



# **Jamaica National Household Survey (2016)**



**Uki Atkinson**

**April 5, 2018**

**REGIONAL SEMINAR FOR NATIONAL DRUG**

**OBSERVATORIES IN THE CARIBBEAN**

**Ramada Georgetown Princess Hotel**

**Georgetown, Guyana**

# Background to 2016 NHS

- ❖ Conducted among 4,623 Jamaicans (12 – 65years)
- ❖ Determined:
  - ❖ Prevalence and patterns of substance use including harmful use of alcohol, risk for ganja addiction (AUDIT & CAST)
  - ❖ Risk perception
  - ❖ Access and exposure
  - ❖ Treatment
  - ❖ Prevention
  - ❖ Awareness of Amendments to DDA
- ❖ Representative at the parish & national levels – 93% response rate

# Implementation 4 Phases

**Planning /Training /Pilot/Public sensitization**

**Data Collection & Debriefing – 12 Weeks**

**Dissemination – High Level Stakeholder Meeting, Conferences, Media**

**Knowledge translation – Evidence to Action/Policy**

# PSA & Articles for Sensitization

Jamaica Information Service: 21/4/16

NCDU Urges Public to take... x Jamaica gets Funding for D... x +

c-take-part-drug-prevalence-survey/

## NCDU Urges Public to take Part in Drug Prevalence Survey

By Shelly-Ann Irving April 21, 2016

5

Recommend



Photo: JIS Photographer

Research Analyst at the National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDU) Uki Atkinson

The National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDU) is urging members of the public to participate in the National Drug Prevalence Survey, as the results will inform policy decisions.

The survey, which is underway, seeks to determine the extent of drug use among the Jamaican population, aged 12-65 years, with a particular focus on marijuana use and attitudes toward the recent legislative changes.

"Think of the process not only as data being collected for statistical analysis, but to view the human component of it. People's lives are impacted by drugs and we would like to use this information to make a real difference in our prevention and treatment efforts and to develop policies that will guide action," Research Analyst at the NCDU, Uki Atkinson, told **JIS News** in an interview.

She highlighted that the Ministries of National Security, Education and Health are awaiting the results of the survey to inform their policies: "This type of information is important to them, because drug use cross-cuts several social issues," she added.

Mrs. Atkinson noted that persons may not be substance (drug) users themselves, but they too should participate, as the NCDU is interested in the characteristics of the people who use and those who do not use drugs.

The Research Analyst said that the NCDU's efforts to

The National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDU) is urging members of the public to participate in the National Drug Prevalence Survey, as the results will inform policy decisions.

Mrs. Atkinson explained that the methodology for data collection in this survey is unique, efficient, user friendly and cutting

Jamaica Information Service: 20/4/16

NCDU Urges Public to take... x Jamaica gets Funding for D... x +

is-funding-drug-prevalence-survey/

## Jamaica gets Funding for Drug Prevalence Survey

By Shelly-Ann Irving April 20, 2016

28

Recommend




Photo: JIS Photographer

Research Analyst at the National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDU) Uki Atkinson

Jamaica is one of three Caribbean countries to receive funding from the Organization of American States (OAS), to conduct a National Drug Prevalence Survey.

The survey seeks to determine the extent of drug use among Jamaicans, aged 12 to 65 years, with a particular focus on marijuana use and attitudes toward recent legislative changes.

Research Analyst at the National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDU), Uki Atkinson, told JIS News that Jamaica, being the first country in the region to make these legislative changes, is poised to serve as a benchmark for neighbouring countries that may be considering similar legislative measures.

"In light of recent efforts to decriminalize marijuana and strong advocacy for its legalisation, this is an opportune time to gather information relating to consumption patterns, perception of harm, use of edibles and drinkables for recreational purposes. In addition, we want to know people's attitude towards ganja," Mrs. Atkinson outlined.

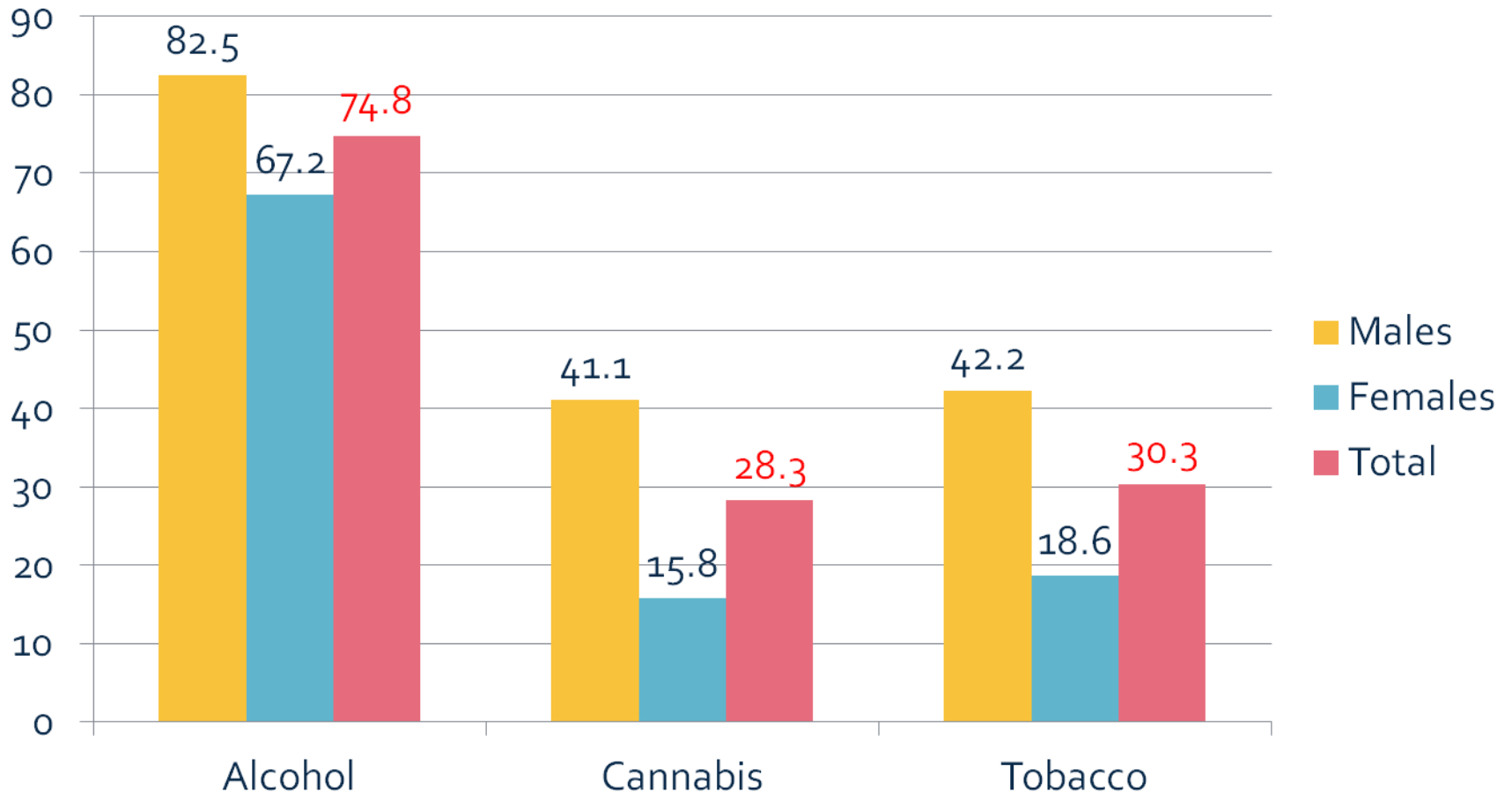
The OAS has been working closely with the NCDU for years on various research efforts, including the National Secondary School Survey, the Prison Survey and the Drug Treatment Standardized data collection system.

The Research Analyst noted that a survey of this nature has been on the NCDU's list of priority research efforts.

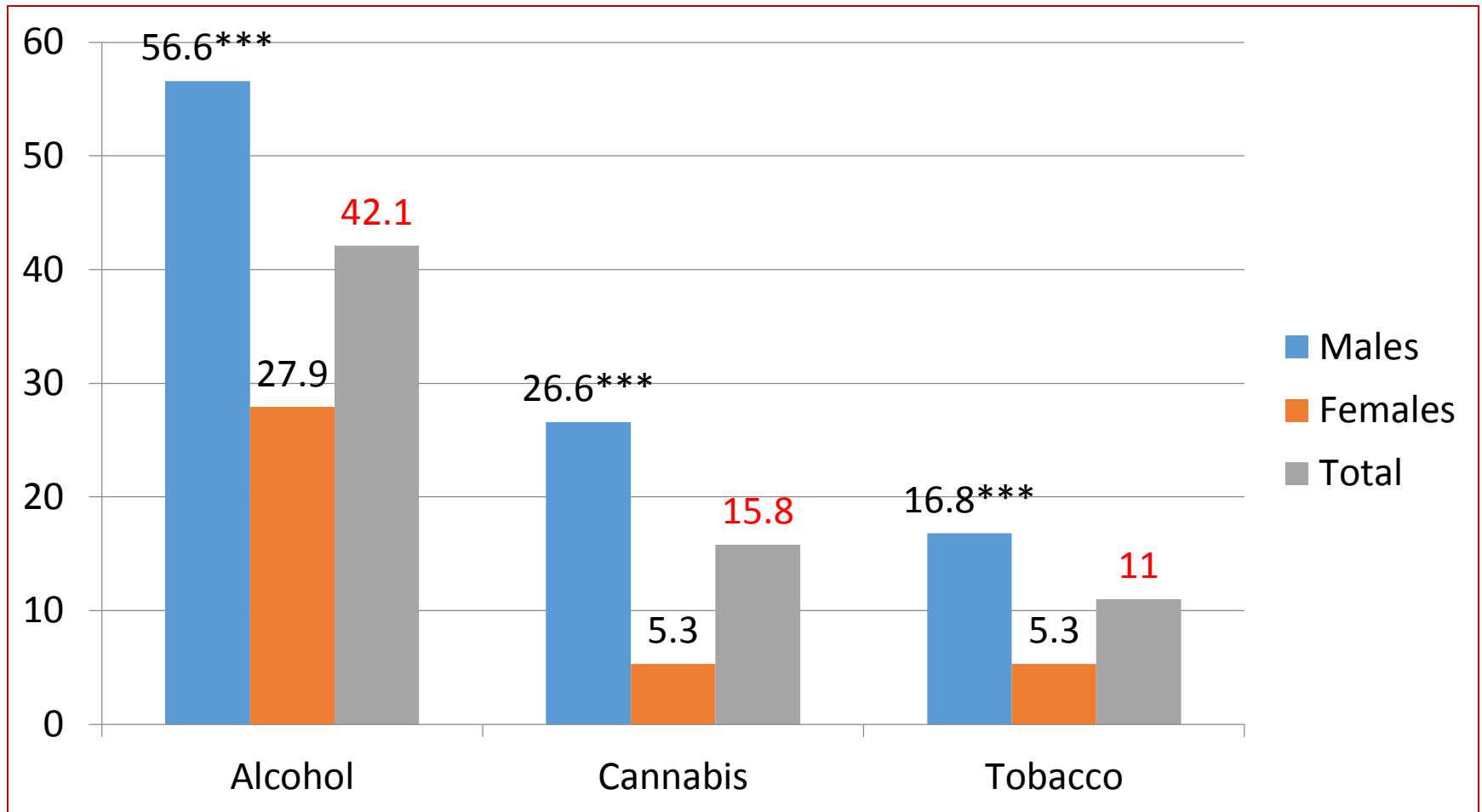
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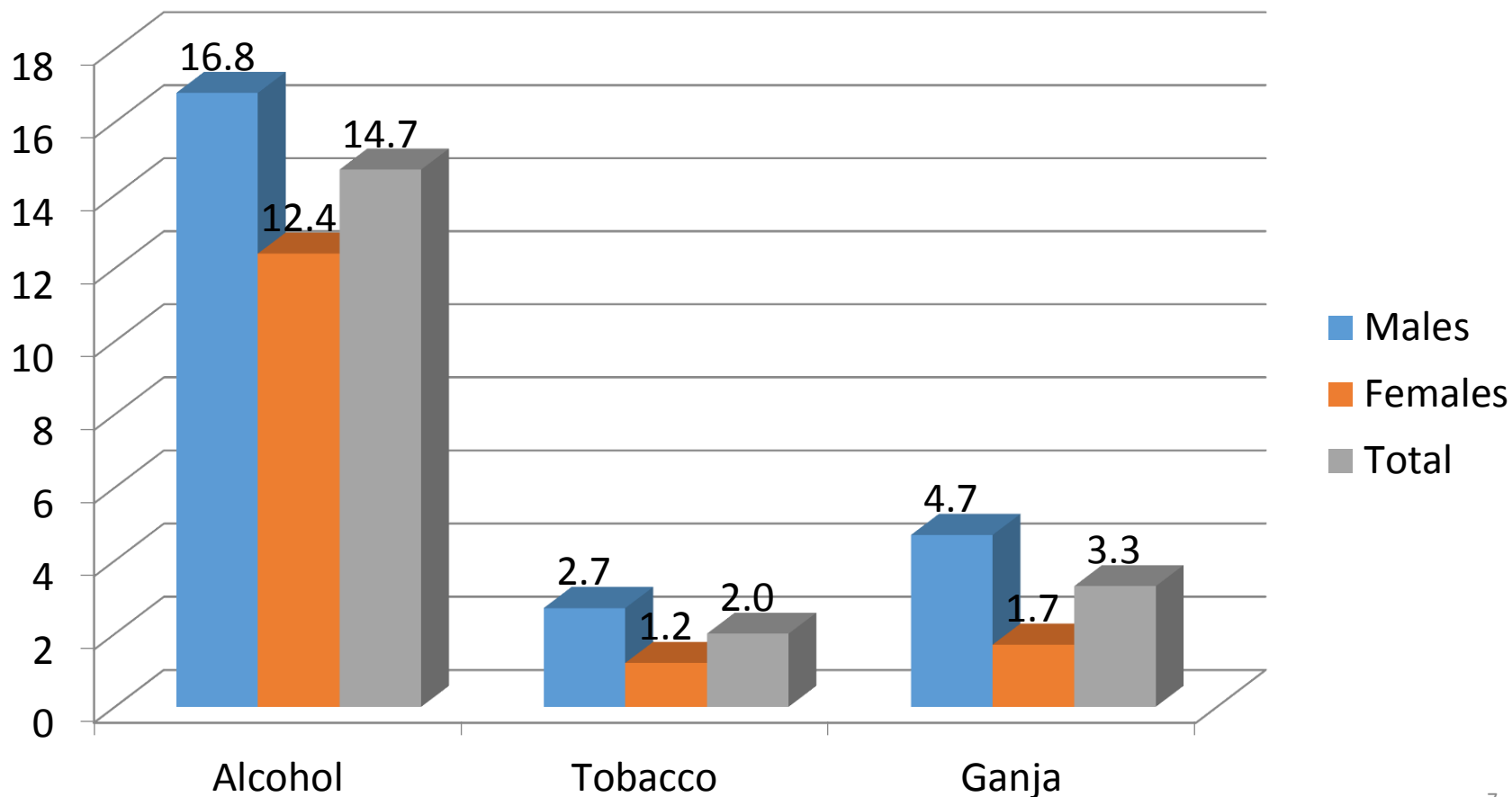
# Lifetime Prevalence



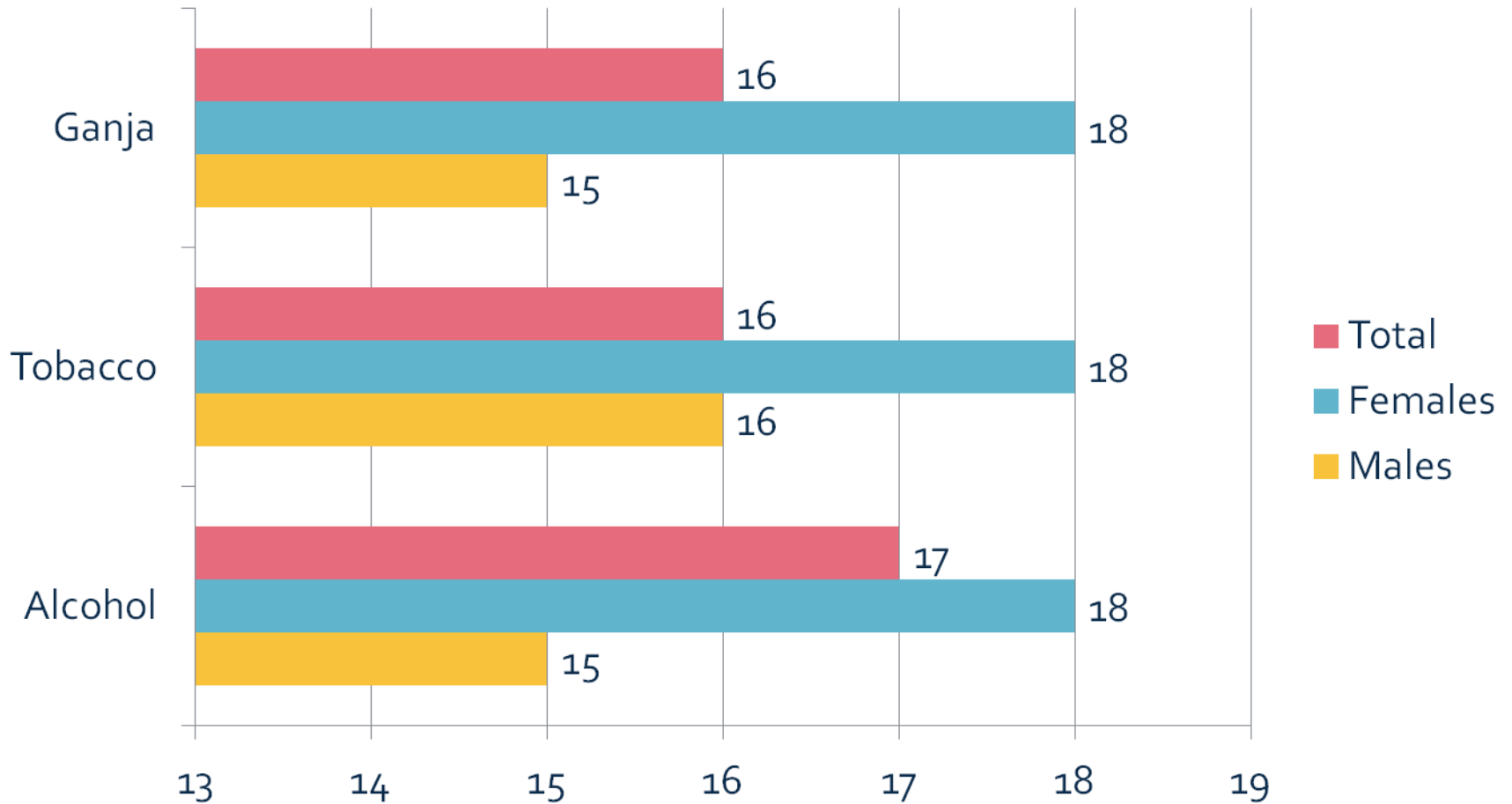
# Current Prevalence



## Under-Age Current Prevalence (12-17 year-olds)



# Average Age(yrs) of First Use





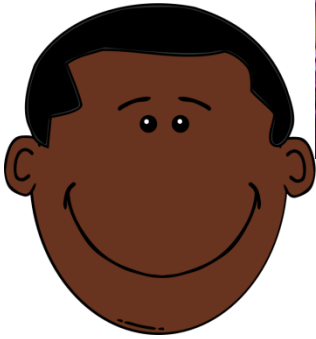
## More on Alcohol

- 16.3% of 12-65 year old Jamaicans were classified as harmful alcohol drinkers
- 15.1% were binge drinkers
- Binge drinking and harmful alcohol use, not identified in 12-14 year-olds
- 15-17 year olds Binge (5.6%) and Harmful alcohol use (6.1%)

# Recent Binge Drinking

Males: 5 or more drinks in a single occasion/outing within the past two weeks

Females: 4 or more drinks in a single occasion/outing within the past two weeks



## MALES

- 1 in 5 reported binge drinking
- Of all age groups, occurrence highest in the 35-44 year-olds – 1 in 3 reported binge drinking



## FEMALES

- 1 in 10 reported binge drinking
- Of all age groups, occurrence highest in the 25-34 year-olds – 1 in 7 reported binge drinking

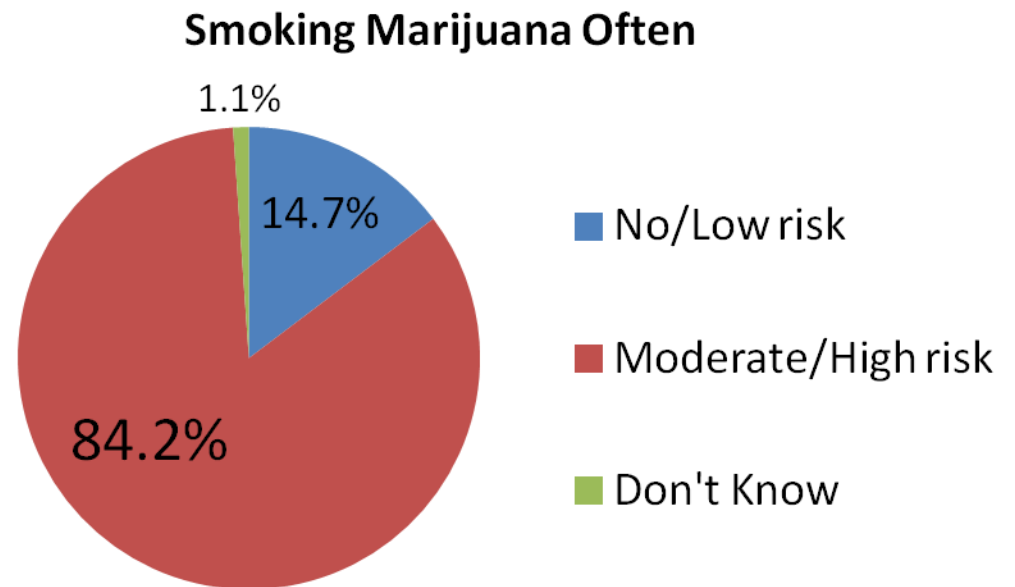
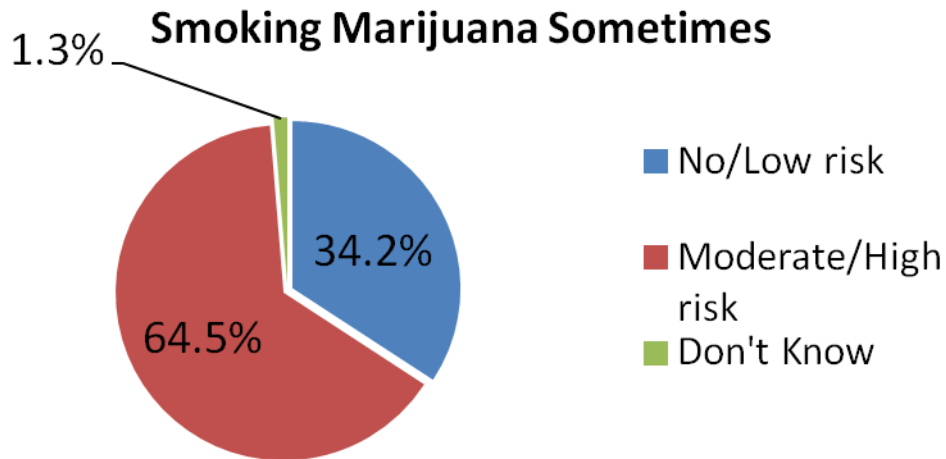
# 18-65 year-olds: Driving Under the Influence



1 in every 6 males and  
1 in every 17 females  
admitted to

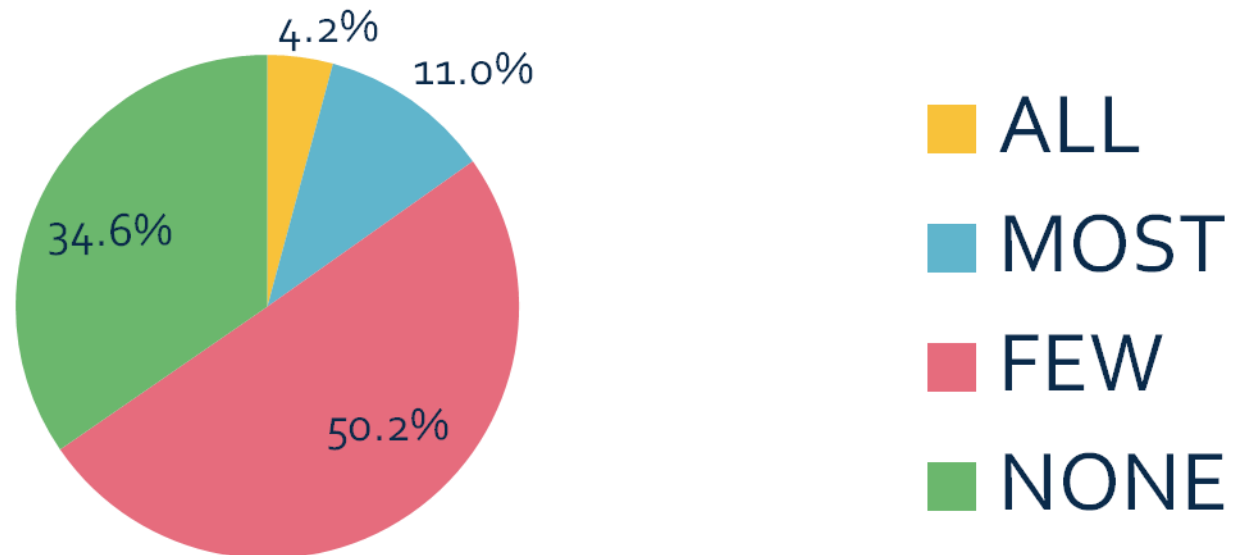
**Driving Under the  
Influence of Alcohol or  
Illegal Drugs**

# Perception of Risk

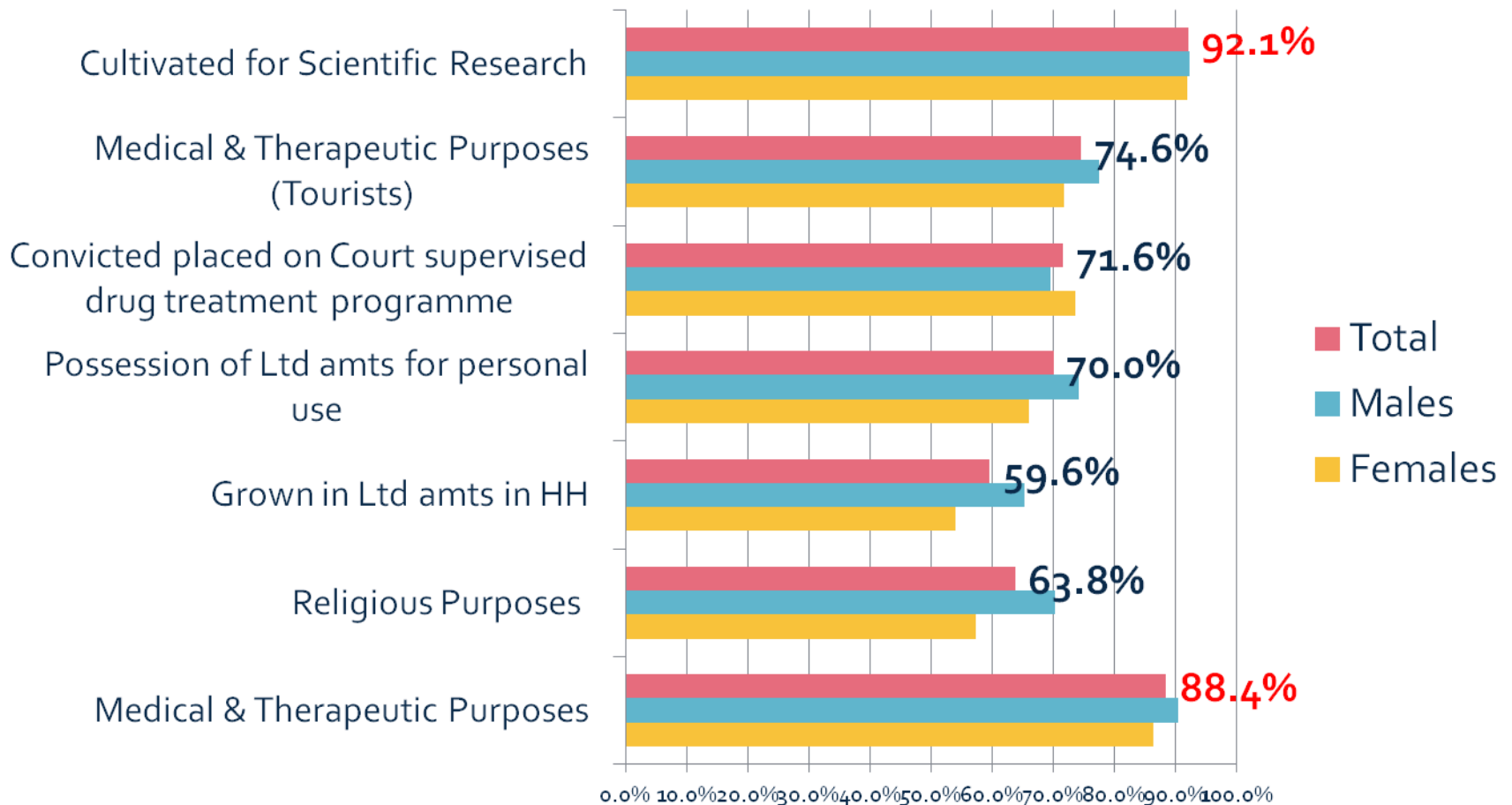


# Awareness of Changes to Dangerous Drugs Act

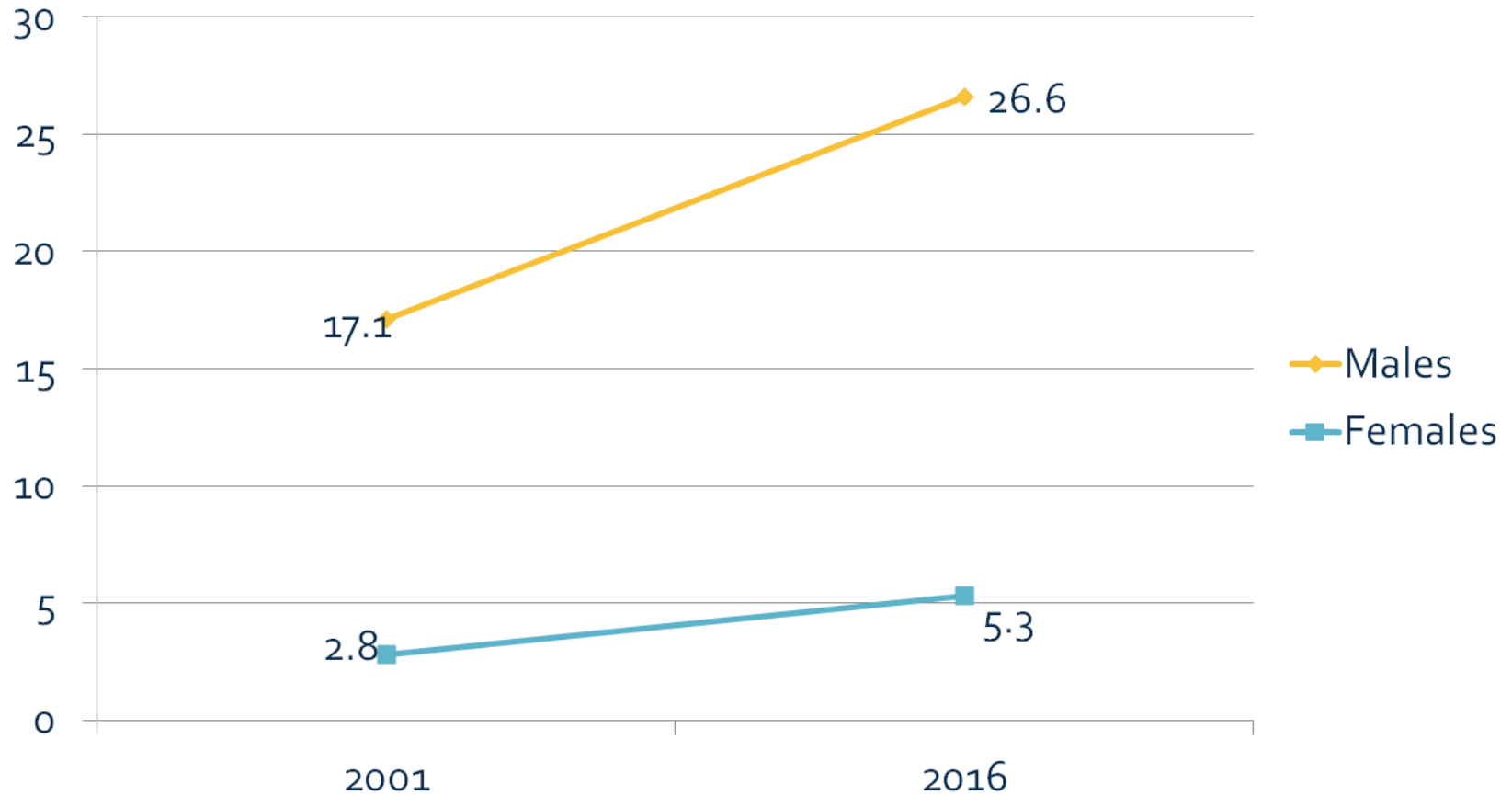
## Percentage of 12-65 year-olds aware of Changes to the Dangerous Drugs Act



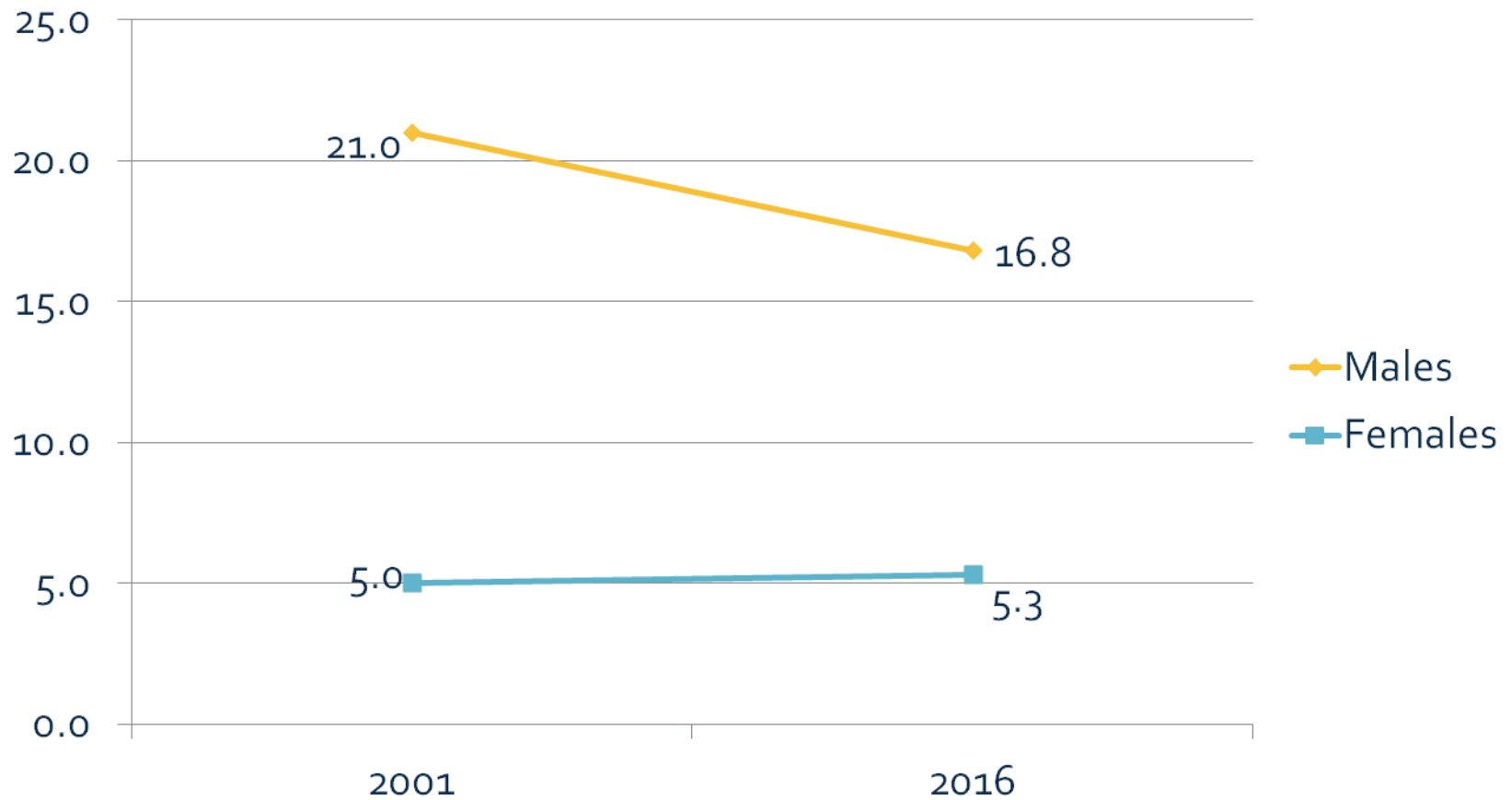
# Opinions on Marijuana Policy



# Trends in Current Ganja Use (2001 vs 2016)

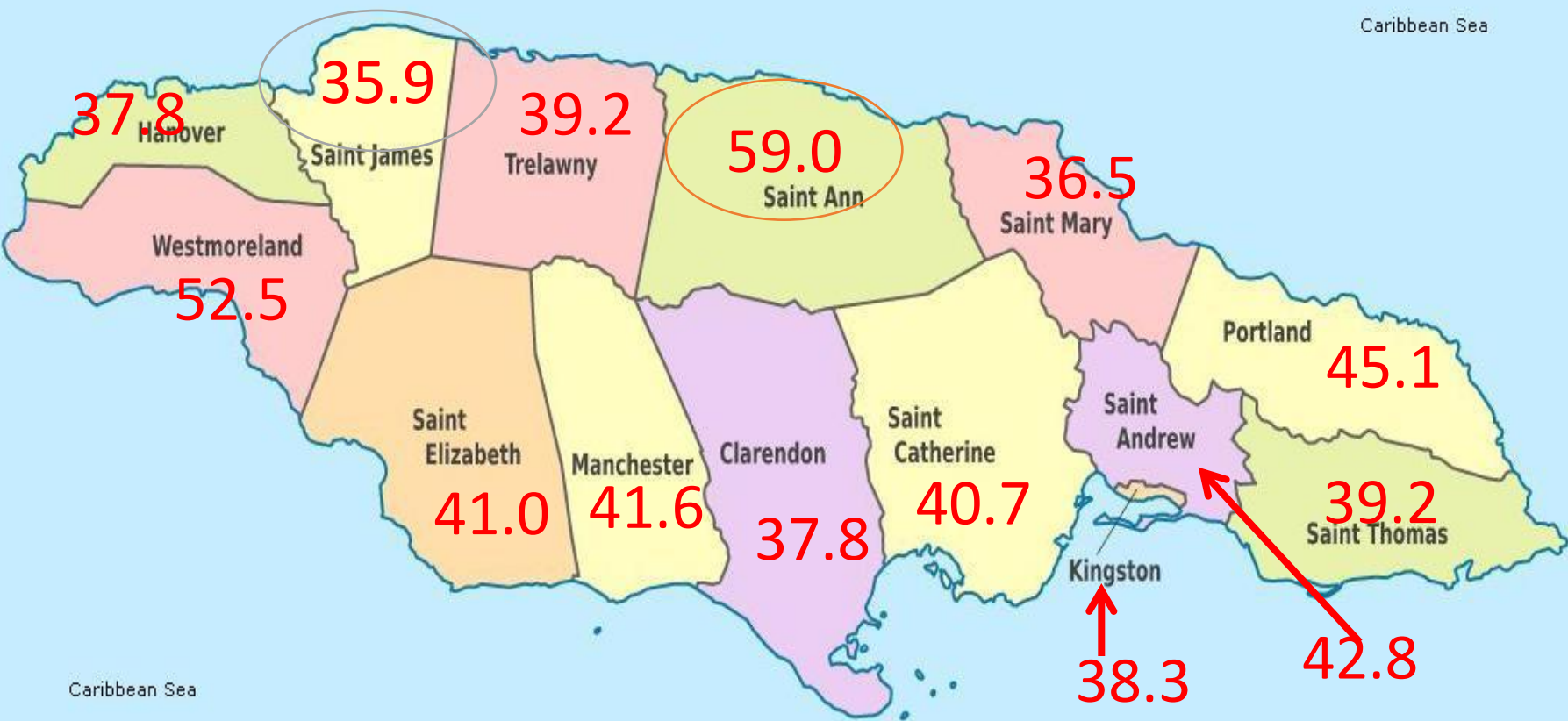


# Trends in Current Cigarette Use (2001 vs 2016)

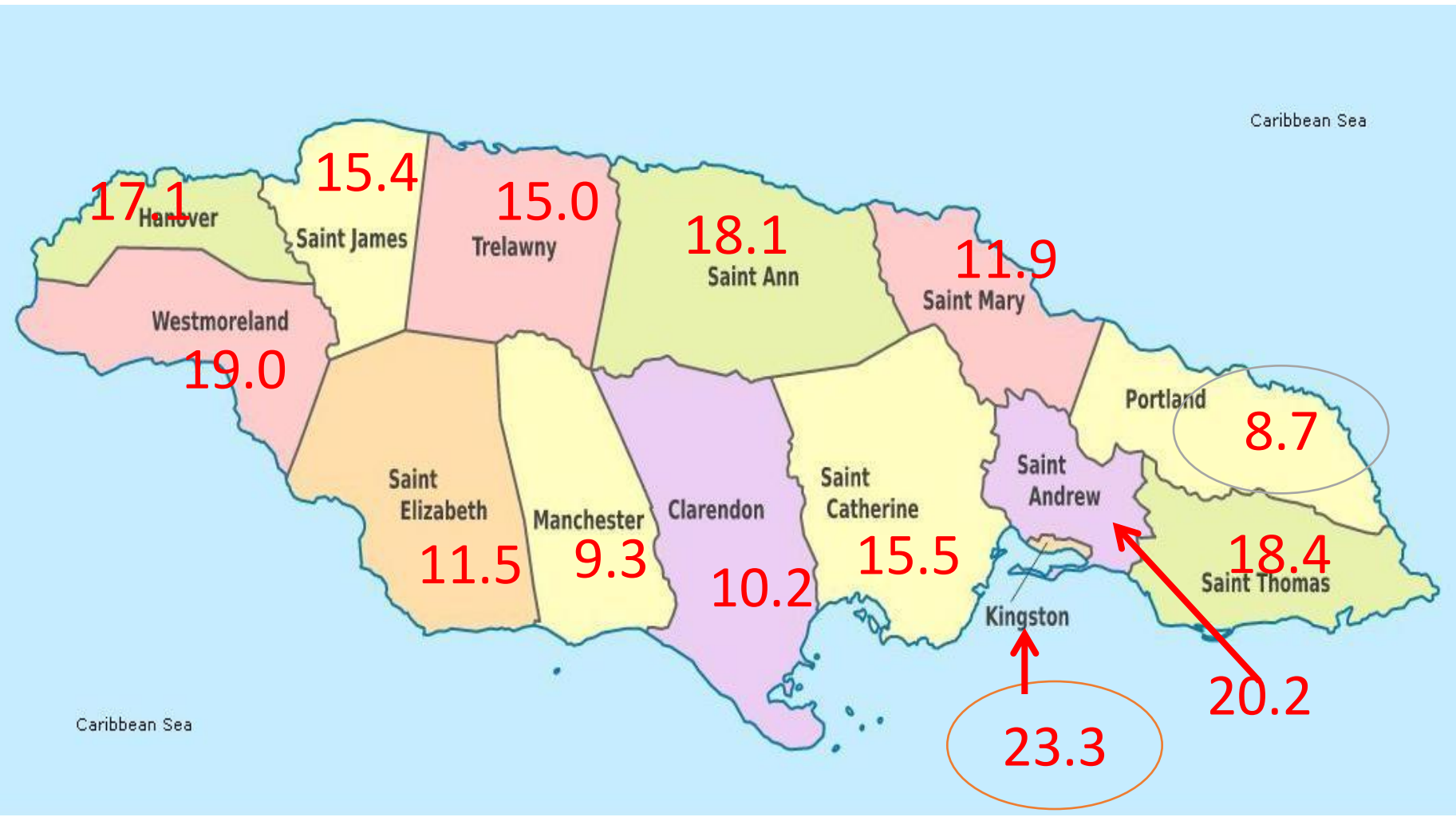




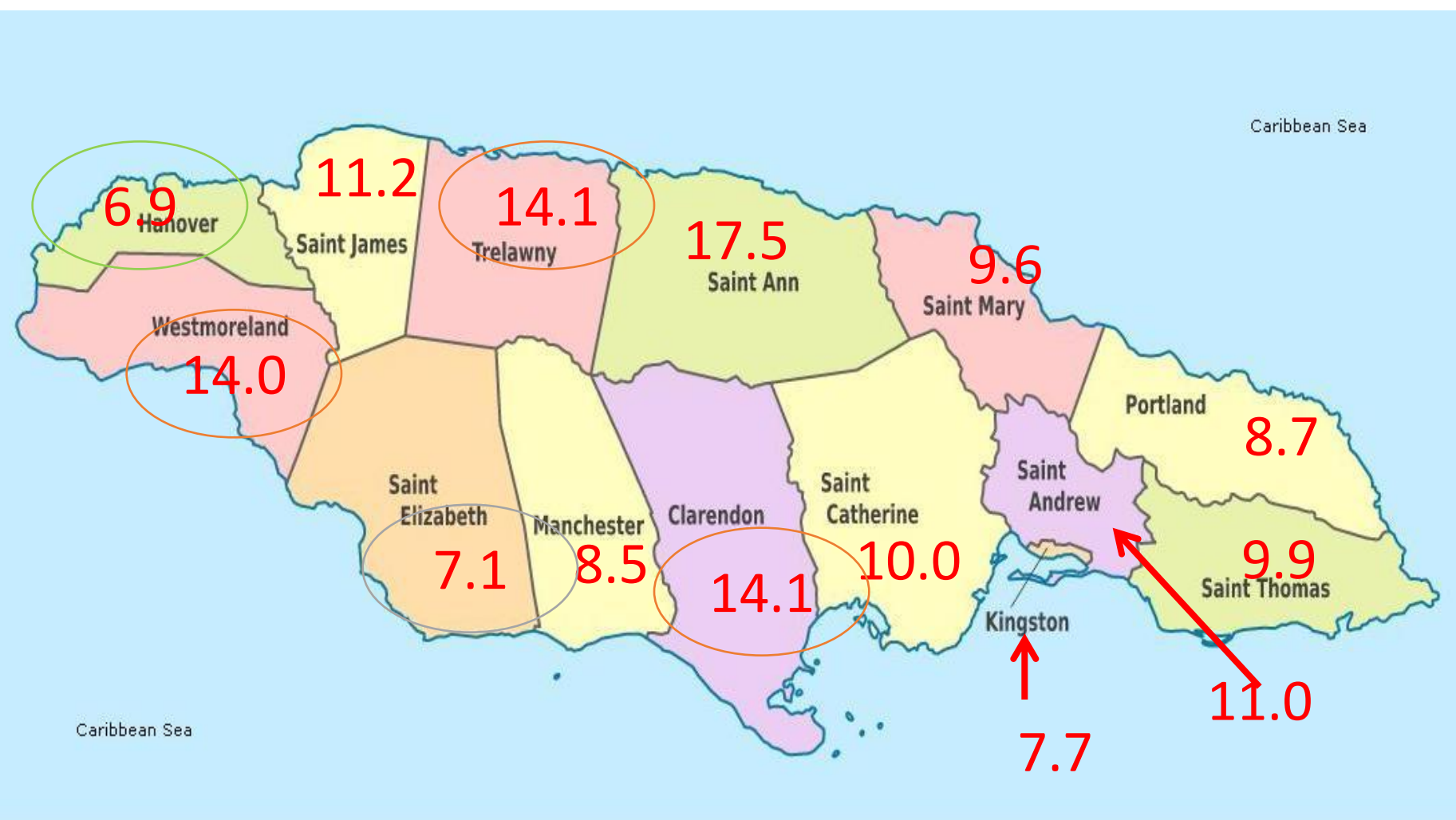
# Parish Prevalence (%): Current Alcohol Use



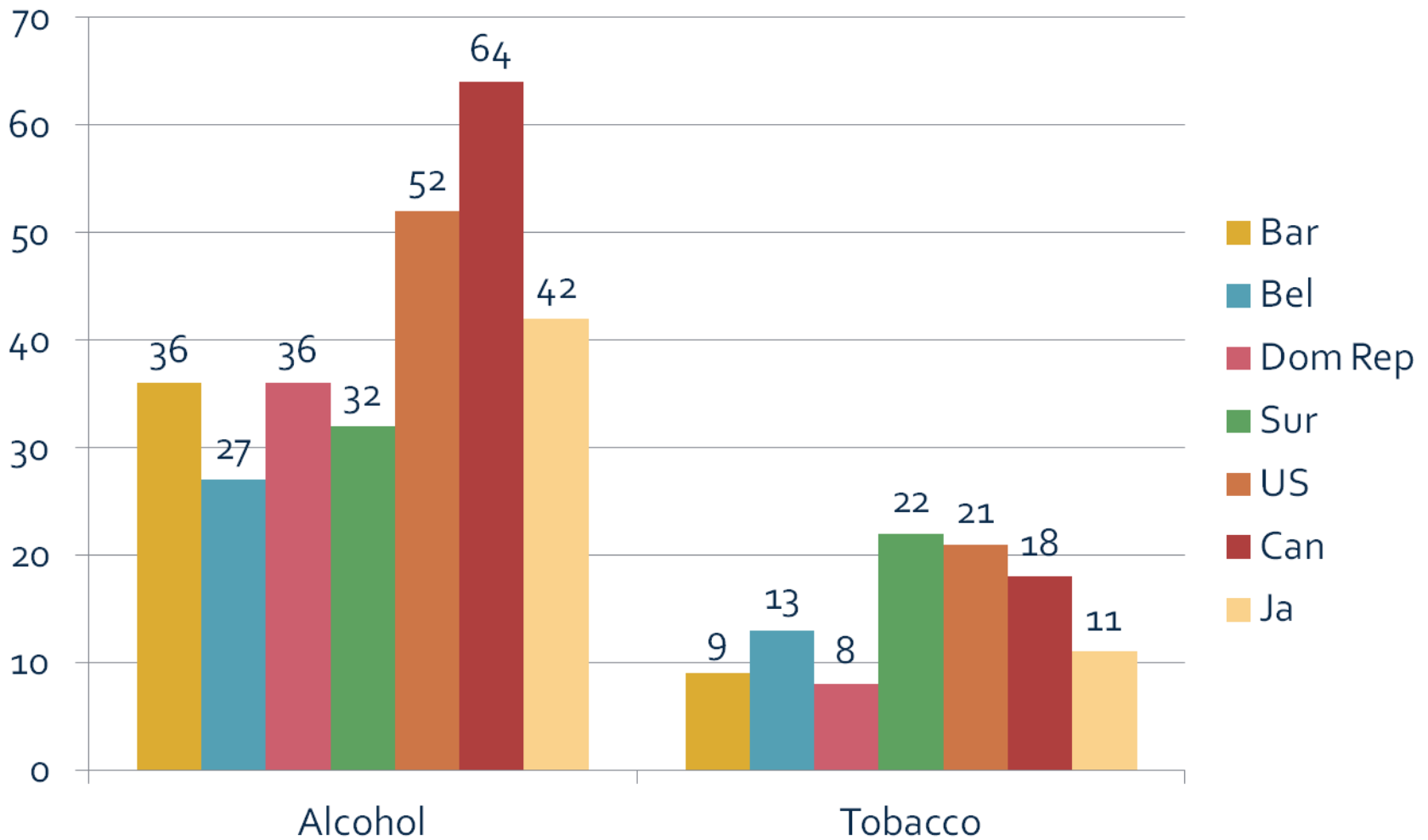
# Parish Prevalence (%): Current Ganja Use



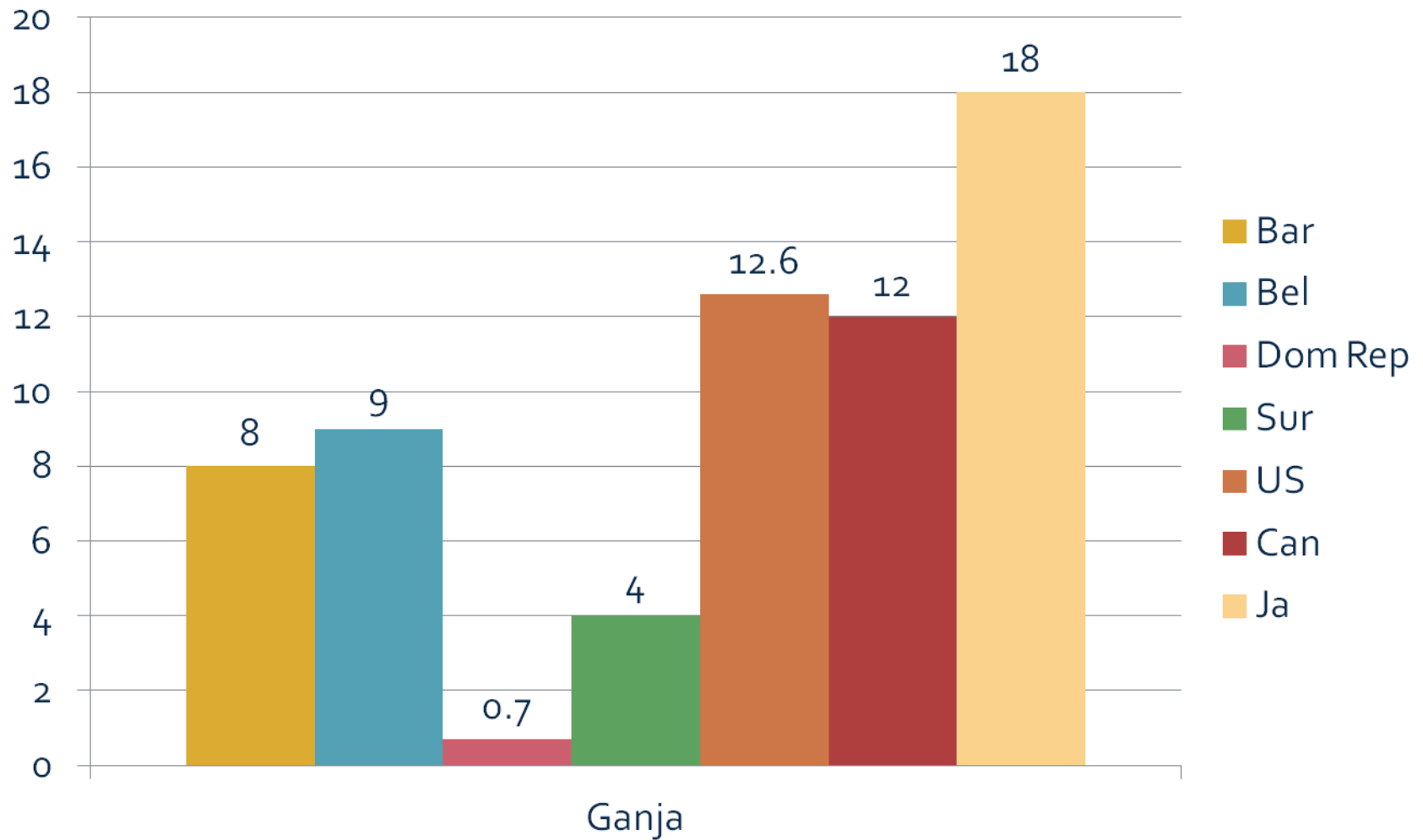
# Parish Prevalence (%): Current Cigarette Use



# Country Comparisons –Alcohol & Tobacco (Past Month)



# Country Comparisons –Ganja (Past Year)



# Implications

- ❑ Significant gender disparities in substance use
- ❑ Socio-demographic differences – educational level, urban rural and religion
- ❑ Significant limited knowledge of risks associated with alternative forms of tobacco use (e-cigarettes/hookshh pipes) – public education
- ❑ High level of access to ganja
- ❑ Variations in risk of ganja addiction and harmful alcohol use across parishes
- ❑ Baseline data for monitoring trends – post decriminalization

# Research to Action

- ✓ High-level dissemination
- ✓ Post survey media engagement
- ✓ Widespread local dissemination – island-wide pop-ups, conferences/meetings, academic conferences and courses
- ✓ Use of data to inform policy and action – MOH/MNS
- ✓ GIS Mapping of drug use hotspots

# Dissemination - November 2016

- ❖ Participants from Health, Education, Law Enforcement, Academia, Media
- ❖ Presentations on general findings, trends, treatment data, implications of findings
- ❖ Small group discussions
  - **Policies:** Does your agency/sector have clearly stated policies on how to deal with or respond to drugs? Please provide a summary/example of these policies and what they address. Are these policies known and understood by all relevant persons?
  - **Survey Results:** How do the results of the household study and the treatment data affect how you carry out your mandate as an institution or as a sector?
  - **Recommendations:** What are your recommendations for the NCDA and your own sector in relation to drug prevention, drug research, drug treatment, drug policy development?



# Dissemination

## Opening Segment



## Mr. Pernell Clarke



# Dissemination

## Group Discussion - Treatment



## Group Discussion - Education



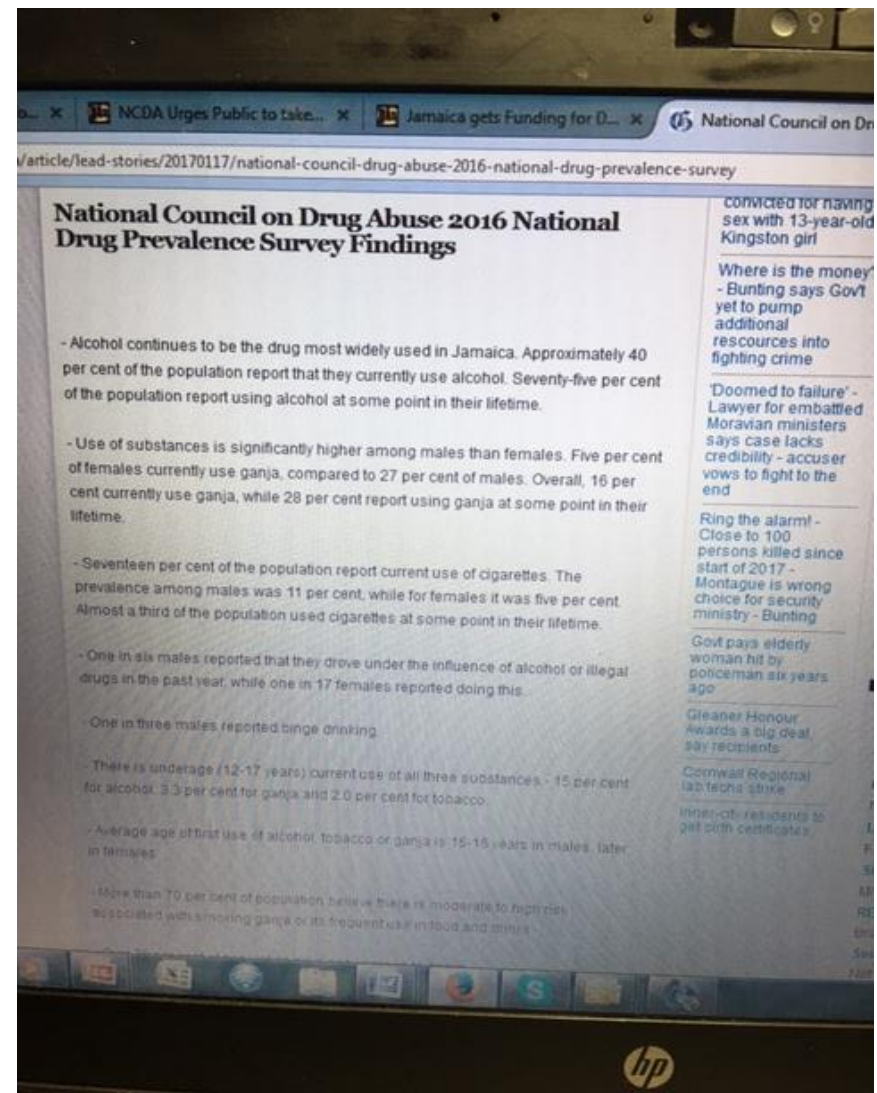


# Post Survey Articles

Jamaica Gleaner: 17/1/17



Jamaica Gleaner: 17/1/17



# Post Survey Articles

Jamaica Information Service: 23/11/2016

proach-needed-ganja-regulation/

## Multisectoral Approach Needed for Ganja Regulation

By Peta-Gay Hodges November 23, 2016



Photo: Dave Reid

Research Specialist with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), Pernell Clarke, addresses recent JIS 'Think Tank' on the regulation of ganja.

Specialist on drug abuse control at the Organization of American States (OAS), Pernell Clarke, has underscored the need for a multisectoral approach to ganja regulation in Jamaica.

Mr. Clarke, who is also a Research Specialist with the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) says this undertaking is not confined to matters of national security, but cuts across several sectors and agencies.

"Public health is a very important consideration in enforcing laws relating to smoking in public places, because (with decriminalisation), marijuana is going to become more available, and that's something you have to prepare for," he said, adding that accessibility is inextricably linked to consumption.

In this regard, Mr. Clarke emphasised that the regulation needs to consider and make provisions for the sectors and stakeholders that will be affected.

He was speaking at a recent JIS 'Think Tank' held at the agency's head office in Kingston.

Mr. Clarke also stressed that the regulation must address issues pertaining to persons deviating from the legislative stipulations regarding ganja use.

Story Highlights

Specialist on drug abuse control at the Organization of American States (OAS), Pernell Clarke, has underscored the need for a multisectoral approach to ganja regulation in Jamaica.

Jamaica Observer: 16/11/2016

son - Outlo... x Drivers Jamaica ganja - Go... x Drug use remains significa... x +


jicaobserver.com/news/Drug-use-remains-significantly-higher-in-males

## News

### Drug use remains significantly higher in males

Wednesday, November 16, 2016 | 6:11 PM 2 Comments

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Research Analyst at the National Council on Drug Abuse (NCDA), Uki Atkinson, provides details about the entity's drug-prevalence survey during a JIS Think Tank today. (Photo: JIS)

(JIS) - Results from a drug-prevalence survey conducted

Thank you