

CICAD Meeting with the Universities of the Americas Concerning the Drug Phenomenon Focusing on the Use of Scientific Evidence

DRUG USE AMONG STUDENTS AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH MALTREATMENT DURING CHILDHOOD, IN SEVEN UNIVERSITIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

CICAD/CAMH Group 2010/2011



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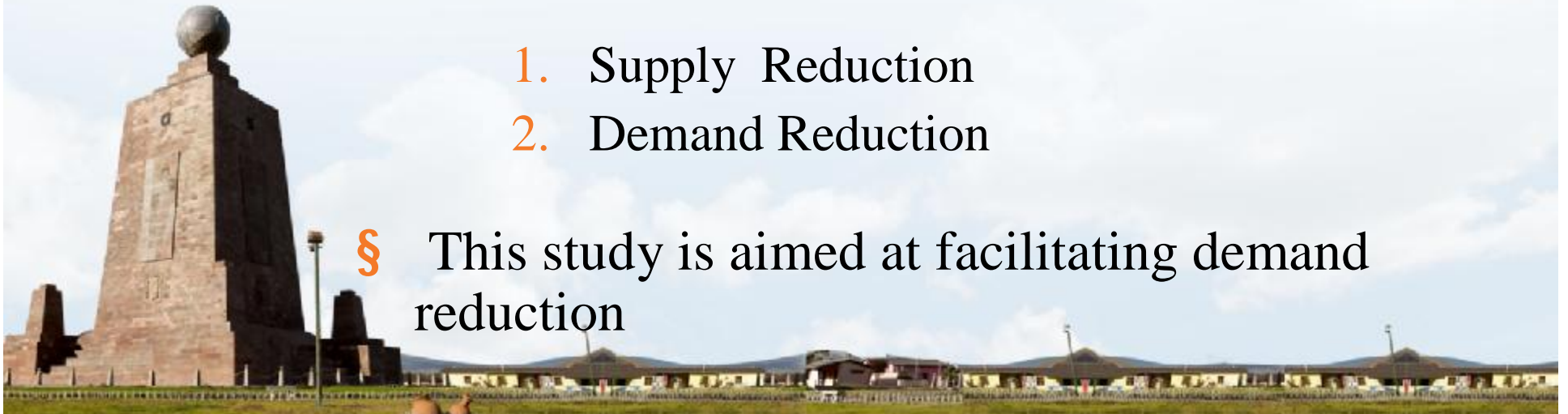


Introduction

§ It is widely recognized that the consumption of alcohol and other licit and illicit drugs is an international public health problem, and should be approached from two different and yet complementary perspectives.

1. Supply Reduction
2. Demand Reduction

§ This study is aimed at facilitating demand reduction





Introduction (cont'd)

§ Research has identified that an exposure to childhood maltreatment is a risk factor for drug use.

(Kilpatrick et al, 2000; Gilbert, 2009).

§ However, there is a paucity of research in this area from Latin America and the Caribbean.

§ In Latin America and the Caribbean 40 million children under the age 15 years, suffer from violence, abuse and neglect within the family.

(UNO, ECLAC & UNICEF, 2009).





Introduction (cont'd)

- § The culture of this region increases the risk of child maltreatment.
- § Traditionally, macho culture, with its coercive and authoritarian aspects, views children as inferior beings and the property of adults.
- § In the region, over 50% of adults consider it normal to maltreat minors as a form of education, discipline and punishment (UNO, ECLAC & UNICEF, 2009).





Introduction (cont'd)

- § The purpose of our research is to determine the relationship between drug use and child maltreatment among university students.
- § The results will help to inform childhood maltreatment preventative programs within Latin America and the Caribbean.





Justification

- § Drug-related problems impact not only individuals (health problems) but also society (generating violence, social disintegration, family and financial problems).
- § Latin America and the Caribbean are not simply producers but are also consumers of alcohol and other licit and illicit drugs.





Justification (cont'd)

§ A recent survey conducted by CAMH & CICAD/OAS in Latin America and the Caribbean, highlighted the high prevalence of illicit and licit drug consumption among university students

(CICAD-CAMH, unpublished manuscript).

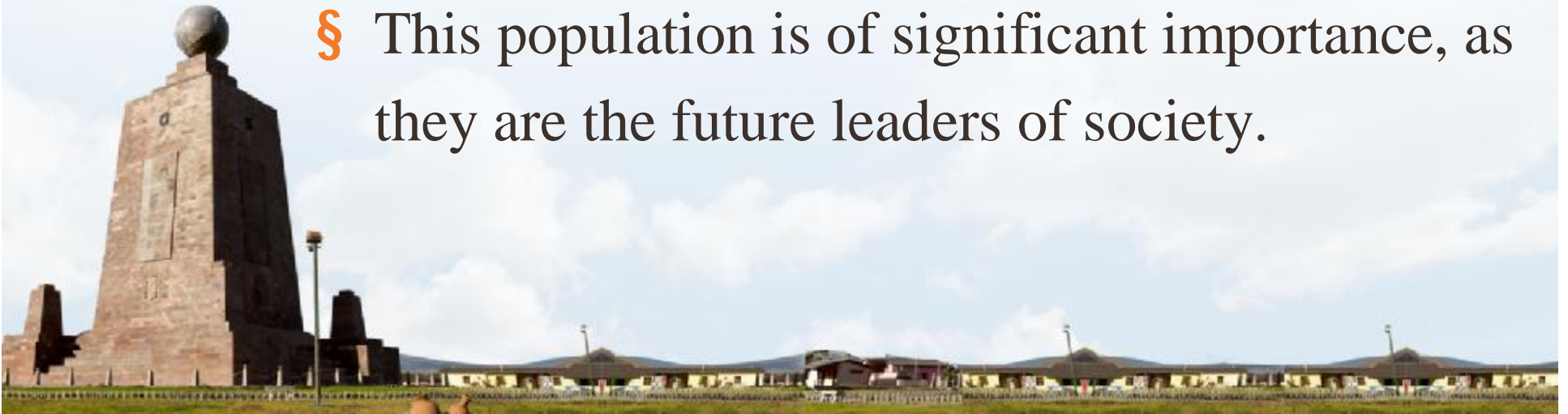




Justification (cont'd)

§ In one Latin American university, 68% of the students reported drug use within the last 12 months.

§ This population is of significant importance, as they are the future leaders of society.





Justification (cont'd)

§ This has brought to the forefront the need to identify the risk factors associated with drug use in Latin America and the Caribbean University Students.





Literature Review: Drug Use and Abuse

- § Drug use is the use of any psychoactive substance, whether licit or illicit.
- § Drug abuse is the recurrent use of a substance, over a 12 month period, that results in one or more of the following:
- Ø an individual being unable to meet their obligations at work, home or school;
 - Ø repeated use in hazardous situations;
 - Ø repeated use resulting in legal problems; and
 - Ø repeated use despite it causing or exacerbating social problems.
- (DSM-IV TR, 2000)





Literature Review: Drug Use and Abuse (cont'd)

Drug use and abuse has been found to be influenced by:

1. Personal Characteristics,
2. Environmental Factors &
3. Social Relationships (Family)





Literature Review: Drug Use and Abuse (cont'd)

1. Personal Characteristics

§ Personal characteristics such as a good self-image and sense of self worth can act as protective factors against drug use.

(Rodríguez-Kuri and Pérez-Islas, 2002)

§ Psychological distress (anxiety and depressive symptoms) is a risk factor for tobacco use.

(Hagman, Delnevo, Hrywna, & Williams, 2008)





Literature Review: Drug Use and Abuse (cont'd)

1. Personal Characteristics

§ Some individuals have a genetic predisposition that makes them more likely to progress to drug abuse than others.

(Ogborne, 2004; Kendler, et al., 2008; Crabbe, 2002) .





Literature Review: Drug Use and Abuse (cont'd)

2. Environmental Context

§ Socioeconomic status: Lower incomes associated with drug use.

(Boardman, Finch, Ellison, Williams, & Jackson, 2001).

§ People who are more religious were found to be less likely to use substances.

(National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 2001).





Literature Review: Drug Use and Abuse (cont'd)

3. Social Relationships (Family)

§ The family acts as both a protective and risk factor for drug usage.

(Matthew & Pilon, 2004).





Literature Review: Drug Use and Abuse (cont'd)

Family Protective Factors

- § Living within a two parent household.
- § Presence of a cohesive and nurturing family.

(Munoz & Grana, 2001)

- § Parental monitoring of adolescents.

(Barnes, Hoffman, Welte, Farrell, and Dintcheff, 2006)





Literature Review: Drug Use and Abuse (cont'd)

Family Risk Factors

- § The use of alcohol by the father or habitual use of tranquilizers by the mother.

(Muñoz Rivas & Graña López, 2001).

- § Inconsistent family rules, family conflict, and distant family relationships.

(García-Aurrecohechea, Diaz Guerrero, Reyes Lagunes, Medina Mora, Andrade Palos, & Reidl Martinez, 2006).





Literature Review: Drug Use and Abuse (cont'd)

Family Risk Factors

§ Having a dysfunctional family, especially if abuse occurred within the family.

(Min, et al., 2007).





Literature Review : Child Maltreatment

“Any acts of commission or omission by a parent or other caregiver that result in harm, potential for harm, or threat of harm to a child, even if harm is not the intended result”

(Gilbert et al., 2009).

§The types of maltreatment of interest:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Neglect (physical and emotional)





Literature Review : Child Maltreatment (cont'd)

- § Maltreated adolescents are four times more likely to report drug use.

(Jun, Rich-Edwards, Boynton-Jarrett, 2008; Thornberry, Henry, Ireland, Smith, 2010).

- § Females are more likely to be abused, however males and females were found to be equally affected by the experience of abuse.

(Brems, Johnson, Neal, & Freemon, 2004).

- § Maltreated young people are more likely to use drugs as a means of coping with the trauma of being abused.

(Yoast & McIntyre, 1991).





Research Objectives

General Objective

To examine the relationship between drug use/abuse and childhood maltreatment among students from seven universities in Latin America and the Caribbean.





Specific Research Objectives

1. To estimate the prevalence of licit and illicit drug use among selected university students.
2. To estimate in the frequency of students who have experienced child maltreatment.
3. To determine the relationship between drug use /abuse and maltreatment during childhood among selected university students.





Hypothesis

“University students who use and abuse drugs are more likely to have experienced childhood maltreatment than those who do not use drugs.”

Sub-hypotheses:

A. Drug use and childhood maltreatment

§ There is a significant relationship between drug use and childhood maltreatment.

B. Drug abuse and childhood maltreatment.

§ There is a significant relationship between drug abuse and childhood maltreatment.





Ethical Considerations

§ Ethical approval was obtained from the Research Ethics Board (REB) of CAMH, as well as in each country.





Methodology

Research design: Cross-sectional survey design

Sample recruitment

- q *Target population* : entire university or a selected faculty
- q The original design was to use random sampling, however this proved to be impossible for some countries and those countries used *non-probability sampling* techniques instead.





Methodology: Sample Size calculation

§ The sample size was calculated using the known percentage of drug consumption in the participating universities. This data were obtained from previous research that was conducted in some of the participating universities (CICAD-CAMH, unpublished manuscript).





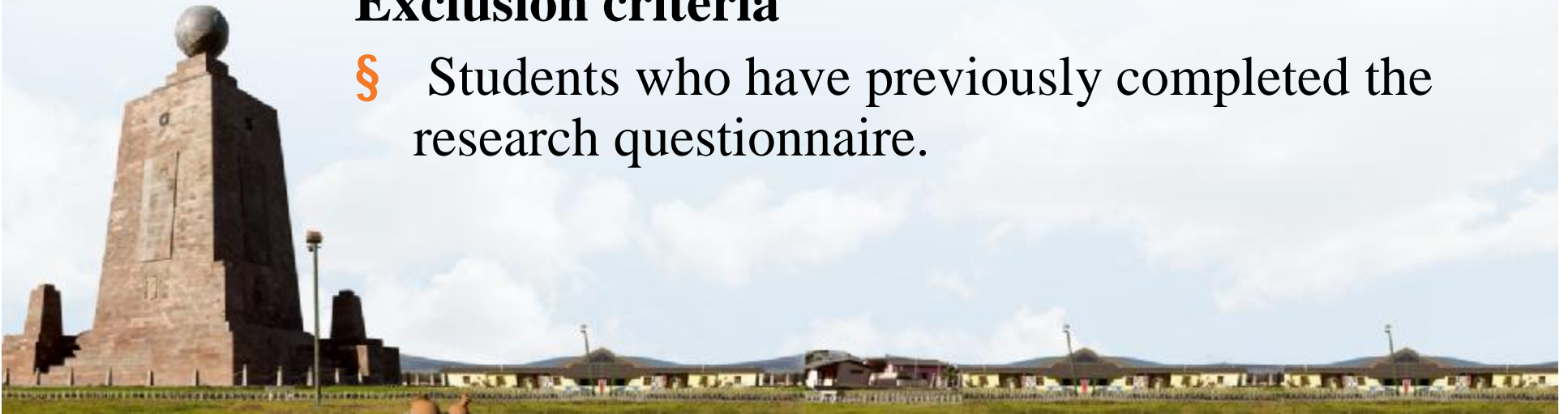
Methodology

Inclusion Criteria

- § Must be at least eighteen years old.
- § Registered in the participating university

Exclusion criteria

- § Students who have previously completed the research questionnaire.





Measurements and Instruments

§ The research questionnaire è 60 questions; 20 minutes to complete.

§ Four main instruments :

1. *Adverse Childhood Experiences questionnaire (ACE)* (CDC, 2010)
2. *Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K10)* (Kessler, 2003)
3. Selected questions from the *CICAD drug use questionnaire*.
4. Socio-demographic questions.





Administering the Questionnaires

- Ø Students were given the details about the study and were not required to give any identifying information .
- Ø The students signed an informed consent prior to the distribution of the questionnaires.
- Ø Upon completing the questionnaire the students were thanked for their participation.

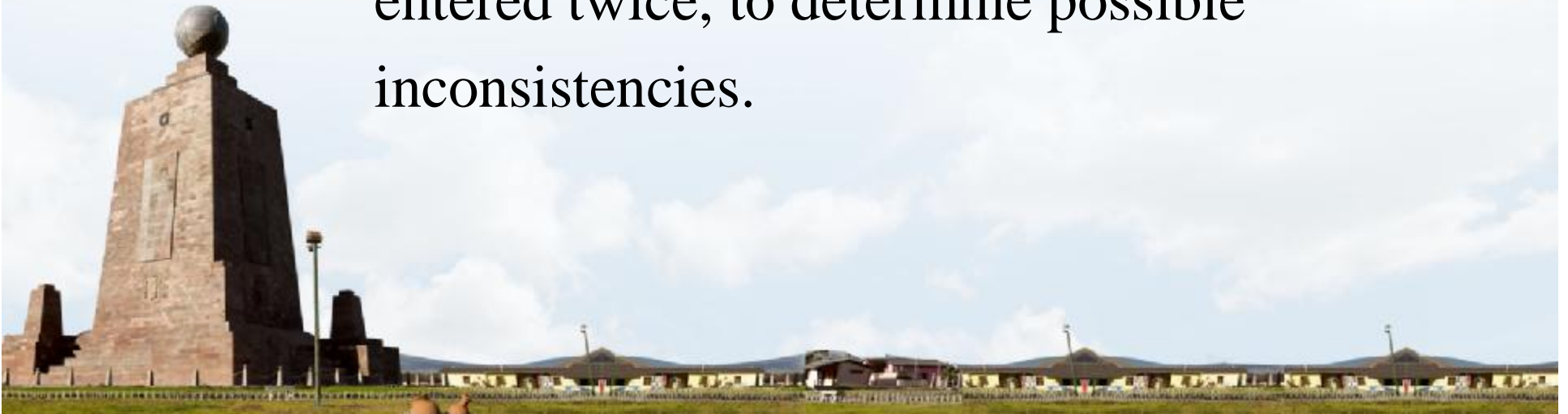




Data Analysis

§ Data was entered into a SPSS Database.

§ A sample of 10% of the questionnaires were entered twice, to determine possible inconsistencies.





Data Analysis

Data analyses consisted of :

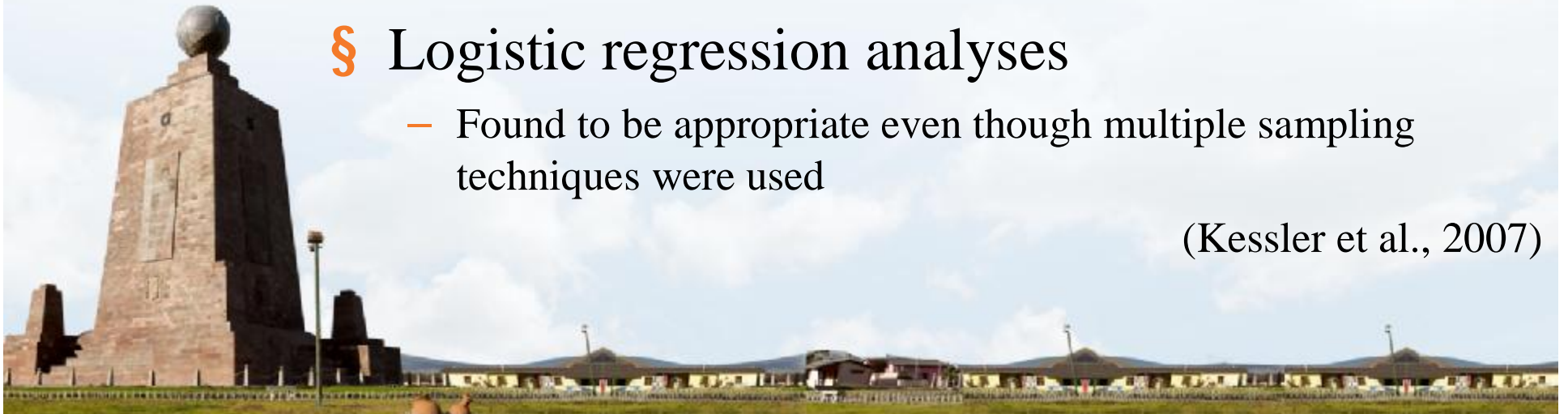
§ Descriptive statistics

§ Bivariate tests (Chi-square)

§ Logistic regression analyses

- Found to be appropriate even though multiple sampling techniques were used

(Kessler et al., 2007)





Results:- Sample

Country	Frequency	Percent
Colombia	616	26.9
Jamaica	382	16.7
Nicaragua	360	15.8
Panama	377	16.5
El Salvador	269	11.8
Uruguay	281	12.3
Total	2285	100.0



Results: -Sample

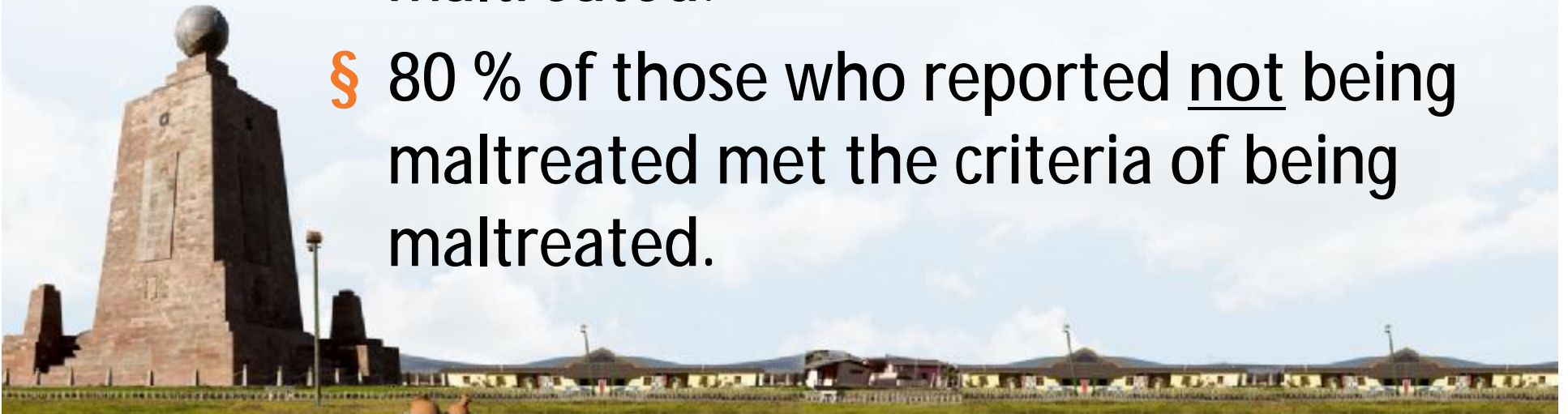
- § 2285 university students between the ages 18-48 years.
- § 59% female and 41% Male
- § 74.1% reported urban origins while 25.9 % reported rural origins.





Results :- Sample

- § Only 14.9 % believed they were maltreated, however 82.6% of the sample met the criteria of being maltreated.
- § 80 % of those who reported not being maltreated met the criteria of being maltreated.





Results: -Maltreatment by Gender

Maltreatment	Male (%)	Female (%)	Total (%)
Sexual Abuse	3.0	8.2	6.1
Physical Abuse	34.9	33.2	33.9
Emotional Abuse	28.2	32.0	30.4
Overall Neglect	65.7	67.0	66.5
Any Maltreatment	80.8	83.8	82.6



Results:- Psychoactive Substance Use

Type of Substance	Substance Use	
	Past Year	Past 30 days (%)
Cannabis	19.1	8.5
Tobacco / cigarettes	30.8	22.2
Alcohol	59.8	45.6
Cocaine	4.9	1.7
Ecstasy	2.1	1.1
Heroin	1.5	0.8
Inhalants	2.8	1.5
Non-prescribed prescription drug use	7.0	4.1





Results: - Psychological Distress

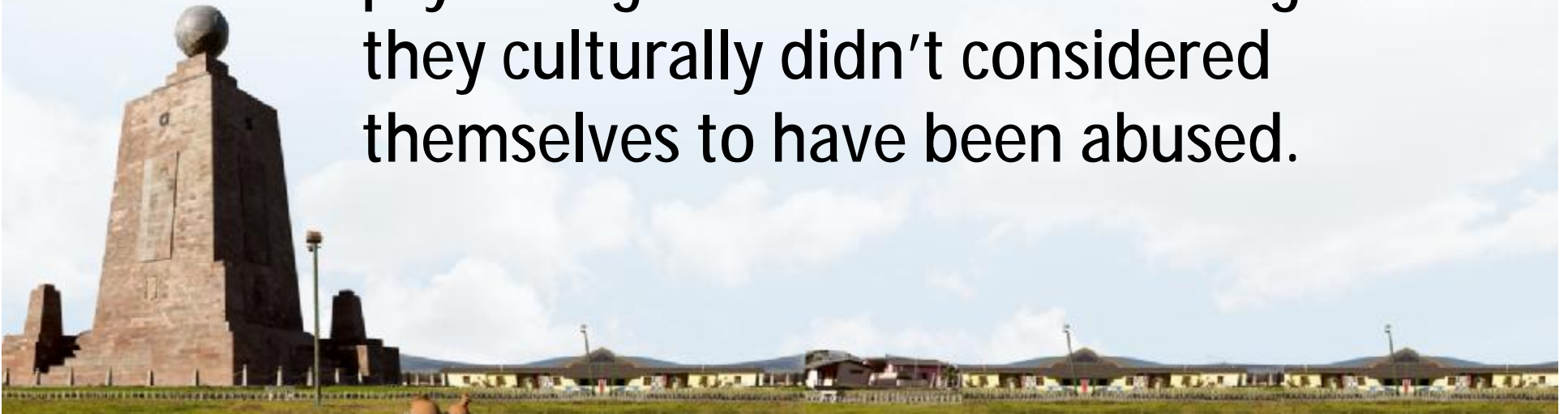
Reported Levels of Psychological Distress

Level of Psychological Distress	<i>f</i>	%
Minimal	1108	48.6
Mild	409	17.9
Moderate	244	10.7
Severe	519	22.8
Total	2280	100.0



Results: - Psychological Distress

§ 27.9% of those who were maltreated experienced moderate-severe psychological distress even though they culturally didn't considered themselves to have been abused.





Results: -Psychological Distress

Chi-Square Analysis of Psychological Distress and Maltreatment Variables

	N	<i>df</i>	X^2	<i>p</i>
Sexual Abuse	2264	3	25.65	<.001
Physical Abuse	2269	3	90.13	<.001
Emotional Abuse	2272	3	133.48	<.001
Neglect	2275	3	113.60	<.001





Results:- Maltreatment & Substance Use

Emotional Abuse and Past 12 months Alcohol Use

<i>Variables</i>	<i>Wald Chi-Square</i>	<i>Prob > Chi-Square</i>	<i>Odds Ratio</i>	<i>Lower 95% Confid. Limit for Odds Ratio</i>	<i>Upper 95% Confid. Limit for Odds Ratio</i>
Gender	39.580	0.000	0.514	0.418	0.633
Country	87.552	0.000	0.912	0.872	0.954
Age	0.681	0.409	0.986	0.953	1.020
Emotional Abuse	8.223	0.004	1.380	1.107	1.719



Results:- Maltreatment & Substance Use

Physical Abuse and Past 12 Months Alcohol Use

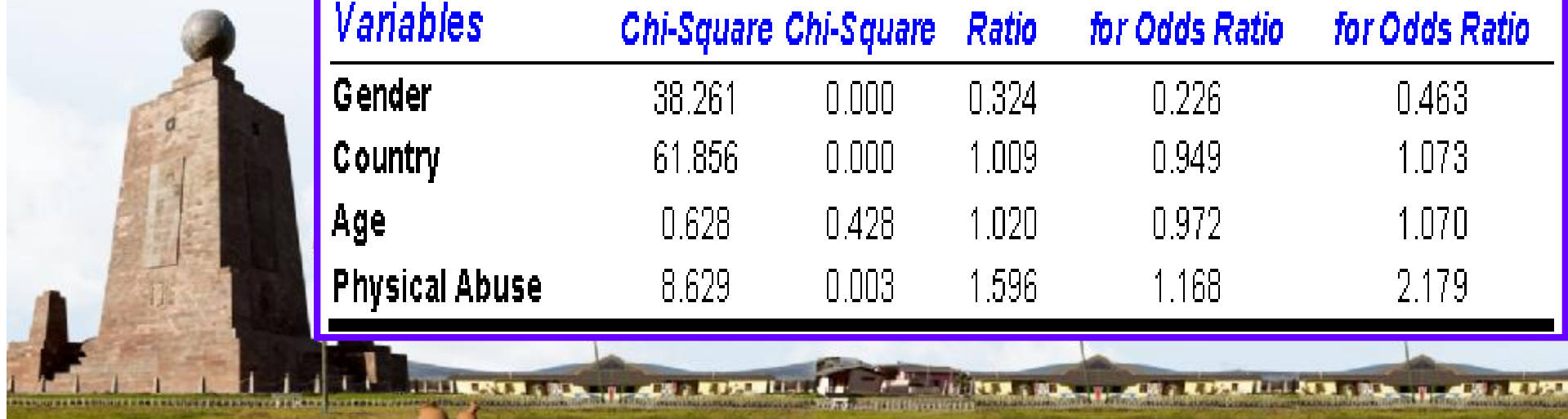
<i>Variables</i>	<i>Wald Chi-Square</i>	<i>Prob > Chi-Square</i>	<i>Odds Ratio</i>	<i>Lower 95% Confid. Limit for Odds Ratio</i>	<i>Upper 95% Confid. Limit for Odds Ratio</i>
Gender	37.724	0.000	0.520	0.422	0.641
Country	89.703	0.000	0.917	0.877	0.959
Age	1.064	0.302	0.982	0.949	1.016
Physical Abuse	23.487	0.000	1.683	1.364	2.078



Results:- Maltreatment & Substance Use

Physical Abuse and Past 12 Months Cannabis Use

<i>Variables</i>	<i>Wald Chi-Square</i>	<i>Prob > Chi-Square</i>	<i>Odds Ratio</i>	<i>Lower 95% Confid. Limit for Odds Ratio</i>	<i>Upper 95% Confid. Limit for Odds Ratio</i>
Gender	38.261	0.000	0.324	0.226	0.463
Country	61.856	0.000	1.009	0.949	1.073
Age	0.628	0.428	1.020	0.972	1.070
Physical Abuse	8.629	0.003	1.596	1.168	2.179





Results:- Substance Abuse & Maltreatment

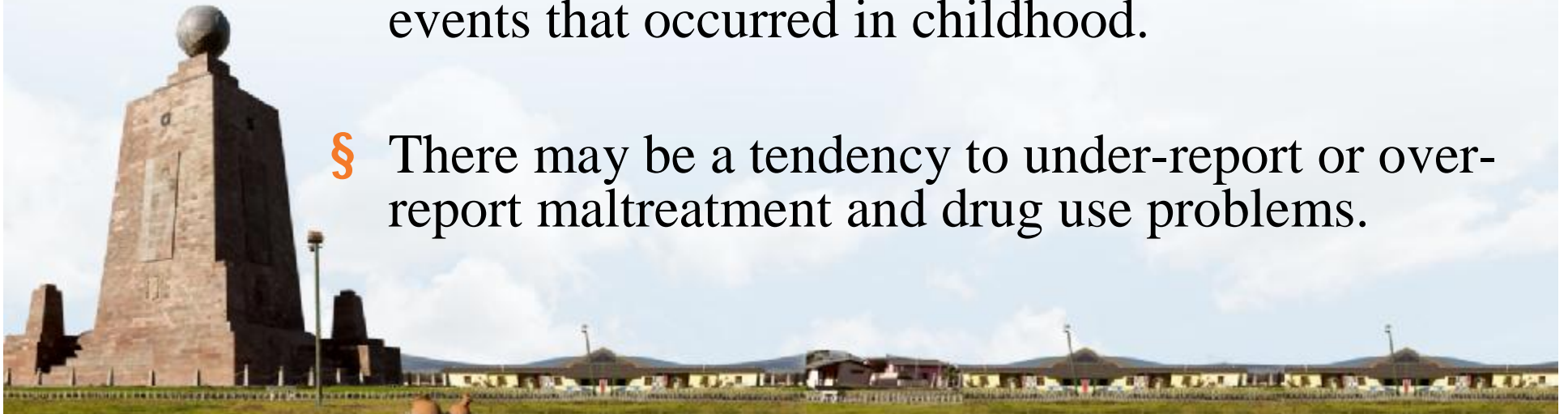
Chi-Square Analysis of Substance Abuse and Maltreatment Variables

	N	<i>df</i>	X^2	<i>p</i>
Sexual Abuse	1807	1	0.21	.650
Physical Abuse	1806	1	15.68	<.001
Emotional Abuse	1809	1	0.92	.339
Neglect	1811	1	99.76	<.001



Limitations

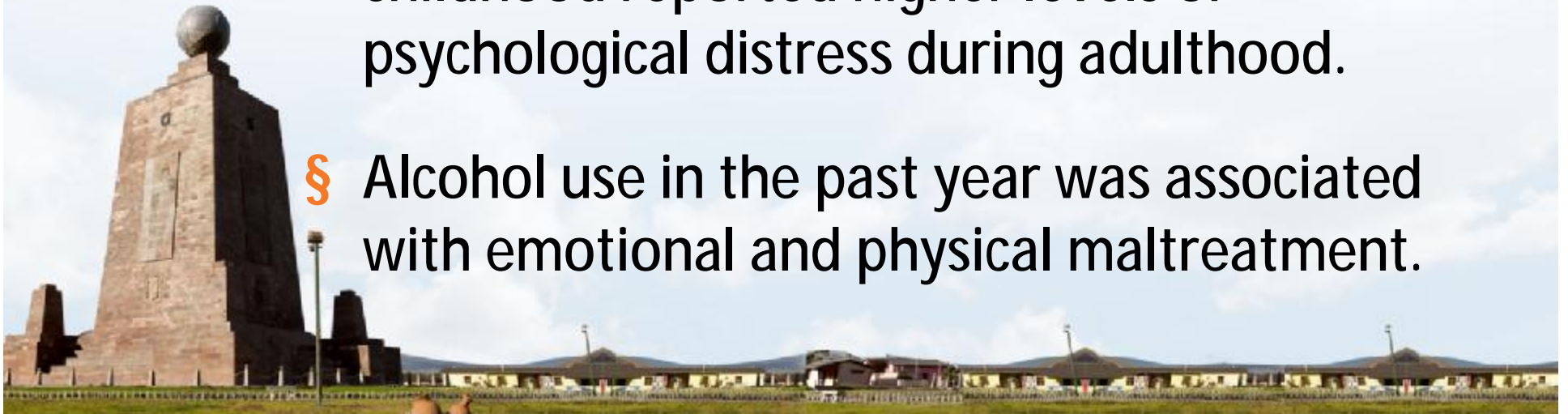
- § Non-probability sampling techniques were used, therefore the results cannot be generalised.
- § The students provided retrospective data about events that occurred in childhood.
- § There may be a tendency to under-report or over-report maltreatment and drug use problems.





Discussion & Conclusion

- § Many students were not aware that they were maltreated.
- § Students who were maltreated during childhood reported higher levels of psychological distress during adulthood.
- § Alcohol use in the past year was associated with emotional and physical maltreatment.

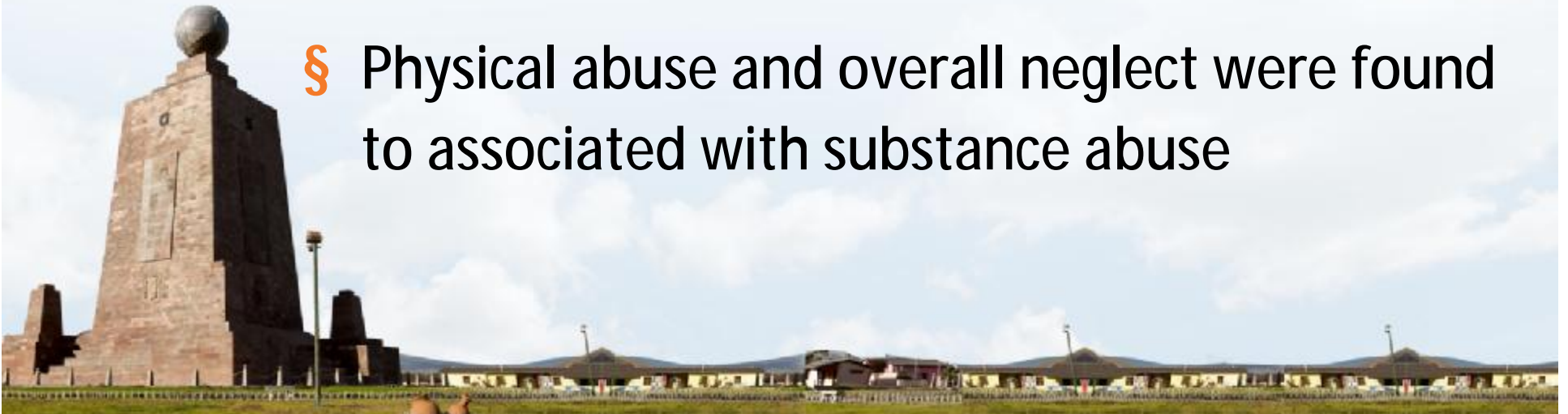




Discussion & Conclusion

§ Cannabis use in the past year was associated with physical abuse.

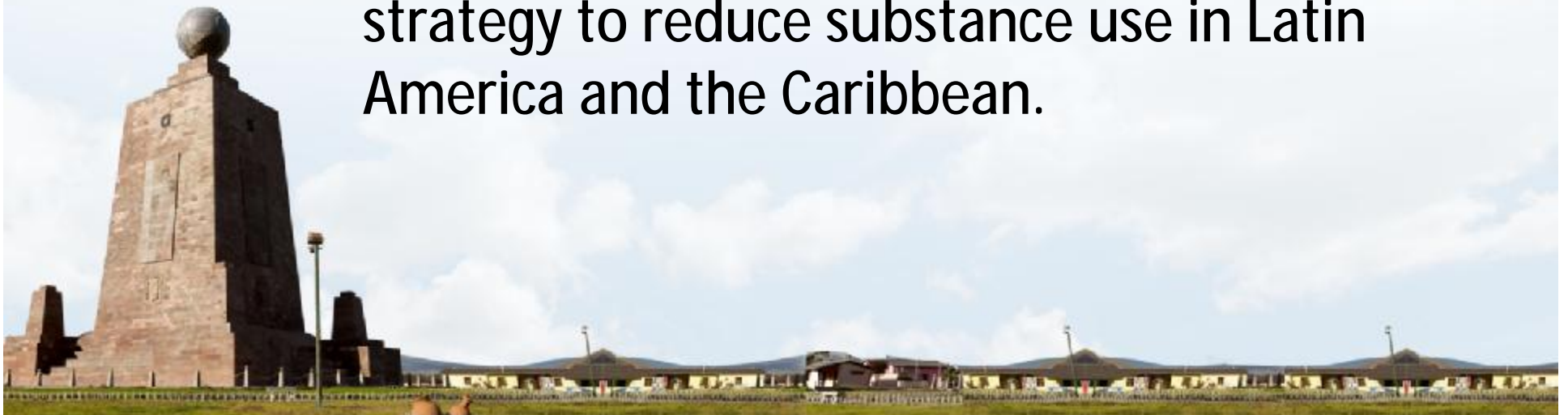
§ Physical abuse and overall neglect were found to associated with substance abuse





Recommendation

§ The prevention of child maltreatment should be approached from a cultural and legal perspective, as a demand reduction strategy to reduce substance use in Latin America and the Caribbean.



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Thank You For Your Attention

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