Drug Use in Latin America and the Caribbean

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Inter-American Observatory on Drugs
CICAD/OAS
The Inter-American Observatory on Drugs: History

• One of the original Lines of Action created at CICAD’s inception in 1986
• Originally known as the Databank on Drug Use and Trafficking
• Was re-established in 2000 at the request of the OAS Member States as the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs
  → the statistics, information and research branch of CICAD.
Primary Mechanisms for Determining OID Priorities

- National Drug Observatories
- CICAD Commission
- National Drug Commissions
- OAS & International Mandates
- MEM
- CICAD Executive Secretariat
A Research and Information Network for the Americas
Strategic Partners

- National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Abuse (EMCDDA)
- National Hispanic Science Network (NHSN)
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)
The OID’s Approach

An Integral Approach

Not project by project

• Long term strategy to build drug research infrastructure and increase research capacity across the member states, over time.
Primary Lines of Research

- Epidemiology based research
  - Sistema Interamericana de Datos Uniformes sobre Consumo (SIDUC): drug use prevalence and trends in key populations
    - Secondary School Students
    - University Students
    - General Population (household)
    - Emergency Rooms
    - Treatment Centers
  - Morbidity Associated with Drug Use
  - Mortality Associated with Drug Use
  - Drugs and Crime studies
Primary Lines of Research

• The Costs of the Drug Problem
  – Social and economic impact of drugs
  – Based on International Guidelines (Single et al)
  – Direct and Indirect Costs
  – Four conceptual areas: Healthcare costs, crime costs, lost productivity, other costs
Website with latest statistics on basic drug demand and supply indicators

http://www.cicad.oas.org/apps/oidstat.aspx
Program to Strengthen Drug Research

Aimed at strengthening existing research activities through:

1. Red Latinoamericana de Investigadores en Drogas (REDLA)
   - Network of academic researchers

2. CICAD/NIDA Awards Program
   - Small grants for graduate students carrying thesis work on drug themes.

3. Scientific Advisory Committee
   - Peer review and consultation on research

4. Training and Capacity Building
Program to Strengthen Drug Research in the Americas

Three Pillars

1) Strengthen the relationship between the national drug observatories and academic researchers,

2) Research, analyses, and publication on drugs through universities in Latin America
   ➢ Collaboration and joint activities

3) Enhance the capacity and formation of drug researchers in Latin America.

Leading to evidence based policy
Drug Use in the Latin America

A Secondary analysis of OLD studies among secondary school students, and in the general population in the Americas
Diversity Across Regions

• Highest drug use rates in North America and South America
  • Marijuana
  • Cocaine
  • Low synthetic drug use in S.A.

• Overall drug use lower in Central America
  • New trends may be emerging

• Highest rates of marijuana use in the Caribbean
Diversity Across Countries

- Countries with similar rates of overall drug use have very different patterns.
  - Chile, Uruguay – majority of use is explained by marijuana alone
  - Brazil – inhalants are most common drug among students
  - Colombia – high rates for the region of ecstasy
  - Argentina – stands out for poly-drug use
  - Costa Rica – stands out in Central Am.
South America

A Secondary analysis of OID studies among secondary school students, and in the general population in the Americas
First Comparative Study on Drug Abuse in the Secondary School Populations in: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay

- Published in 2006
- Scientific study, comparable figures from a representative sample of over 300,000.00 students in nine countries.
- Magnitude of drug use among the population, risk and protective factors
Methodology

- All instruments and methodologies standardized across countries
  - Some adjustments for language differences
- Multi-tier randomized sample: Region > school > classroom
  - once classroom selected all students in class administered questionnaire
- Cross national analysis includes a direct adjustment of the sample for gender and age distributions in each country.
## Sample Size

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Sample Size</th>
<th>Population Represented</th>
<th>Age Group (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>14 and under</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>39.961</td>
<td>965.435</td>
<td>51.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brasil</td>
<td>48.155</td>
<td>4.681.856</td>
<td>57.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>20.386</td>
<td>139.963</td>
<td>32.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>100.059</td>
<td>1.198.690</td>
<td>50.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>36.108</td>
<td>976.291</td>
<td>37.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>13.912</td>
<td>339.738</td>
<td>41.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>20.420</td>
<td>80.983</td>
<td>36.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perú</td>
<td>60.285</td>
<td>727.992</td>
<td>36.57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>8.033</td>
<td>265.255</td>
<td>37.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>347.771</td>
<td>9.376.203</td>
<td>44.38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Past Month Alcohol Use, Secondary School Students

Range: 16.4% - 51.9%

- Argentina: 42.3%
- Bolivia: 16.4%
- Brasil: 48.0%
- Colombia: 51.9%
- Chile: 40.1%
- Ecuador: 28.1%
- Paraguay: 40.1%
- Perú: 25.9%
- Uruguay: 50.1%
Past Month Tobacco Use, Secondary School Students

Range: 11%-38.3%

Argentina: 23.6%
Bolivia: 13.3%
Brasil: 11.0%
Colombia: 23.7%
Chile: 38.3%
Ecuador: 18.4%
Paraguay: 13.3%
Perú: 16.2%
Uruguay: 23.9%
Past Year Prevalence Any Illicit Drug - Secondary School Students

Range: 4.13%-17.29%
Past Year Marijuana Use, Secondary School Students

Range 2.3%-12.7%
Past Year Prevalence of Cocaine Use among Secondary School Students

Range 0.6% - 2.5%

Argentina: 2.5, Bolivia: 0.9, Brasil: 1.7, Colombia: 1.7, Chile: 2.4, Ecuador: 1.2, Paraguay: 0.6, Perú: 1.0, Uruguay: 1.4

*In Brazil this datum corresponds to cocaine and coca paste*
Past Year Prevalence of Ecstasy, Secondary School Students

Range 0.4% - 3.0%
Past Year Prevalence of Inhalant Use, Secondary School Students

Range 1.2% - 15.3%

- Argentina: 2.6%
- Bolivia: 1.2%
- Brasil: 15.3%
- Colombia: 3.5%
- Chile: 2.5%
- Ecuador: 2.3%
- Paraguay: 1.5%
- Perú: 1.8%
- Uruguay: 1.5%
Past Year Prevalence of Stimulants without a Prescription, Secondary School Students

Range 0.7% - 3.5%
Use of Tranquilizers without Prescription, Secondary School Students

Range 0.3% - 7.1%
Past Year Prevalence Relative to Marijuana Use, Secondary School Students

- Only Marijuana
- Mar & one other
- Drug Other than Marijuana

Argentina: 44.5%
Bolivia: 33.5%
Brasil: 26.1%
Colombia: 22.1%
Chile: 33.0%
Ecuador: 44.0%
Paraguay: 36.0%
Peru: 36.6%
Uruguay: 73.9%
Distribution of Past Year Prevalence according to Number of Drugs Used in the Past Twelve Months

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>One Drug</th>
<th>2 Drugs</th>
<th>3 Drugs</th>
<th>4 or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>63.7</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>70.9</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brasil</td>
<td>78.4</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>15.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>73.3</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>70.0</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>4.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>73.4</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>76.1</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>68.2</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>79.8</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Drug Use in Central America
Drug Use in the Caribbean

Secondary School Students
Prevalence of Marijuana Use

Lifetime Range: <5% - 30%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Lifetime Prevalence</th>
<th>Last Year Prevalence</th>
<th>Last Month Prevalence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antigua &amp; Barbuda</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbados</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominica</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grenada</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Kits and Nevis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Lucia</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vincent &amp; the Grenadines</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suriname</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinidad &amp; Tobago</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lifetime Range: 11% - 43.9%

Prevalence of Any Illegal Drug

- Lifetime Prevalance
- Last Year Prevalence
- Last Month Prevalence
Lifetime Range: 0.5% - >4%

Lifetime and One Year Prevalence of Cocaine Use
Prevalence of Crack Use

Lifetime Range: <0.5% - 4%
Lifetime Prevalence of Ecstasy

Lifetime Range: 0.5% - 3.5%
Prevalence of Tranquilisers

Lifetime Range: >5% - 25%

Prevalence of the Use of Stimulants

Lifetime Range: >5% - 20%
Drug Dependency

Data from the General Population in Six Countries
First Comparative Study on Drug Consumption and Associated Factors in the Population age 15 to 64 Years

- Published in 2008
- Comparative data in six countries on drug use in the general population
- Representative sample of over 61,000 persons
- Magnitude of drug use and associated factors
Sample

• Data collected in each country during 2006 and 2007 in the general population (15 a 64 years of age).

• Full sample comprised 61,607 persons in the urban population.

• Sample represents a population of 43 million people in the sub-region.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Sample *</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARGENTINA</td>
<td>12,459</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOLIVIA</td>
<td>8,662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHILE</td>
<td>15,776</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECUADOR</td>
<td>7,341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERÚ</td>
<td>10,927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URUGUAY</td>
<td>6,442</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Criteria for Dependency Given Past Month Alcohol Use, General Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>12-17</th>
<th>18-24</th>
<th>25-34</th>
<th>35-65</th>
<th>total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Past year prevalence</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
<td>51.7%</td>
<td>52.0%</td>
<td>46.5%</td>
<td>44.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criteria for dependency</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Criteria for Dependency Given Past Year Marijuana Use, General Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>12-17</th>
<th>18-24</th>
<th>25-34</th>
<th>35-65</th>
<th>total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Past year prevalence</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criteria for dependency</td>
<td>27.8%</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
<td>27.6%</td>
<td>26.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Criteria for Dependency Given Past Year Cocaine Use, General Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>12-17</th>
<th>18-24</th>
<th>25-34</th>
<th>35-65</th>
<th>total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Past year prevalence</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criteria for dependency</td>
<td>39.7%</td>
<td>42.7%</td>
<td>39.9%</td>
<td>41.7%</td>
<td>41.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Past Year Prevalence in the Population age 15 to 64

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>World</th>
<th>Europe</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>6 Countries South America</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>7.0% (1%-11.2%)</td>
<td>12.4% (24.5 million)</td>
<td>4.8% (0.7%-7.2%) (2 million)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis</td>
<td>(160 million)</td>
<td>(23 million)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.3%</td>
<td>1.3% (0.1%-3%)</td>
<td>3.0% (6 million)</td>
<td>1.4% (0.3%-2.7%) (0.6 million)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td>(14.3 million)</td>
<td>(4.5 million)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Drug Use Trends
Latin America

Information presented at the REDLA network meeting,
San Juan, Puerto Rico
June 2008
Argentina,
Secondary School Population

Marihuana
Pasta base
Cocaina

SEDRONAR, 2008
### Chile, Secondary School Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>8° grade</th>
<th>9° grade</th>
<th>10° grade</th>
<th>11° grade</th>
<th>12° grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>16.7</td>
<td>20.9</td>
<td>23.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>16.9</td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td>27.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CONACE, 2008
Costa Rica
Marijuana among Males and Females in the general population

REDLA, 2008
Mexico
Drug Use in the Secondary School Population

The Hemisphere

Secondary School Students
Prevalence of Marijuana Use Among Secondary School Students in the Americas

Lifetime Range: 31.8% - 1.4%

[Image of bar chart showing prevalence of marijuana use in various countries across the Americas, with countries listed on the x-axis and percentage use on the y-axis.]
The Ratio of Marijuana Use to Tobacco Use During the Past Month Among Secondary School Students

Range of Ratios: 0.05 - 4.5

Range of Ratios: 1:20 vs 4:1
In Brazil, the datum corresponds to cocaine and coca paste.

Past Year Cocaine Use, Secondary School Students

Lifetime Range: 4.8% – 0.42%

*In Brazil this datum corresponds to cocaine and coca paste*
Economics and the Drug Problem

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>US$ MILLIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>1,023,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>210,147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>136,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>113,956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>85,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>35,543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>17,398</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>10,298</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>7,971</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Overall Drug Pr (illicit &amp; inhalants)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>17.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>14.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>13.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>9.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>8.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>6.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>4.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>4.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>4.13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. International Monetary Fund, World Economic Outlook Database, April 2006 [1]
2. CICAD SIDUC Comparative Report on Secondary School Students 2006
### Summary of Cost Distribution in Five Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Healthcare</strong></td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>19.2%</td>
<td>61.0%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lost Productivity</strong></td>
<td>36.2%</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>50.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Property Damage</strong></td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>0.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supply Reduction</strong></td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>55.3%</td>
<td>8.3%</td>
<td>90.4%</td>
<td>29.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Demand Reduction</strong></td>
<td>19.8%</td>
<td>1&gt;</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What does all this tell us about the drug situation in the hemisphere?
Thank you! Gracias!

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Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
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