

ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES (OAS) INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE CONTROL COMMISSION (CICAD)

REPORT ON DRUG USE IN THE AMERICAS 2019




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Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID)

The Inter-American Observatory on Drugs



**Inter-American
Observatory on
Drugs (OID)**

The **Inter-American Observatory on Drugs** (known by its Spanish language acronym, **OID**) is **CICAD's** research unit, providing support to **OAS Member States** in the collection and analysis of data on the drug problem so that they can design more effective drug policies.

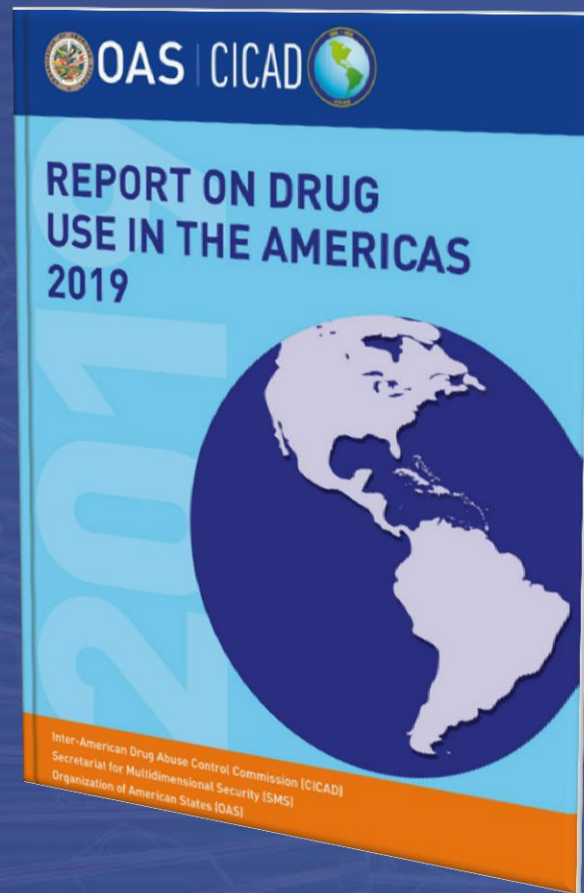


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Report on Drug Use in the Americas 2019

- Third report on drug use in the Hemisphere.
- It offers an overview of drug use across the Hemisphere, based on data submitted by 33 OAS Member States.

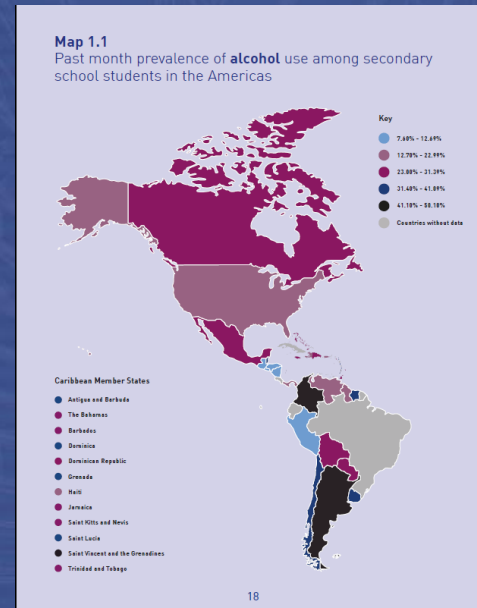


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Structure of the Report

- Executive summary, methodology
- 1. Alcohol
- 2. Tobacco and novel nicotine products
- 3. Cannabis
- 4. Inhalants
- 5. Cocaine Substances
- 6. ATS (Amphetamine-type stimulants)
- 7. CPD (Non-Medical use of Controlled prescription drugs)
- 8. NPS (New Psychoactive Substances)



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Structure of the Report - continued

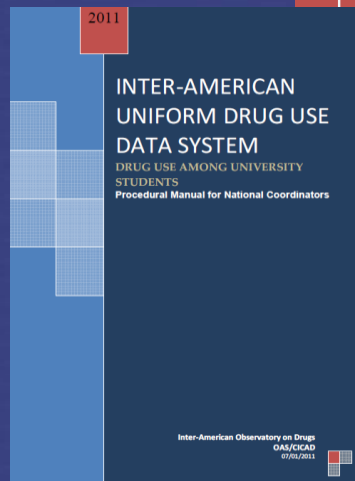
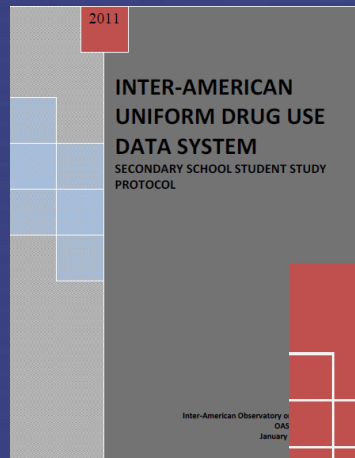
- Each chapter summarizes the most recent information available on the prevalence data on drug use from general population, secondary school students and university students.
 - Prevalence by age and sex → **Magnitude of use**
 - Perception of risk → **Predisposition**
 - Perception of easy of access
 - Direct offer (year/month)
- Availability**



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Data collection methods



- Standardized Research Protocols
- Used in the majority Member States
- Basic indicators are standardized (prevalence, perception of risk and ease of access, direct offer, etc.)



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OID - Online data collection system

- Intended to request data annually.
- Standardized indicators.
- Currently includes only data on drug use.
- The next report will be made with drug supply control data.

Planilla para recoleccion de datos (OID)

User Information

Name: Cejana Pasos **Email:** cejana.passos@mj.gov.br

Location: **Company:**

Position: **IP Address:** 189.9.0.93

Started: 07/25/2017 4:00 PM **Completed:** 07/25/2017 4:37 PM

Time Spent: 0 days, 1 hours, 37 minutes, 2206 seconds, 2206000 milliseconds **Custom 1:**

Custom 2: **Custom 3:**

1. AÑO DEL ÚLTIMO INFORMACION)

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Seleccione uno	-	-	-	-

2. CITA DE ESTUDIO:
[No Answer Entered]

3. POBLACION REPRESENTADA: NUMERO DE CASOS EXPANDIDOS

	8º grado	10º grado	12º grado	Total
Hombres	-	-	-	-
Mujeres	-	-	-	-

4. PREVALENCIA POR SEXO Y TOTAL

	Prevalencia Vida HOMBRES (%)	Prevalencia Vida MUJERES (%)	Prevalencia Vida TOTAL (%)	Prevalencia año HOMBRES (%)	Prevalencia año MUJERES (%)	Prevalencia año TOTAL (%)	Prevalencia mes HOMBRES (%)	Prevalencia mes MUJERES (%)	Prevalencia mes TOTAL (%)
Alcohol	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tabaco	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inhalables	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fármacos tranquilizantes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fármacos estimulantes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



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Peer Review Process

- A technical working group carried out review the preliminary version convened from March 7-9, 2018, with representatives from national drug observatories (NDOs) and external experts in drug research.
- Presentations to NODs
 - Caribbean countries – Guyana, May 2018
 - Latin American countries – Guatemala, August 2018
- Review by external experts.
- Final review by everyone NDOs.
- Editorial review
- Final edition



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Limitations

- Unadjusted data according to population differences between countries.
- Difference in the year of the survey conducted by various countries.
- Missing data from some countries: not all countries carry out all studies, nor with equal periodicity.



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Summary of findings



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Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
Secretaria for Multidimensional Security (SMS)
Organization of American States (OAS)

Four main areas relevant to hemispheric drug policy

1. Trends in drug use.
2. Early onset of drug use.
3. Changes in drug use by sex.
4. New challenges.

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2019



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1. Trends in drug use



Cannabis use in the general population is increasing in most countries that have trend data.



Cannabis use among secondary school students is increasing in most countries that have trend data.



Tobacco is the only substance that is showing systematic decreases in use over time in the general population.



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Trends in drug use – continued.



About half of the countries show increases in cocaine use in the general population.



Cocaine shows more variability in secondary school students: increases, decreases, and plateaus in different countries.



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Trends in drug use – continued.

- **In secondary school students:**
 - Alcohol in decline or stable.
 - Cannabis shows increases in use in most countries.
 - Cocaine trends have more variation.



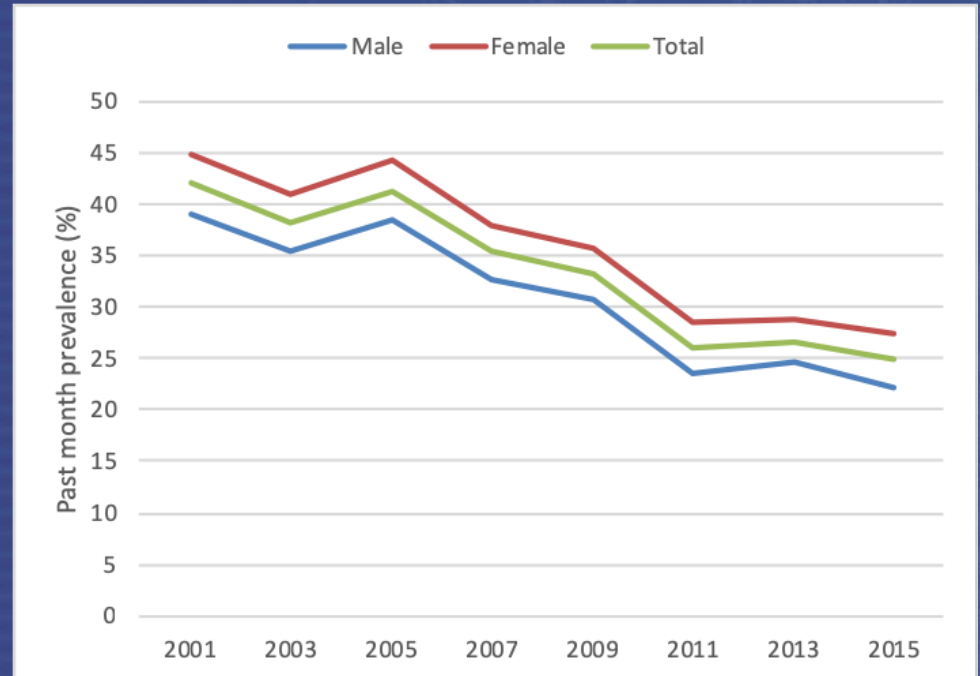
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Trends in tobacco consumption

- Tobacco is the only substance that shows systematic declines in use across populations and countries.
- It is important to measure use of electronic cigarettes.

Past month prevalence of tobacco use among secondary school students, Chile 2001-2015



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Trends in cannabis use

- Increasing use
 - In the general population
 - In secondary school students it is stable in few countries and increases in most countries.
- 8th grade - 4 countries have 20% or more past year prevalence.
- Use by sex more similar over time.
- Perception of risk in use decreases.
- Perception of easy of access increases.

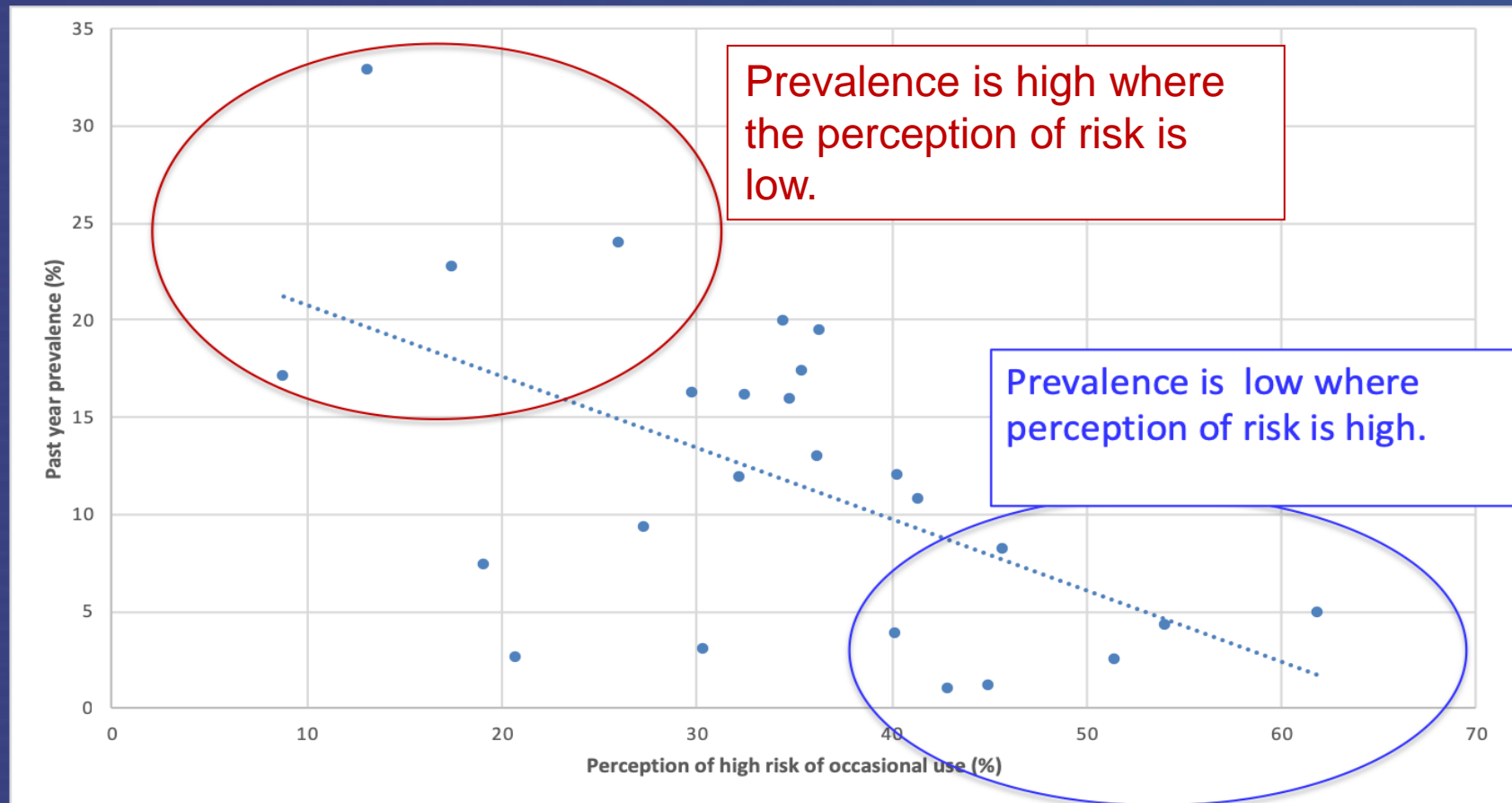
It is important to start measuring frequency and intensity of use and to analyze the level of THC present.



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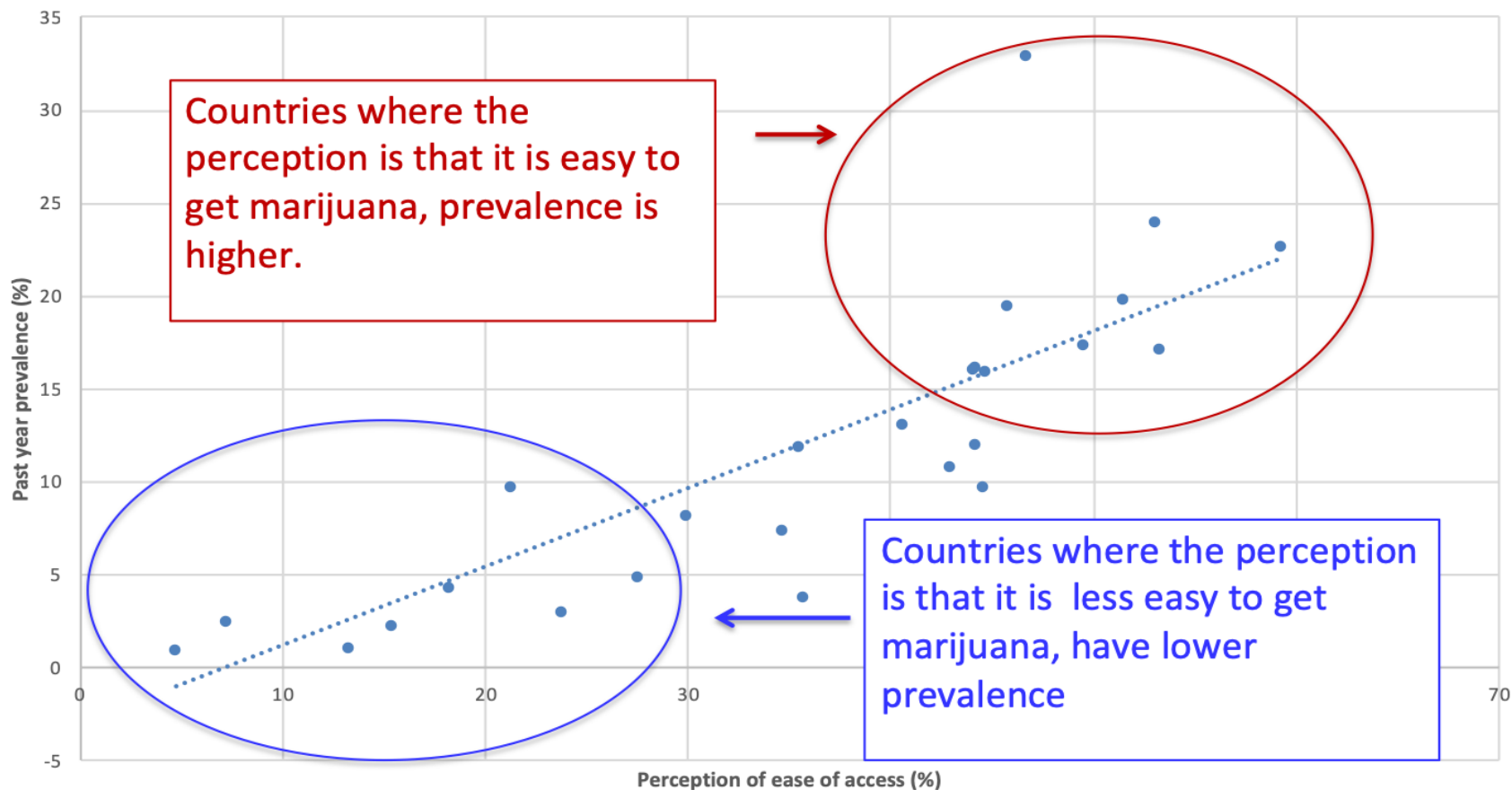
Perception of high risk for occasional use of marijuana among secondary school students



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Perception of easy of access to marijuana among secondary school students

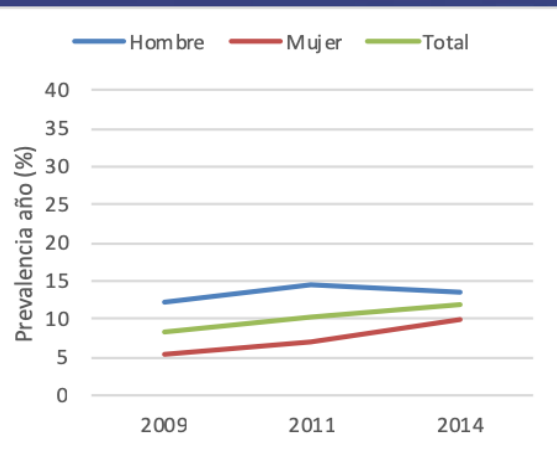


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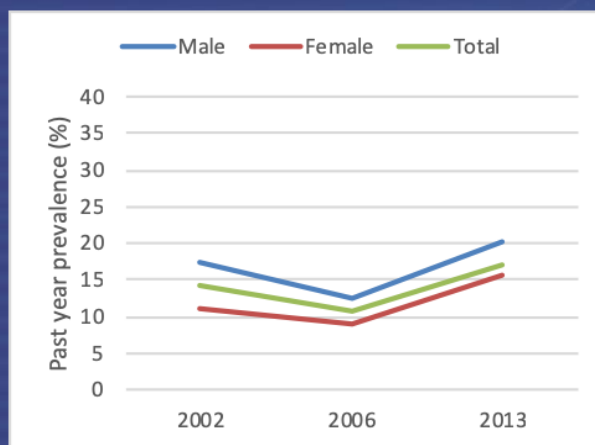


Trends: Past year prevalence of marijuana use among secondary school students

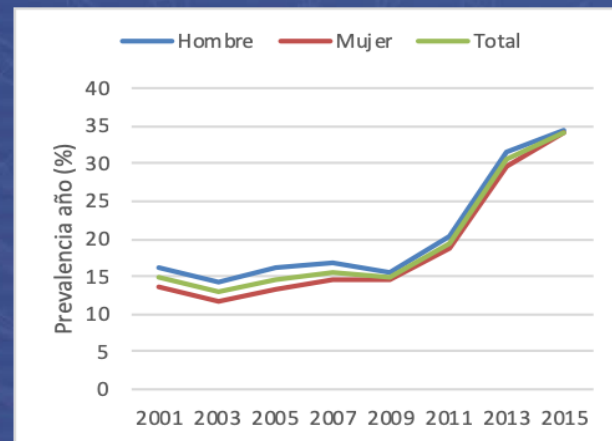
Argentina



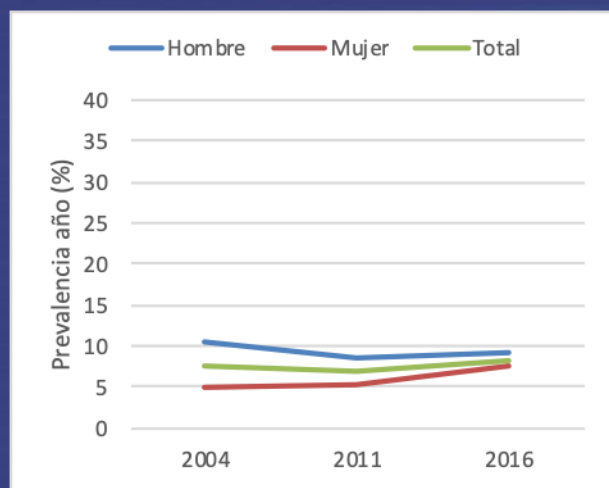
Barbados



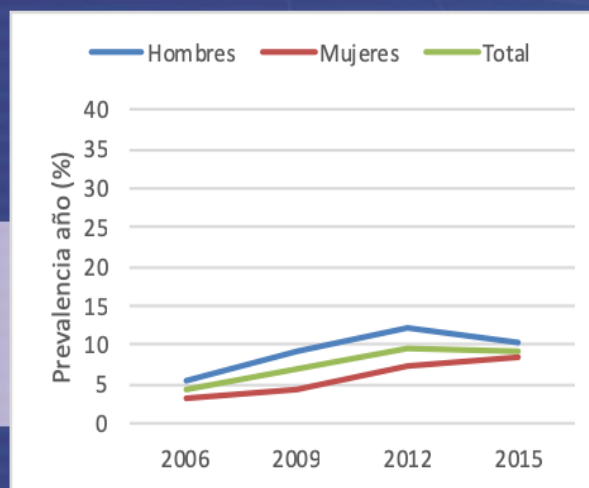
Chile



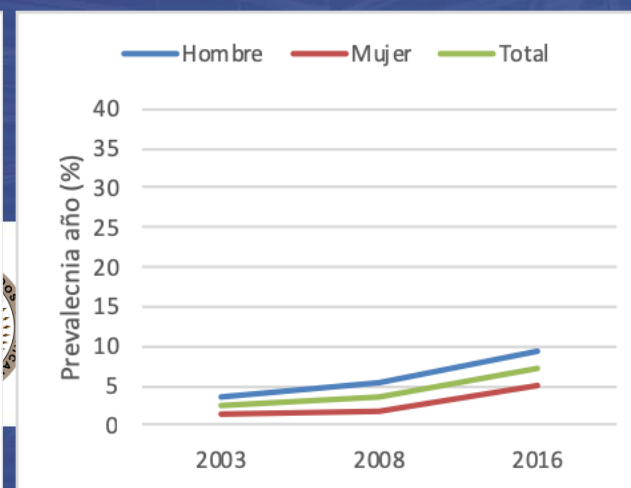
Colombia



Costa Rica

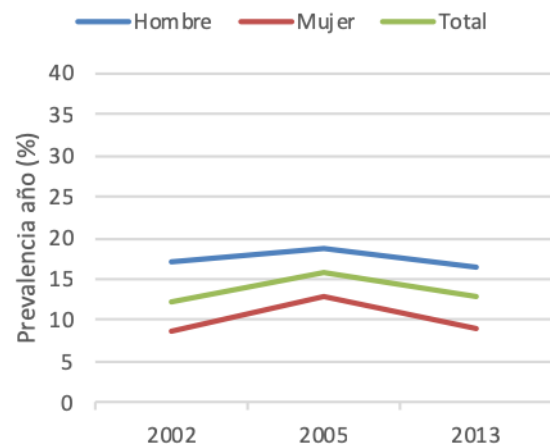


El Salvador

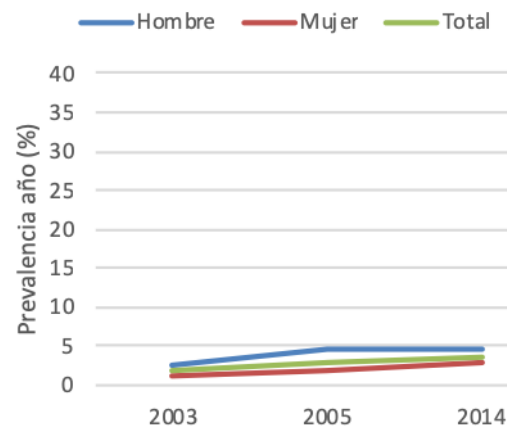


Trends: Past year prevalence of marijuana use among secondary school students

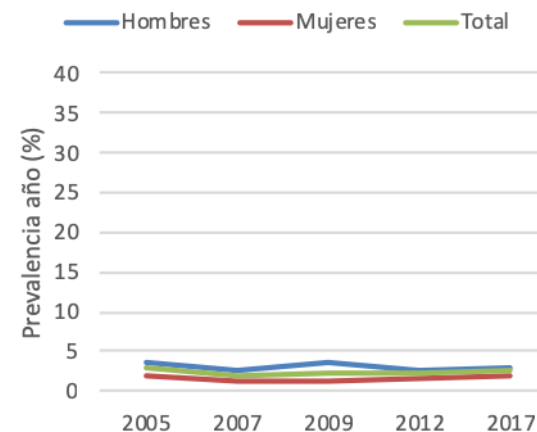
Grenada



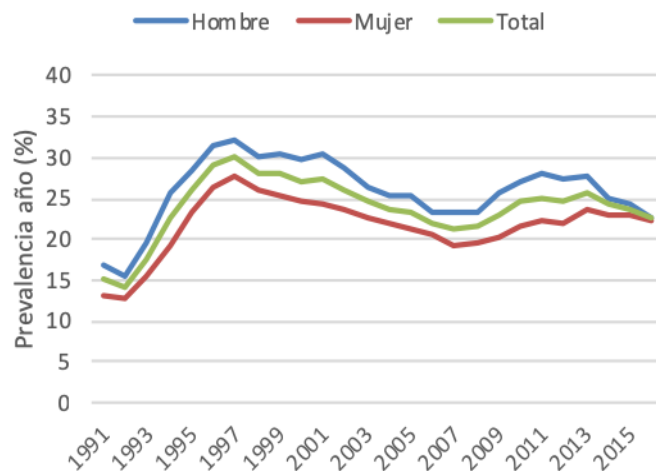
Paraguay



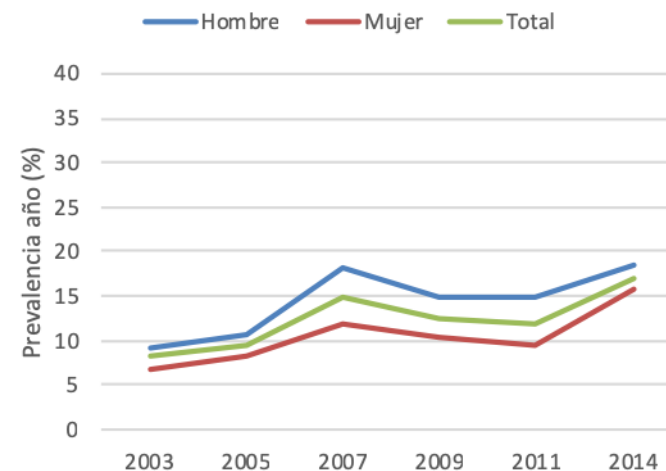
Peru



United States



Uruguay



2. Early onset of drug use

- Early and excessive alcohol use is a high-risk behavior.
- Despite the decrease in tobacco use, the increase in the use of nicotine products in electronic devices, among the youngest, is of concern.
- Concerns about the use of all types of drugs in 8th grade students, observed in surveys of secondary school students.



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Alcohol - secondary school students, according to past month prevalence

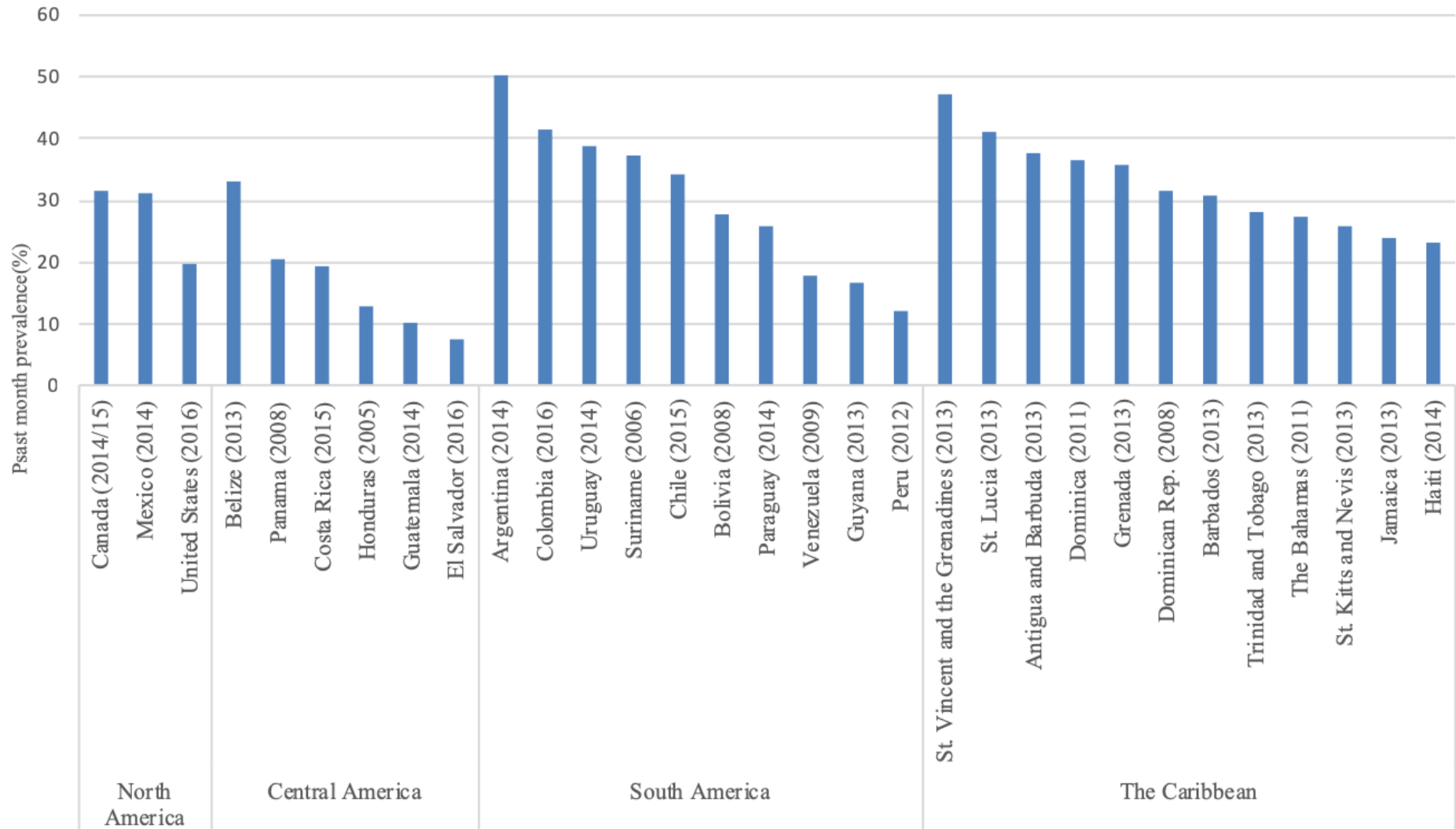
- In 23 of 31 countries, 20% or more of secondary school students have used alcohol.
 - In 15 countries, more than 30% used alcohol (3 of 10 students).
 - In 4 countries, more than 40% used alcohol (4 of 10 students).
- Alcohol use among 8th grade students:
 - In 10 countries, more than 20% used alcohol.
 - In 3 countries, more than 30% used alcohol.



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Past month prevalence of alcohol use among secondary school students, by country and subregion

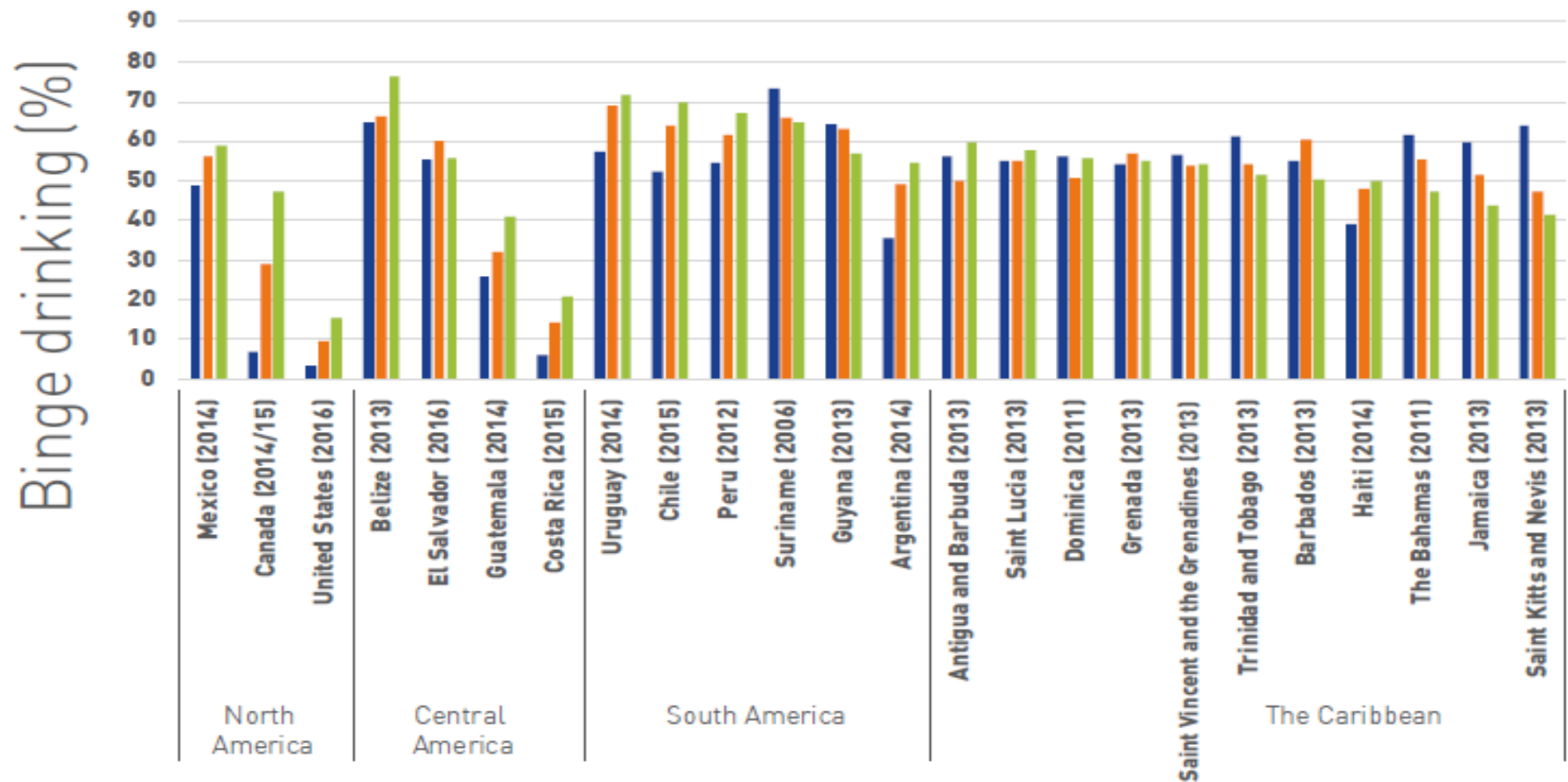


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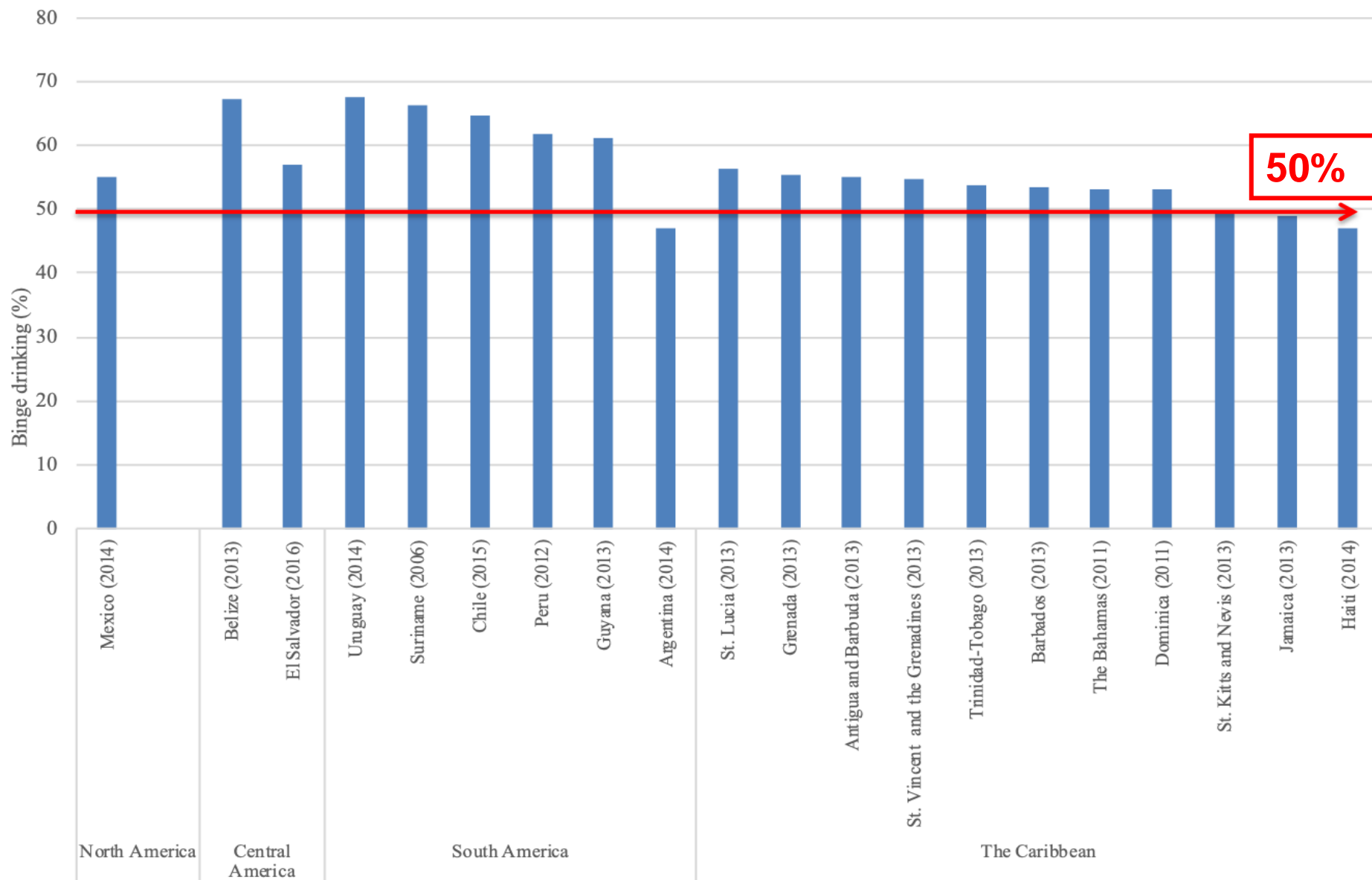
Early onset of drug use

8th 10th 12th

Percentage of secondary school students who engaged in binge drinking, out of all students who drank alcohol in the past month, by grade and country, sorted by subregion



Proportion of binge drinking secondary school students who used alcohol during the past month, by country and subregion



3. Changes in drug use by sex

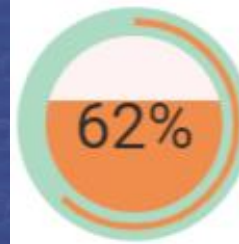
- Drug use has historically been seen as a male phenomenon, but recent data show that females in some countries are now using certain drugs either at the same, or at higher rates, than males.
- Misuse of tranquilizer pharmaceuticals is higher among females in every population in nearly every country.



Tranquilizers



Proportion of countries with **past year prevalence** higher among women



General
Population



Secondary
school students



University
Students



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Changes in drug use by sex

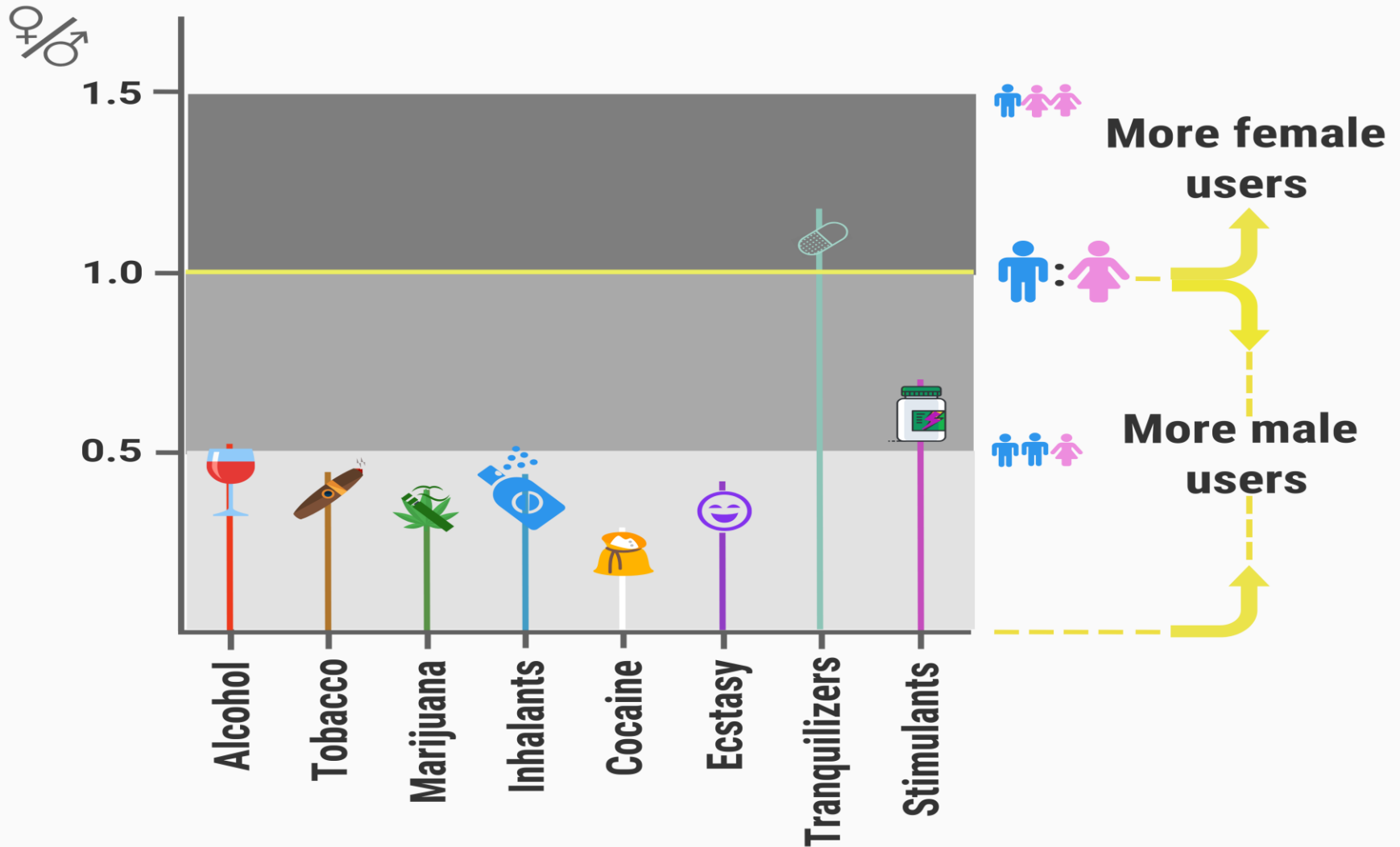
- Secondary school students:
 - Prevalence of alcohol use and inhalants is similar by sex.
 - Boys tend to use cocaine and smokable cocaine at higher rates.
 - Non-medical use of tranquilizers (benzodiazepines) is higher among females in all populations.



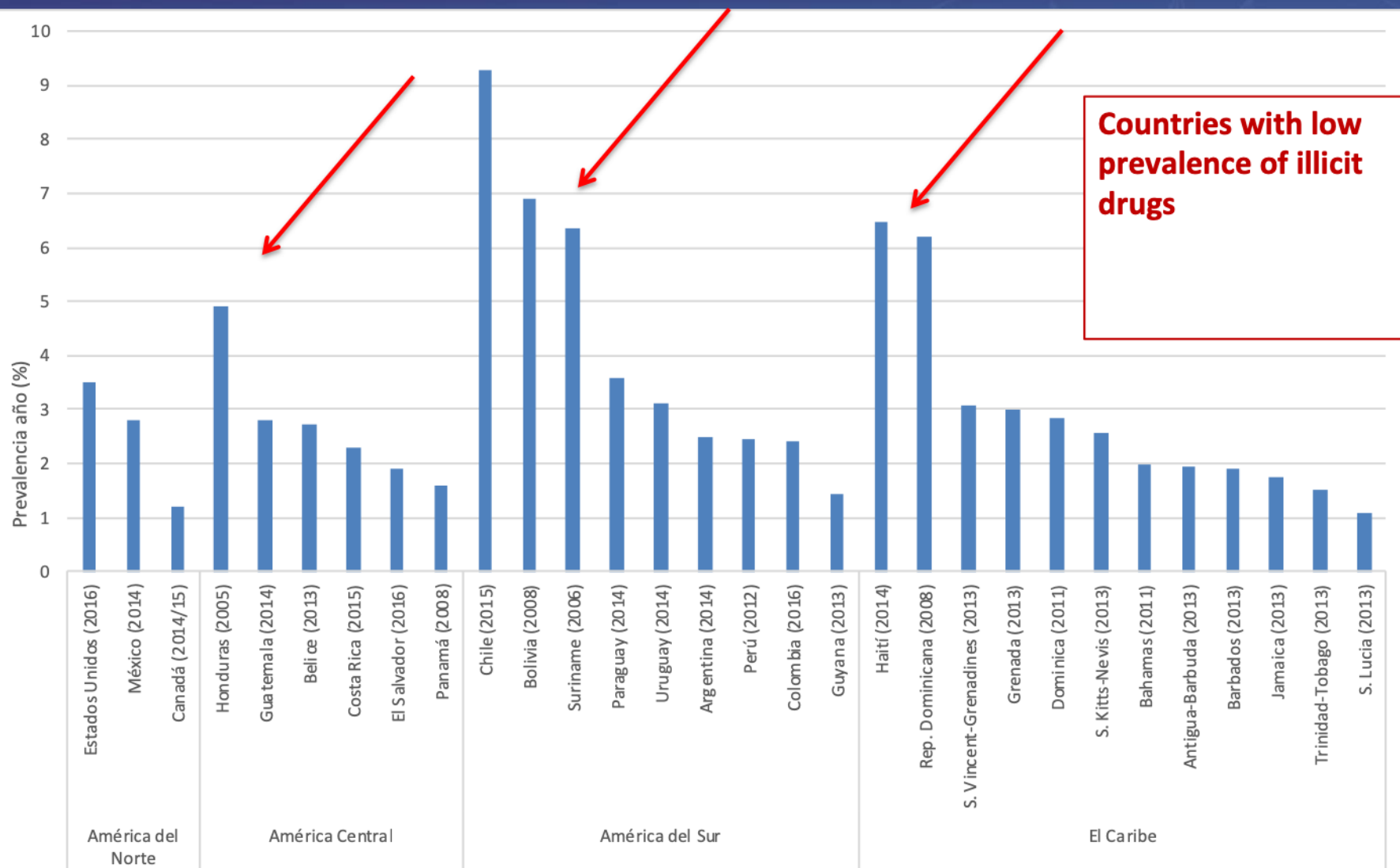
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Female over male prevalence of different substances:



Past year prevalence of non-medical tranquilizers use among secondary school students



4. New challenges

- The emergence of new psychoactive substances (NPS)
- Heroin
- Other opioids (fentanyl, tramadol)
- Non-medical use of controlled prescription drugs (CPD)
 - Benzodiazepines
- Presence of toxic adulterants
- Importance of creating early warning systems (EWS)



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New challenges for drug policies

The prevalence of new psychoactive substances (NPS), opioids, and benzodiazepines presents new challenges for drug treatment and public health.

The United States and Canada are experiencing serious epidemics of opioids and NPS, resulting in some of the highest overdose rates in the history of drug use.

High-risk behaviors associated with alcohol, such as early initiation of use and binge drinking, are a concern across the region.

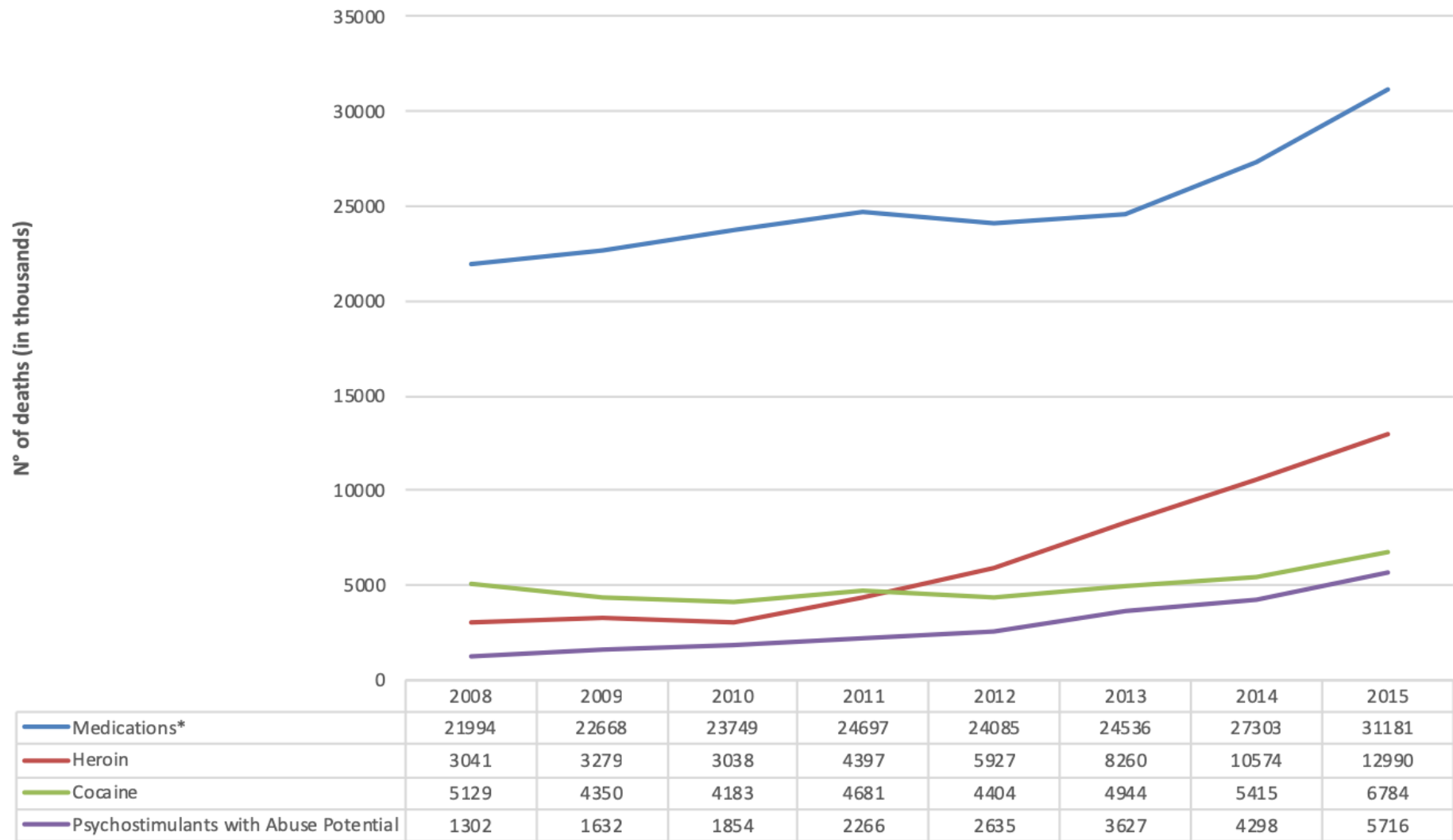
Changes in the legal and regulatory status of marijuana have continued unabated throughout the Hemisphere and the decriminalization of marijuana for recreational or medicinal purposes has led to increased access for adults.



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United States: Number of intoxication deaths from CPD involving selected illicit drugs, 2008-2015



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Main conclusions and recommendations

- Drug use is appearing at very early ages, in many countries as young as in the 8th grade.
- The younger you start using drugs, the greater the risk to health and other consequences.
- Prevention programs and interventions that can delay the age of first drug use should be a high priority.
- Non-prescription consumption of CPD is a new challenge for drug policies.
- Although men continue to have higher consumption rates, women have also increased their consumption rates.
- NPS and synthetic opioids defy public health policies and are increasingly at risk of poisoning and overdose deaths.



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