
- 91% of the students say that they would not try an illicit drug if they had the chance. Around 7% says “maybe” and around 2 percent says that they would indeed try an illicit drug if they had the chance.

Methodology[*]

Survey of Secondary School Students

Surveys of middle school students, as well as higher education and household surveys, have been undertaken in some countries at varying intervals. However, the methodology used in these studies tends to vary substantially and, therefore; the information obtained cannot be compared. SIDUC therefore proposes to introduce certain specific elements that allow comparison of these data between countries, without altering the processes that tend to provide information regarding the specific questions of interest to individual countries.

These are complex surveys carried out by a multidisciplinary team, usually set up specifically for the purpose, since they cannot be done solely through the SIDUC National Coordinator. However, participation of the latter in key phases of the development of national surveys is considered to be important to ensure a minimum number of elements compatible with standardized SIDUC elements, in particular those related to the basic characteristics of the sample, the standardized portion of the questionnaire and the output tables needed by SIDUC.

1.1. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SURVEY

Stated as succinctly as possible, the core information needed by SIDUC is the ratio of students who consume psychoactive substances (PAS) to the total student population taken into account: *consumer students/total students*, as well as a certain number of basic characteristics of their patterns of consumption.

This survey addresses a group that is essential for prevention, since consumption of psychoactive substances tends to begin when the minor is immersed in the secondary school educational process. Psychologically, this age represents adolescence, i.e., the end of childhood, and the building up of adult personality structures, in a process which is sometimes difficult and unstable, and where the availability of prevention consultants can play an important part in helping to forge balanced personalities and avoid psychopathological options. Therefore, we need greater insight into this group's problems and we need to monitor its behavior over time.

This approach insists on the importance of linking research to prevention. It involves being aware, on the one hand, of the magnitude of the problem of psychoactive substance consumption among minors and its characteristics, and, on the other hand, acquiring more in-depth knowledge of the underlying causes of risk and consumption in this group.

This path leads to a different scheme from that of classical epidemiology. We are no longer solely interested in describing the quantitative manifestations of this phenomenon by highlighting a certain number of "dependent variables", but also in building and testing a certain number of hypotheses regarding their underlying causes, the "independent variables." In this process, we aim to contribute to prevention by defining the "risk and protection factors" prevalent in this group.

To summarize, in its descriptive portion, this survey seeks to ascertain, among other statistical data, the prevalence of psychoactive substance consumption in the student population, i.e.: number of students consuming PAS / total number of students.

[*] Adapted from the chapter on the Survey Secondary School Surveys in the OAS/CICAD Manual for SIDUC

1.2 POPULATION SURVEYED

For SIDUC, and for a series of reasons, the universe examined includes middle school students in the second, fourth, and sixth grades. This general rule should be adapted to each country, but these grades tend to include students of 13, 15, and 17 years of age, respectively. This definition means that the information SIDUC wishes to receive from countries should refer to this population segment. Any information related to another definition of the student population, as for example to students of the first cycle of secondary schooling, or primary school students, is considered important. However, it cannot be compared with the data obtained using other designs. Therefore, at the SIDUC level, the information must refer to this population, i.e., to the students in the selected grades.

1.3 SAMPLE

The first aspect to be standardized is the sample. It is not easy, however, to propose a certain type of sample to several countries since it depends on different national situations. But these differences are resolved using SIDUC's "minimum in common" principle.

Considering the differences in the situation of countries and the need for comparable data, SIDUC proposes different sample designs with three levels of coverage.
Thus, in order to construct an indicator of the level of consumption among students that is comparable over time and among the different national environments, SIDUC considers that, as a minimum, it must obtain information representative of the metropolitan area of the capital of the country and, if possible, also of cities of more than 30,000 inhabitants. In this way comparisons may be made between capitals and also between countries.

This approach does not exclude the possibility of expanding representativeness to other domains, as for example to students of all levels of the secondary or primary cycle, or to include rural areas. However, in view of the differences among the theoretical frameworks of the professional teams and the financial resources available, SIDUC deems it reasonable to establish this definition as a "minimum in common."

1.4 SAMPLE DESIGN

In this type of study, sample design and calculation are undertaken by specialized statisticians who design and select the sample on the basis of the population defined, expected results and existing sample frames. Because of this, technical details on this subject are not included here but rather only the essential characteristics of the samples needed to make results comparable.

The ultimate sampling unit must be the class, since all students of the classes selected must be included in the sample.

The sample must be representative of the capital and the country (cities of more than 30,000 inhabitants) and for each of the three grades selected. The underlying assumption is that even if there are differences in educational structures, each country could identify these grades. This proposal minimizes costs and is not incompatible with a sample with greater specification or more widely representative domains.

1.5 DATA COLLECTION METHOD

Data gathering must be undertaken by means of a pre-coded and self-applied questionnaire, allowing the responses to remain anonymous. In this case there is not even an interviewer who can identify the respondent. According to the characteristics of the sample, the questionnaire is applied to all students present in the classrooms chosen.

This type of study requires major logistical support: a national coordinator, regional coordinators, group supervisors, and surveyors. Various different training events bring these professionals together to identify schools and classes selected in the sample, questionnaire management, control systems, and the relationship with the school, its authorities, teachers, and students at the time the questionnaire is applied. The director of the survey usually drafts the relevant manuals or specific instructions in order to provide guidance to the staff involved.

1.6 THE QUESTIONNAIRE

In order to achieve coherent results for SIDUC, apart from standardizing the general characteristics of the sample, the questionnaire itself must be standardized to allow a country to compare its existing circumstances with circumstances in other countries. However, to apply a single questionnaire to several measures and countries would diminish the chances of gradually extending our knowledge of the factors associated with consumption. Thus, the survey questionnaire must have two sides to it:

a. Certain of its variables should be measured in a strictly comparable manner and be maintained over time. These variables basically describe consumption of PAS, its prevalence and characteristics (consumption patterns).

b. Other variables may be introduced and modified according to the country's concerns. Those are the variables that could be associated with or explicative of consumption.

The questionnaire for this survey is organized according to the following sections:

1. Basic socio-demographic data
2. Types of problems encountered in these studies
3. Opinion on risk associated with consumption of legal and illegal substances.
4. Relationship of friends to legal and illegal substances
5. Prevalence of cigarette and alcohol consumption and pattern of consumption (frequency, starting age)
6. Prevalence of psychotropic medication consumption and pattern of consumption (frequency, starting age)
7. Prevalence of drug consumption and patterns of consumption (frequency, starting age)
8. Level of information and exposure to prevention programs

1.7 DATA ANALYSIS

The, data was entered from the completed questionnaires using Microsoft Excel and the data was exported to the statistical package SPSS for processing by CICAD.

FINDINGS

1. General

This report is based on the tables generated after data processing by OAS/CICAD. Following is an overview of the schools surveyed in the districts (table 1.1.).

Table 1.1. Overview of schools surveyed	
District	**Number of schools**
Paramaribo	26
Wanica	9
Nickerie	7
Commewijne	3
Para	1
Saramacca	2
Marowijne	2
Brokopondo	1
Total	51

A total of 3,569 students responded to the questionnaire, of which 2,223 were from the second grade and 1,346 were from the fourth grade of the schools. A total 3,476 students participated in the survey, of whom 1942 females, 1485 males and 142 with inadequate data for analysis.

1.1. Prevalence

Table 1.2 gives an overview of
(a) the lifetime prevalence
(b) one-year prevalence and
(c) one-month prevalence of the substances used.

Looking at the lifetime prevalence, we see that 74.3% of students have used alcohol in their lifetime, 35.4% of the students have smoked cigarettes, and 8.8% have used Tranquillizers in their lifetime. 8% have used an illegal substance in their lifetime.

The figures for one-year prevalence show the same order for these substances. 50.9% of the students reported that they used alcohol during the 12 months prior to the survey. The corresponding rates for cigarettes, tranquilizers and illegal drugs are 15.4%, 5.7%, and 4.5% respectively.

Looking at the one-month prevalence we see that 47.6% of the students have used alcohol and 10% of the students have smoked cigarettes in the last 30 days

Marijuana and solvents and inhalants are the other drugs of concern.

Table 1.2. Prevalence of substances used						
	Lifetime prevalence		One-year prevalence		One-month prevalence	
Substance	%	N	%	N	%	N
Cigarettes	**35.4**	**3,421**	**15.4**	**3,374**	**10**	**3,367**
Alcohol	74.3	3,476	50.9	3,327	47.6	3,325
Tranquillizers	8.8	3,452	5.7	3,445	3.3	3,441
Stimulants	1.6	3,433	1.1	3,433	0.7	3,433
Solvents & Inhalants	3.9	3,410	2	3,405	0.9	3,395
Marijuana	4.3	3,410	2.5	3,404	1.1	3,393
Hashish	1.1	3,410	0.9	3,409	0.4	3,404
Hallucinogens	0.4	3,410	0.2	3,409	0.1	3,408
Heroin	0.3	3,410	0.2	3,409	0.1	3,407
Opium	0.3	3,410	0.2	3,410	0.1	3,410
Morphine	0.1	3,410	0.1	3,410	0	3,410
Cocaine HCL	0.3	3,410	0.1	3,409	0.1	3,408
Coca Pasta	0.2	3,410	0.1	3,408	0	3,407
Crack	0.3	3,410	0.2	3,409	0.1	3,407
Ecstacy	0.5	3,410	0.2	3,407	0.1	3,407
Methamphetamines	0.1	3,410	0.1	3,410	0.1	3,408
Other drugs	0	3,410	0	3,410	0	3,410
Any Illegal Drug	8	3,569	4.5	3,569	2.1	3,569

N = Total number of students responding to this question

Table 1.3 looks at the prevalence for “any illegal drug” by gender. It shows that the male students in general have higher prevalence of use than females. Females have lower one year and one month prevalence than males. A significant part of the completed questions on “any drug” were missing relevant data, in order to draw hard conclusions.

Table 1.3. Prevalence of use of any illegal drug among students, by gender			
Gender	Life time	One year	One month
Females	4.6	2.2	0.8
Males	12.4	7.6	3.8
Total	8.0	4.5	2.1

Table 1.4 distinguishes use of “any illegal drug” by age groups. It shows that prevalence in the group of 15 – 16 years and the group of 17 – 18 years doubles that of the 12 – 14 year age group at all 3 stages of prevalence.

Table 1.4. Prevalence of use of any illegal drug among students, by age group			
	Total		
Age Group	Lifetime	One-year	One month
12 - 14 yr	4.7	2.4	1.1
15 - 16 yr	9.0	4.8	2.3
17 - 18 yr	8.0	5.0	2.3
19 or older	10.6	6.2	2.9
No data	7.4	3.7	1.2
Total	8.0	4.5	2.1

Table 1.5 shows the prevalence of “any illegal drug” use related to the number of times that the students had behavioral or discipline problems, or otherwise. The prevalence is higher with the times they had behavioral or discipline problems.

Table 1.5. Prevalence of use of any illegal drug among students, by behavior			
Behavioral or discipline problem	**Lifetime**	**One year**	**One month**
Never	5.3	2.5	1.0
Once	13.2	7.6	4.1
Several times	25.8	20.3	9.3
No data	9.9	7.0	5.6
Total	8.0	4.5	2.1

Table 1.6 looks at the prevalence of drug use in relation to the information that the students have on the consequences of drugs. These results show that the relationship between knowledge of the consequences of drugs and drug use is unclear. Looking at the one-month prevalence, we see that those who are well informed score lowest in their use of drugs.

Table 1.6. Prevalence of abuse of any illegal drug among students and information on drugs			
Do you feel you know enough about the consequences of drugs?	**Lifetime prevalence**	**One-year prevalence**	**One-month prevalence**
Uninformed	8.3	3.7	2.4
Poorly informed	6.9	4.3	2.5
Well informed	9.0	5.2	1.8
Total	8.0	4.5	2.1

Table 1.7 shows a positive relationship between the access to drugs and the lifetime, one-year and one-month prevalence of abuse of any illegal drug. The easier it is to obtain illicit drugs, the higher the prevalence.

Table 1.7. Prevalence of abuse of any illegal drug among students and access to drugs			
How easy is it to obtain illicit drugs?	**Lifetime prevalence**	**One-year prevalence**	**One-month prevalence**
Very difficult	5.1	2.5	1.1
Difficult	6.4	4.0	2.1
Easy	10.8	6.4	3.2
Very easy	15.3	9.6	4.5
No data	5.4	2.5	1.0
Total	8.0	4.5	2.1

1.2. Information

Table 1.8 shows that 47.9%, in both the 2nd and the 4th grade, are well informed about the consequences of drugs (tobacco, alcoholic drinks, marijuana, cocaine, etc.).

Table 1.8. Do you feel you know enough about the consequences of drugs (tobacco, alcoholic drinks, marijuana, cocaine, etc.)?					
All Grades	**%**	**2nd grade**	**%**	**4th grade**	**%**
Not informed	17.9	Not informed	21	Not informed	12.9
Slightly informed	34.1	Slightly informed	33.5	Slightly informed	35.1
Well informed	47.9	Well informed	45.5	Well informed	52
Total	100	Total	100	Total	100

Table 1.9 shows that more than half of the students say that they have not taken any drug prevention course.

Table 1.9. Have you taken drug prevention courses?					
All Grades	**%**	**2nd grade**	**%**	**4th grade**	**%**
I have not taken	57.9	I have not taken	61.2	I have not taken	52.3
Once	16.9	Once	16.5	Once	17.7
Sometimes	25.2	Sometimes	22.2	Sometimes	30.1
Total	100	Total	100	Total	100

1.3. Perception of drugs

Asked about their friends, around 63% of the students say that they have no friends who occasionally drink too much alcohol. Around one third of the students they say they have some friends who occasionally drink too much alcohol (Table 1.10).

Table 1.10. Friends who occasionally drink too much alcohol					
All Grades	**%**	**2nd grade**	**%**	**4th grade**	**%**
None	62.7	None	63.5	None	61.3
One	4.4	One	5	One	3.4
Some	32.9	Some	31.4	Some	35.3
Total	100	Total	100	Total	100

Table 1.11 shows that around 82% of the students don't have friends who use illicit drugs. Around 15% say they have some friends who use illicit drugs.

Table 1.11. Friends who use illicit drugs					
All Grades		**2nd grade**		**4th grade**	
None	82.5	None	82.5	None	82.4
One	3	One	3.2	One	2.5
Some	14.6	Some	14.3	Some	15.1
Total	100	Total	100	Total	100

Table 1.12 shows that about 50% of the students say that it is very difficult to obtain illicit drugs. About 18% say that it is easy, while about 20% say that it is very easy to obtain illicit drugs.

Table 1.12. How easy is it to obtain illicit drugs?					
All Grades		**2nd grade**		**4th grade**	
Very difficult	49.8	Very difficult	51	Very difficult	47.9
Difficult	11.9	Difficult	12.5	Difficult	11
Easy	17.8	Easy	17.1	Easy	19
Very easy	20.5	Very easy	19.5	Very easy	22.2
Total	100	Total	100	Total	100

According to table 1.13 around 88% of the students say that they never had the chance to try an illicit drug. Around 6% had the chance once and around 5.5% had the chance several times to try an illicit drug.

Table 1.13. Have you ever had the chance to try an illicit drug?					
Total		**2nd grade**		**4th grade**	
Never	88.4	Never	89.2	Never	87
Once	6	Once	5.3	Once	7.3
Several times	5.6	Several times	5.5	Several times	5.7
Total	100	Total	100	Total	100

Table 1.14 shows that around 89% of the students have never been curious about trying an illicit drug. Around 6 % says that maybe they have been curious about trying an illicit drug, while about 5% says that they have indeed been curious about trying an illicit drug.

Table 1.14. Have you ever been curious about trying an illicit drug?					
Total		**2nd grade**		**4th grade**	
No	88.7	No	89	No	88.2
Maybe	5.9	Maybe	6.3	Maybe	5.4
Yes	5.4	Yes	4.8	Yes	6.4
Total	100	Total	100	Total	100

According to table 1.15 91% of the students say that they would not try an illicit drug if they had the chance. Around 7% says “maybe” and around 2 percent says that they would indeed try an illicit drug if they had the chance.

Table 1.15. If you had the chance, would you try an illicit drug?					
Total		**2nd grade**		**4th grade**	
No	91.2	No	91.2	No	91.2
Maybe	6.9	Maybe	7.2	Maybe	6.4
Yes	1.9	Yes	1.6	Yes	2.4
Total	100	Total	100	Total	100

2. Cigarettes

A total of 337 students responded that they had smoked cigarettes in the last 30 days. Of these, there were 185 valid responses from the 2nd grade and 136 valid responses from the 4th grade. Sixteen responses were incomplete.

Table 2.1 shows that 79% of the students who reported smoking in the last month had smoked up to 5 cigarettes per day during this period. The 2nd grade students had a higher prevalence (84%) than the 4th grade (72%).
10.9% smoked more than 20 cigarettes per day (16.9% for the 4th grade).

Table 2.1. Cigarettes smoked per day in the last 30 days by grade

	Percent		
Cigarettes smoked	**All Grades**	**2nd Grade**	**4th Grade**
1 to 5	78.8	83.8	72.1
6 to 10	7.2	8.6	5.1
11 to 20	3.1	1.1	5.9
More than 20	10.9	6.5	16.9
Total	100	100	100

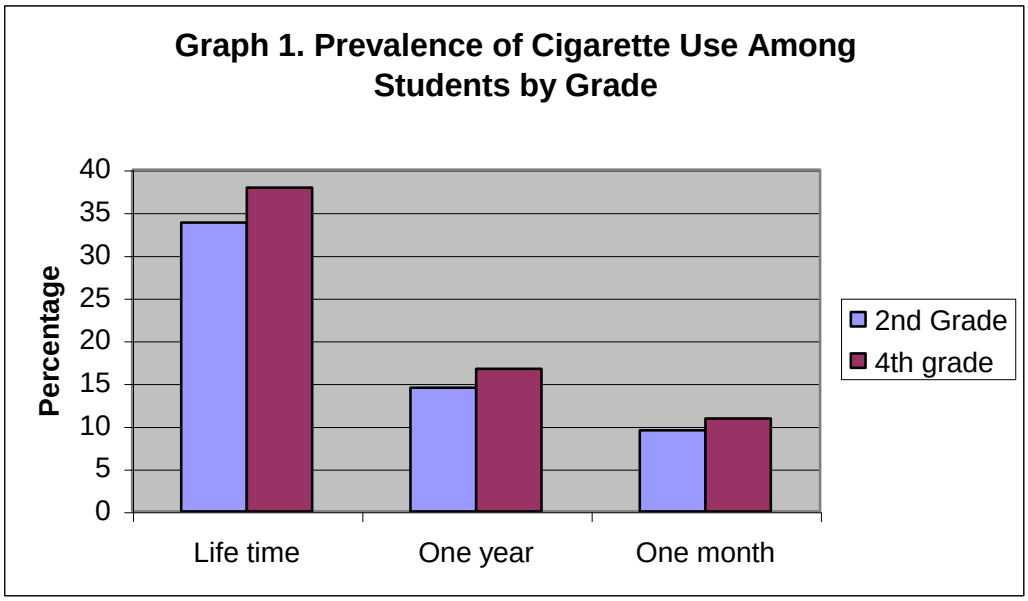
Looking at the age when students smoked cigarettes for the first time, table 2.2 Shows a mean age of 13.3 years.
Note that 1.6% of the children had their first cigarette when they were 6 years old, 7.4% had their first cigarette when they were 10 years old and 14.1% (1 out of 7 children) had their first cigarette when they were 12 years old.

Table 2.2. Age when smoked cigarettes for the first time

Total		2nd Grade		4th Grade	
Age in years	**Percent**	**Age**	**Percent**	**Age**	**Percent**
6	1.6	6	1.9	6	1.3
7	2.5	7	3.9	7	0.7
8	3.2	8	3.6	8	2.6
9	3.5	9	4.5	9	2.2
10	7.4	10	7.6	10	7.2
11	6.3	11	7.8	11	4.3
12	14.1	12	13.4	12	15
13	11	13	11.8	13	9.8
14	14	14	13.8	14	14.1
15	14.9	15	14.6	15	15.2
16	8.7	16	7.5	16	10.4
17	5.8	17	3.4	17	9.1
18	4.6	18	4.2	18	5.2
19	1.4	19	1.4	19	1.3
20	0.6	20	0.5	20	0.9
22	0.3	22	0.2	22	0.4
25	0.1	Total	100	25	0.2
Total	100			Total	100
Valid	1103	Valid	643	Valid	460
Mean	13.2656	Mean	12.8911	Mean	13.7891
Median	14	Median	13	Median	14
Mode	15	Mode	15	Mode	15

Table 2.3 and graph 1 show from responses in the 2nd grade that 33.8% had tried cigarettes in their lifetime, 14.5% had smoked in the last year, and that 9.5% had smoked in the past month.
For the 4th grade, these figures are 38%, 17% and 11% respectively.

Table 2.3. Prevalence of cigarette use among students, by grade				
Grade		**Prevalence**		
		Life time	**One year**	**One month**
2nd Grade	**No**	66.2	85.5	90.5
	Yes	33.8	14.5	9.5
	Total	2114	2085	2080
4th grade	**No**	62.1	83.3	89.1
	Yes	37.9	16.7	10.9
	Total	1307	1289	1287



The age group 15 – 16 years scores highest for all 3 occasions of prevalence (32%). There is no significant difference between the age groups 12 – 14 (22%) and 17 to 18 years (24%).

(Table 2.4)

Table 2.4. Prevalence of cigarettes use among students, by age group									
	Total			**Female students**			**Male students**		
Age group	**Lifetime**	**One-year**	**One-month**	**Lifetime**	**One-year**	**One-month**	**Lifetime**	**One-year**	**One-month**
12 to 14	21.9	6.3	3.0	24.9	25.1	25.1	19.8	19.9	19.9
15 to 16	32.3	14.5	8.7	32.6	32.8	32.8	33.1	33.1	33.1
17 to 18	39.9	18.6	12.4	24.3	24.1	24.1	26.0	26.2	26.2
19 and older	51.8	23.9	17.8	17.5	17.4	17.3	20.6	20.4	20.5
No data	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 2.5 shows that the mean age when students smoked cigarettes for the first time is 13.3 years. The modal age for females is 15 years, while that for the male students is 12 years.

Table 2.5. Age when smoked cigarettes for the first time				
	Females	**Males**	**No data**	**Total**
Valid	437	653	13	1103
Missing	45	62	1	108
Mean	13.6	13.0	12.9	13.3
Median	14	13	14	14
Mode	15	12	14	15

3. Alcohol

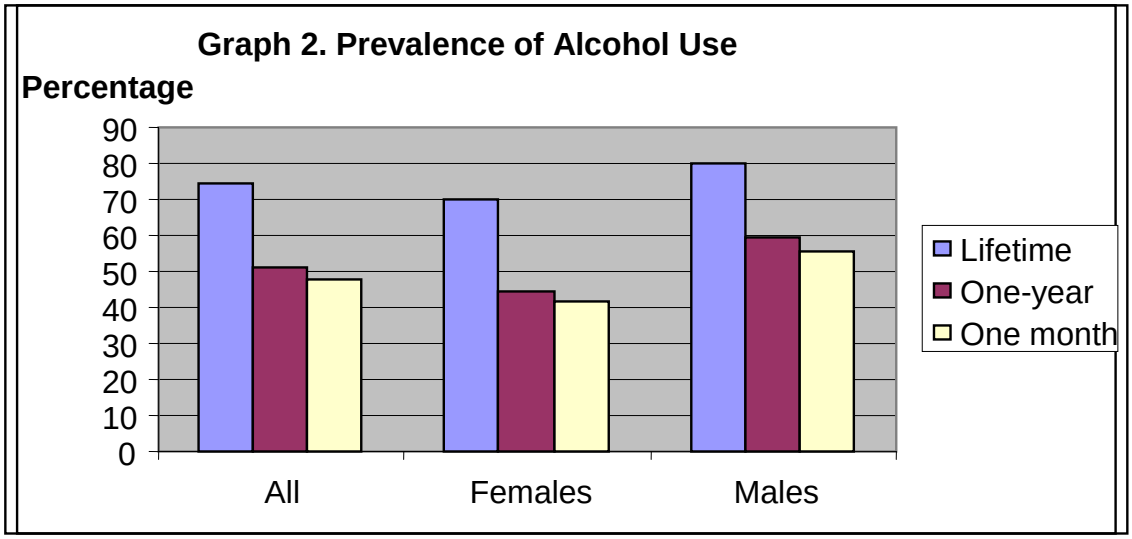
The results indicate that the mean age for first use of alcoholic drinks was 13.3 year (median age 14 years; mode 15 years).

Table 3.1 shows frequency of use of alcohol in the last 30 days. It shows that in total 81.5% of the students have used 1 – 5 alcoholic beverages in the last 30 days. There is no significant difference between the 2nd graders (82.7%) and the 4th graders (79.7%). About 5% have consumed more than 11 drinks in the last 30 days.

Table 3.1. Drinks consumed daily in the last 30 days			
	Percent		
Drinks consumed	**All Grades**	**2nd Grade**	**4th Grade**
1 to 5	81.5	81	79.9
6 to 10	8.5	9.7	9.5
11 to 20	4.8	2.4	3.4
More than 20	5.3	6.9	7.2
Total	100	100	100

Table 3.2 and Graph 2 show that the prevalence of alcohol use is higher in the higher age groups. There is a slight difference between the one-year and one-month prevalence, in total, or between female and male students.

Table 3.2. Prevalence of alcohol use among students, by age group									
	All Students			**Females**			**Males**		
Age Group	**Lifetime**	**One-year**	**One month**	**Lifetime**	**One-year**	**One month**	**Lifetime**	**One-year**	**One month**
12 - 14 yr	62.5	38.5	33.2	60.2	36.4	31.4	66.2	41.9	36.1
15 - 16 yr	71.8	47.5	44.0	67.1	40.7	37.9	77.7	56.0	51.7
17 - 18 yr	80.4	58.4	55.7	76.1	50.8	48.4	85.8	68.2	64.9
19 or older	84.3	63.0	61.4	80.1	56.4	54.8	89.1	70.2	68.5
No data	78.7	43.9	42.1	71.4	36.4	27.3	100.0	57.1	57.1
All groups	74.3	50.9	47.6	69.9	44.7	41.6	79.9	59.2	55.4



According to table 3.3, more than half the students have consumed 1 – 5 alcoholic drinks in the last 30 days. A higher % of males report consumption of 6 or more drinks in the last 30 days than females

Table 3.3. Drinks consumed daily in the last 30 days * Sex Cross tabulation			
Drinks consumed	**Females**	**Males**	**No Data**
1 to 5	52.50%	53.00%	66.70%
6 to 10	2.50%	8.60%	
11 to 20	1.30%	4.90%	
More than 21	1.30%	5.20%	14.30%
No data	42.40%	28.40%	19.00%
Total	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Table 3.4 shows that the prevalence rates increase as frequency of behavior problems increase. The prevalence of alcohol use for the group that had behavior problems is several times higher than that had one or no problems.

Table 3.4. Prevalence of alcohol use among students, by behavior			
Behavioral or discipline problem	**Lifetime**	**One year**	**One month**
Never	69.1	44.7	41.6
Once	88.3	66.0	61.5
Several times	91.2	77.5	75.3
No data	80.4	57.4	55.3
Total	74.3	50.9	47.6

4. Tranquillizers

There were 103 students who reported having used tranquillizers. Of these students, the majority (84.5%) took tranquillizers for up to 7 days in the last 30 days (table 4.1). Four percent took tranquillizers on a daily basis.

Table 4.1. Days taken tranquilizers in the last 30 days			
Frequency (days)	**Valid Percent**		
	All Grades	**2nd grade**	**4th grade**
Every day (30 days)	3.9	1.8	6.4
16 to 29	5.8	7.1	4.3
8 to 15	5.8	5.4	6.4
1 to 7	84.5	85.7	83
Total	100	100	100

According to table 4.2, the mean age for first use of tranquillizers was 13.9 year (median age 14 years; mode 14 years).

Table 4.2 ALL GRADES		**2nd Grade**		**4th Grade**	
Mean	13.9	Mean	13.9	Mean	13.9
Median	14	Median	14	Median	14
Mode	14.0	Mode	13.0	Mode	14

Table 4.3 shows that 8.4% of the 2nd graders and 9.5% of the 4th graders have used tranquillizers in their life. As regards one-year prevalence, the figures are 5.3 and 6.5%.

Table 4.3. Prevalence of tranquillizers use among students, by grade				
Grade		**Prevalence**		
		Life time	**One year**	**One month**
2nd Grade	**No**	91.6	94.7	97.1
	Yes	8.4	5.3	2.9
	Total	2,141	2,137	2,136
4th grade	**No**	90.5	93.5	96
	Yes	9.5	6.5	4
	Total	1,311	1,308	1,305

Table 4.4 shows that the prevalence of use of tranquillizers is higher in the higher age groups. There is a difference between the one-year and one-month prevalence, in all age groups or between female and male students.

Table 4.4. Prevalence of use of tranquilizers among students, by age group.									
	Total			**Females**			**Males**		
Age Group	**Lifetime**	**One-year**	**One month**	**Lifetime**	**One-year**	**One month**	**Lifetime**	**One-year**	**One month**
12 – 14 yr	5.66	3.22	1.93	6.65	3.96	2.50	4.05	2.03	1.01
15 – 16 yr	8.33	4.80	2.85	8.44	5.34	3.46	8.23	4.12	2.06
17 – 18 yr	10.13	6.97	3.78	8.92	6.17	2.77	11.77	8.04	5.09
19 or older	11.44	8.31	5.03	12.43	9.47	5.66	10.40	7.05	4.36
No data	12.07	12.07	5.17	7.69	7.69	7.69	14.29	14.29	-
Total	8.81	5.75	3.31	8.80	5.93	3.46	8.76	5.35	3.08

According to table 4.5, three out of four students who have consumed tranquillizers in the last 30 days have done so during 1 – 7 days in this period.

Table 4.5. Days taken tranquilizers in the last 30 days * Sex Cross tabulation				
Days taken tranquilizers	**Females**	**Males**		**All Students**
Every day	3.00%	4.40%		3.50%
16 o 29	4.50%	6.70%		5.30%
8 to 15	4.50%	6.70%		5.30%
1 to 7	79.10%	71.10%		76.30%
No data	9.00%	11.10%		9.60%
Total	100.00%	100.00%		100.00%

Table 4.6 shows the prevalence of use of tranquilizers related to the number of times that the students had behavioral or discipline problems, or otherwise. The prevalence is higher with the times they had behavioral or discipline problems

Table 4.6. Prevalence of use of tranquilizers among students, by behavior			
Behavioral or discipline problem	**Lifetime**	**One year**	**One month**
Never	8.19	5.13	3.12
Once	9.91	6.87	3.22
Several times	14.77	11.36	6.82
No data	3.92	1.96	1.96
Total	8.81	5.75	3.31

5. Solvents and Inhalants

There were 132 students in the survey who said they had used solvents and inhalants. Only 63 responses were complete for analysis.

Table 5.1 shows that in total 18 students have once used solvents and inhalants, of whom 13 students are from the 2nd grade. Twenty students (8 in the 2nd grade) say that they have occasionally used solvents and inhalants during the last 12 months. Ten students (6 in the 2nd grade) say that they use solvents and inhalants on a daily basis.

Table 5.1. Frequency of use of Solvents and Inhalants in the last year by grade			
Frequency	**No. Of Students**		
	Total	**2nd grade**	**4th grade**
Once	18	13	5
Occasionally during last 12 months	20	8	12
Monthly	3	1	2
Weekly	12	7	5
Daily	10	6	4
Total	63	35	28

According to table 5.2, the mean age for first use of solvents and inhalants was 12.4 years (median age 13 years; mode 10 years).

Table 5.2. Age when took Solvents and Inhalants for the first time					
All Grades		**2nd Grade**		**4th Grade**	
Mean	12.4348	Mean	12.2152	Mean	12.9167
Median	13	Median	12	Median	13
Mode	10	Mode	10	Mode	12

Table 5.3 shows that 4.1% of the 2nd graders and 3.5% of the 4th graders have used solvents and stimulants in their life. As regards one-year prevalence, the figures are 1.8% and 2.3%.

Table 5.3. Prevalence of solvents and inhalants use among students, by grade				
Grade		**Prevalence**		
		Life time	**One year**	**One month**
2nd Grade	**No**	95.9	98.2	99.1
	Yes	4.1	1.8	0.9
	Total	2,223	2,122	2,118
4th grade	**No**	96.5	97.7	99.1
	Yes	3.5	2.3	0.9
	Total	1,283	1,283	1,277

Table 5.4 shows that the prevalence of solvents and inhalants use is higher in the age group 15 – 16 years.

Table 5.4. Prevalence of use of Solvents and Inhalants among students, by age group.			
	Total		
Age Group	**Lifetime**	**One-year**	**One month**
12 – 14 yr	2.99	1.43	0.91
15 – 16 yr	4.72	2.60	1.35
17 – 18 yr	3.33	1.91	0.72
19 or older	4.01	1.61	0.32
No data	5.36	3.57	1.79
Total	3.87	2.00	0.91

According to table 5.5 nine female and nine male students have consumed solvents and inhalants once in the last year. In total there are more male students who have consumed more than the female students.

Table 5.5. Frequency of use of Solvents and Inhalants in the last Year * Gender				
Frequency of use	**Females**	**Males**	**No Data**	**Total**
Once	9	9		18
Sometimes during the last 12 months	4	14	2	20
Sometimes monthly		2	1	3
Sometimes weekly	5	7		12
Daily	3	7		10
No data	31	37	1	69
Total	52	76	4	132

Table 5.6 shows that prevalence increases as the number of behavior or discipline problems increase:

Table 5.6. Prevalence of use of Solvents and Inhalants among students, by behavior.			
Behavioral or discipline problem	**Lifetime**	**One year**	**One month**
Never	3.27	1.56	0.56
Once	5.73	3.38	1.78
Several times	6.40	3.49	2.92
Total	3.87	2.00	0.91

6. Marijuana

There were 83 students who mentioned having used marijuana in the last year.

Table 6.1 shows that 36 of the students have occasionally used marijuana during the last 12 months and that 9 students reported using marijuana on a daily basis. There is no significant absolute difference in numbers between the 2nd grade and the 4th grade students, except for those using on a daily basis.

Table 6.1. Frequency of use of marijuana in the last year (12 months) by grade			
Frequency	**Number**		
	Total	**2nd grade**	**4th grade**
Once	23	12	11
Occasionally during the last 12 months	36	18	18
Monthly	10	5	5
Weekly	5	3	2
Daily	9	6	3
Total	83	44	39

According to table 6.2, the mean age for first use of marijuana was 14.9 year (median age 15 years; mode 15 years).

Tale 6.2. Age when took Marijuana for the first time					
All Grades		**2nd Grade**		**4th Grade**	
Mean	14.8929	Mean	14.4535	Mean	15.5926
Median	15	Median	15	Median	16
Mode	15	Mode	15	Mode	16

Table 6.3 and graph 3 shows that 4.2% of the 2nd graders and 4.6% of the 4th graders have used marijuana in their life. As regards one-year prevalence, the figures are 2 and 3.2% respectively.

Table 6.3. Prevalence of Marijuana use among students by grade				
Grade		**Prevalence**		
		Life time	**One year**	**One month**
2nd Grade	No	95.8	98	99
	Yes	4.2	2	1
	Total	2,127	2,123	2,120
4th grade	No	95.4	96.8	98.7
	Yes	4.6	3.2	1.3
	Total	1,283	1,281	1,273

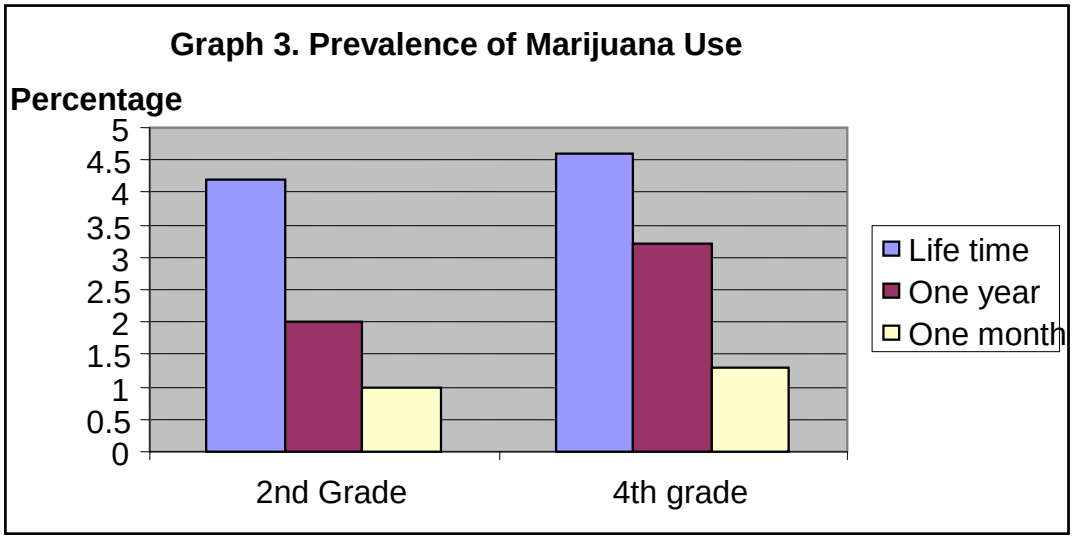


Table 6.4 shows that the prevalence of marijuana use is higher in the higher age groups.. There is a noticeable difference between the one-year and one-month prevalence.

Table 6.4. Prevalence of use of Marijuana among students, by age group			
	Total		
Age Group	Lifetime	One-year	One month
12 – 14 yr	1.04	0.52	0.13
15 – 16 yr	4.19	1.97	0.72
17 – 18 yr	4.88	2.98	1.67
19 or older	7.87	5.14	2.43
No data	5.36	1.82	-
Total	4.34	2.47	1.12

According to table 6.5, the majority of the students who had smoked marijuana did so sometimes during the last year. The male students have consumed more than the female students.

Table 6.5. Frequency of Marijuana use in the last year * Sex Cross tabulation				
Days taken Marijuana	Females	Males	No Data	Total
Once	4	19		23
Occasionally during last year	6	29	1	36
Monthly	1	9		10
Weekly		5		5
Daily		9		9
No data	17	46	2	65
Total	28	117	3	148

There is clearly a positive relationship between the numbers of behavioral or discipline problems and prevalence of marijuana use (Table 6.6).

Table 6.6. Prevalence of use of Marijuana among students, by behavior			
Behavioral or discipline problem	**Lifetime**	**One year**	**One month**
Never	2.04	0.96	0.44
Once	8.08	4.12	1.92
Several times	20.93	15.70	5.92
No data	11.77	9.80	7.84
Total	4.34	2.47	1.12

8. Conclusions

- The drugs most used by the Junior and Senior High School Students are, in the first place, alcohol followed by cigarettes, tranquillizers and marijuana. The use of all other substances (heroine, hashish, opium, morphine, cocaine, ecstasy and methamphetamines) is seen in less than 1% of the students.

- Most of those who smoke cigarettes, or use alcohol and tranquillizers are in the age category of 15 to 18 years. Most of the users of marijuana are in the age category of 14 to 17 years.

- The majority of the students are of the opinion that the use of drugs is hazardous to their health.

- The majority of the students, around 50%, in both the 2nd and the 4th grade, are well informed about the consequences of drugs (tobacco, alcoholic drinks, marijuana, cocaine, etc.).

- More than half of the students have never attended a drug prevention course. Those who had attended a drug prevention course perceive the information as useful (70%), and the majority of the students, (around two thirds) indicate that these courses did not change their attitude about drugs.

- A relatively high percentage of the students (37%) seem to have easy access to drugs.

9. Recommendations

- It is recommended to organize more information sessions at the Junior and Senior High Schools.

- Conducting of country alcohol and drug awareness campaigns.

- Development of a national school-based prevention program

- The easy access to drugs of the students should be studied in further detail in order to take proper actions.