DRUG USE IN THE HEMISPHERE: THE CURRENT SITUATION
AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

SANTIAGO, CHILE

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Drug Use in the Hemisphere: The Current Situation and Future Challenges

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Primary drug of use worldwide.
160 million people between (15 and 64 years) reported consumption during the past year (3.8%).
Difficult to establish the precise level of production of this drug.
Cultivated in more than 170 countries.

The production of the cannabis herb is estimated to be 42,000 metric tons.
46% is produced in the Americas, (North America 23%, South America, 23%), and 26% in Africa.
Continues to be the most widely trafficked drug worldwide.
Is also responsible for the greatest number of drug seizures, over 4,000 metric tons. Over 70% in our hemisphere.
Cannabis seizures in the Americas (Source: MEM)

- North America
- South America
- Caribbean
- Central Am.

**MARIJUANA**

- Consumed in nearly every part of the world.
- Largest market in the Americas.
- **Trends**: Increase in the level of consumption in the majority of countries that report data on use.
### MARIJUANA (15-64 years): past year prevalence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Past Year Prevalence</th>
<th>Range</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worldwide</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>1%-17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>1%-17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
<td>3%-17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>1%-7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 South American countries.</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>1%-7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central America</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.3%-4.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caribbean</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%-11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>1%-11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### The Caribbean: Students 13 to 17 years

- Antigua & Barbuda
- Barbados
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- St. Kitts & Nevis
- St. Lucia
- St. Vincent & the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad & Tobago
Concentration of THC (%)

Potency of Marijuana Seizures

Average Potency (% THC Content)


Admission to Treatment Centers, USA

Steady Increase in Treatment Admissions with Marijuana as the Primary Substance of Abuse Since 1994

Number of Admissions (in Thousands)

Source: SAMHSA, Treatment Episode Data Set (TEDS) Highlights - 2008 (January 2008); data for 1994 and 1995 are from the 2004 and 2005 TEDS reports, respectively.
14 Million people worldwide, between 15 and 64 years of age, report consuming cocaine in the past year (0.3%).

The source is well established.

It is cultivated in three countries.
**Cocaine (15-64 years): past year prevalence**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Users</th>
<th>Prevalence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worldwide</td>
<td>14.3 mill</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North America</td>
<td>6.5 mill</td>
<td>0.8%-3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South America</td>
<td>1 mill</td>
<td>0.1%-2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central America</td>
<td>0.1%-2.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caribbean</td>
<td>0.1%-1.3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>4.5 mill</td>
<td>0.1%-3.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Last year Prevalence of Cocaine Use. Secondary students.
Ecstasy and Methamphetamine

- Low consumption rates in the majority of member states.
- Nevertheless, there is concern that use is increasing, especially for ecstasy.
- 8 out of 15 countries show increases in use.
- Project EU-CAN.

Canada: Ecstasy (MDMA) Adulteration

FUTURE CHALLENGES

How Much Do We Know?

A Constantly Changing Problem

1. “same drug”, active ingredient increasing
2. Synthetic Drugs: How can they be addressed?
3. Greater polydrug use
4. Problems related to modes of alcohol use: alcohol mixed with illicit drugs
5. Drugs and crime
How Much Do We Know?

- Do we have all the tools we need to confront the problem?
- Do we have enough information?
- How much do we need?
  - The quantity is not the most important. Quality is of the essence.

An Information Crisis?

“they undertake to encourage the creation or strengthening of National Drug Observatories in the countries of the region and to work, as appropriate, with the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs of CICAD or other instances of bilateral or multilateral cooperation…"
...to facilitate the participation of the states concerned for the purpose of developing information systems or statistics to support decision making and definition of national policies to counter the world drug problem and related crimes”.

THE CHALLENGES MUST BE:
- Improve the quality of information (opportunity)
- Increase the quantity of information
- The capacity to analyze
- Integrated EARLY ALERT SYSTEM:
  - Supply Side Data
  - Drug Demand Data
DATA

INFORMATION?

NO

DATA

INVESTMENT IN HUMAN RESOURCES

INFORMATION?

PROBABLY
THANK YOU!

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INTER-AMERICAN OBSERVATORY ON DRUGS
CICAD