



CISDUS Brief

Trends in Any Illicit Drug Use by Students, 1998-2010

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2010

This brief focuses on the use of drugs, other than ganja, among students in grades 7 through 12 grade in the Cayman Islands, and trends in use between 1998 and 2010. The findings are based on data from the Cayman Islands Student Drug Use Surveys (CISDUS), which were conducted in 1998, 2000, 2002, 2006 and most recently in 2010.

Lifetime Drug Prevalence, 2010

Among the fourteen drugs presented in Figure 1; *Inhalants* (i.e., glue and other solvents) were the most commonly used, with 7.7% of students reporting use at least once in their lifetime. *Donkey Weed* (local weed/bush) is the next most commonly used drug, with 6.3% lifetime use, followed by *Tranquilizers* with a prevalence of 6%. The lifetime prevalence for the remaining drugs was 3% or less.

Past Year Drug Use, 2010

As shown in Figure 1, the pattern of past year prevalence for the fourteen drugs, parallels that of lifetime prevalence.

Key Highlights

- In 2010, other than ganja, the most prevalent illicit drug used was inhalants, followed by donkey weed and tranquilizers.
- The annual prevalence of any drug use was 9%.
- Females (10.2%) were more likely than males (8.2%) to report any illicit drug use. There were notable variations among the grade levels, and among the districts. These differences were not statistically significant.
- Use of any illicit drug (excluding inhalants and ganja) has not significantly changed since 1998 with the exception of 2010.

Donkey Weed is the most commonly used drug, with 3.8% of students reporting use at least once during the past year, followed by inhalants (3.6%) and tranquilizers (3.3%). The 2010 past year prevalence rates for the remaining drugs do not exceed 2%.

"Any Drug Use", Excluding Inhalants and Ganja

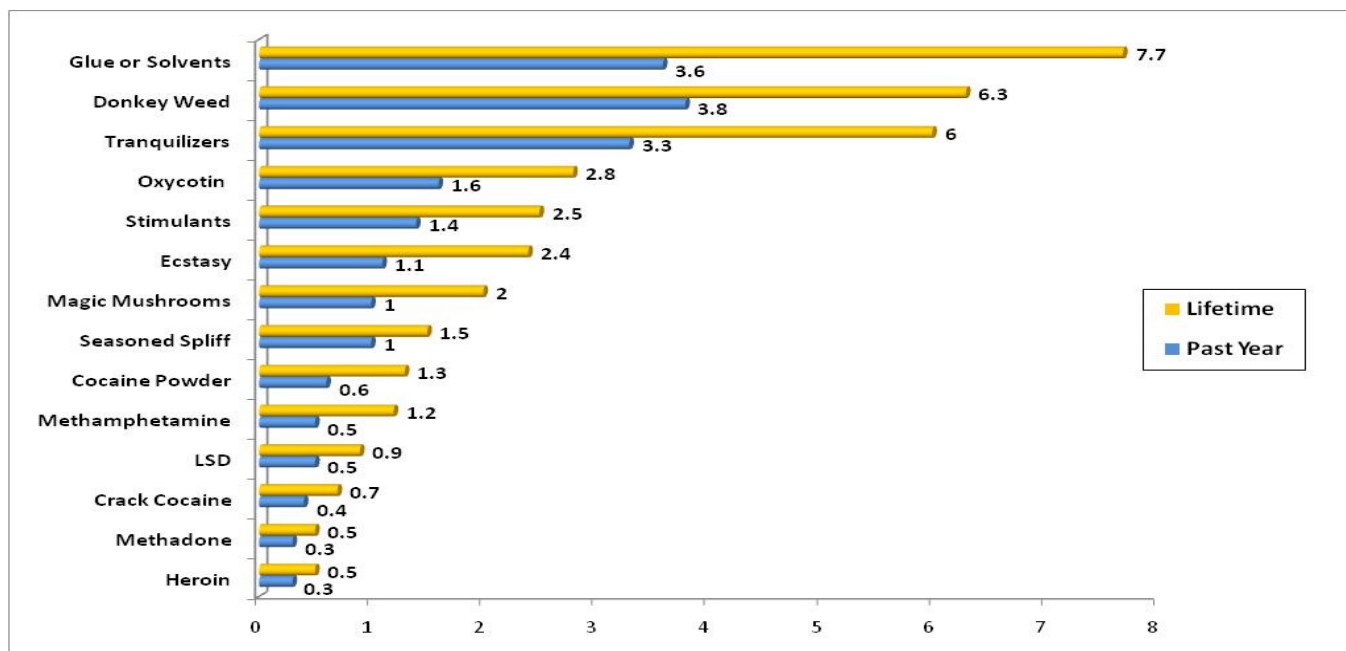
Because of their low rates (i.e., under 3%), reports of the use of the following thirteen drugs were combined to create a composite indicator: Tranquilizers, donkey weed, pain killers ("oxycotin"), stimulants, ecstasy, magic mushrooms, seasoned spliff (combination of cocaine and marijuana), cocaine powder, methamphetamine, LSD, crack cocaine, methadone and heroin. Excluded are inhalants and ganja.

In 2010, 9.2% of students reported use of any drug, excluding inhalants and ganja, at least once in the year before the survey (see Table 1). There was a slight difference between males (8.2%) and females (10.2%). Among the grades, there was a notable increase from grade 7 (4.0%) to grade 12 (10.9%).

Despite some variations and increases among the districts, these differences were not statistically significant.

Any drug use has not significantly changed over time. However, as seen in Table 1, any drug use, excluding ganja, among students in 2010 (9.2%) was higher than the rates reported in 2006 (6.9%), 2002 (6.6%), 2000 (5.4%) and 1998 (6.2%). Among the subgroups, there was also a notable increase in 2010 for males and females. Seventh graders showed a significant increase in use between 1998 (5.0%) and 2006 (8.7%) but decreased notable in 2010 (4%). Tenth graders showed a decrease between 2002 (9.8%) and 2006 (5.9%) but increased significantly in 2010 to 12.6%. All grade levels showed a significant change from 2006 to 2010. There was also changes by district with an increase in the use of any drug, excluding ganja in 2010 (see Table 1).

Figure 1: Lifetime and Past Year Use (%) of Various Drugs, Grades 7 to 12, 2010 CISDUS



Notes: “lifetime use” refers to ever using the drug at least once; “past year use” refers to use of the drug at least once during the 12 months before the survey; inhalants include glue and other solvents, such as nail polish remover.

Source: CISDUS2010, National Drug Council

Table 1: Trends in Any Illicit Drug Use, Excluding Inhalants and Ganja, in the Past Year (%), Sex, Grade and District, 1998-2010

Year		1998	2000	2002	2006	2010*
N		(1946)	(2186)	(2187)	(2480)	(2612)
Overall Total		6.2	5.4	6.6	6.9	9.2
Gender	Male	4.9	5.5	6.4	6.8	8.2
	Female	7.4	5.4	6.7	7.0	10.2
Grade	Grade 7	5.0	4.9	5.8	8.7	4.0
	Grade 8	4.5	4.0	7.1	6.3	4.2
	Grade 9	6.4	6.1	4.4	6.0	10.6
	Grade 10	5.2	6.2	9.8	5.9	12.6
	Grade 11	9.0	5.7	7.5	7.2	14.7
	Grade 12	8.8	5.7	4.5	7.3	10.9
District	West Bay	5.0	4.9	5.8	8.7	4.0
	George Town	4.5	4.0	7.1	6.3	4.2
	Bodden Town	6.4	6.1	4.4	6.0	10.6
	East End	5.2	6.2	9.8	5.9	12.6
	North Side	9.0	5.7	7.5	7.2	14.7
	Cayman Brac	8.8	5.7	4.5	7.3	10.9

Source: CISDUS2010, National Drug Council

*Note: Illicit Drug Use refers to past year use of one or more of the following drugs at least once: For 1998-2006: sedatives, heroin, methamphetamine, “Ice”, stimulants, tranquillizers, LSD, other hallucinogens, cocaine, crack, or “Ecstasy”.

For 2010: crack cocaine, cocaine powder, heroin, ecstasy, LSD, methamphetamine, tranquilizers, stimulants, methadone, oxycotin, “donkey weed”, “seasoned spliff” and “magic mushrooms”.

Perception of Availability

In 2010, 5.56% of all students surveyed, reported that it was “easy” or “very easy” to obtain any drug. Of course, this increased linearly with grade, from 3.15% of 7th graders to 9.93% of 12th graders.

Age of First Use

The 2010 CISDUS reported that, among those reporting ever using any drug (N=946), the average age of first use was 12.8 years.

About 21.2% of users reported an “early onset” of use – that is, they first used any drug between the ages of 6 and 11 years.

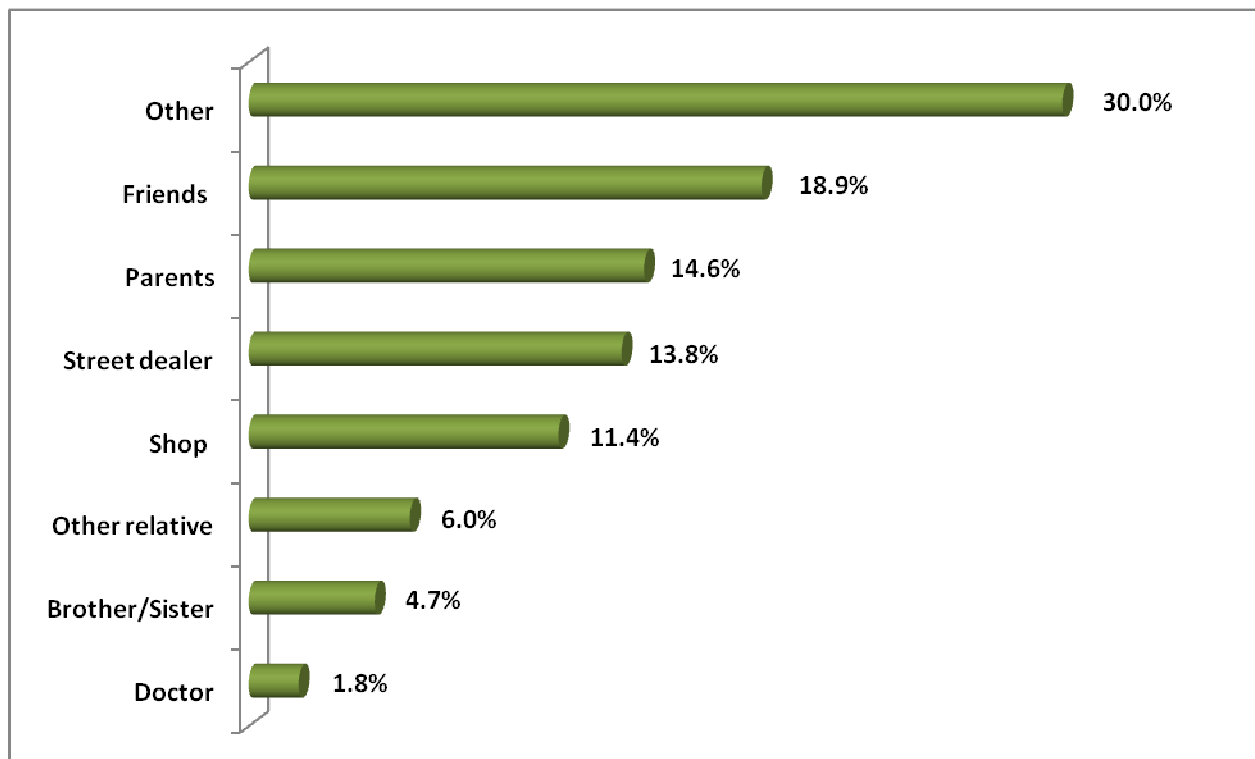
Sources of obtaining drugs

The CISDUS asked students about source of obtaining any drugs:

1. From whom/where do you usually get any drug?

In response, about 30% reported from *other sources*, 18.9% said from *friends*, 14.6% said *parents* offer it, 13.8% said from *street dealers*, 11.4% said from *shop*, 6% from *other relatives*, 4.7% from *brother/sister* and 1.8% obtain it from *doctor*. (Figure 2)

Figure 2: Usual Sources of Any Drug, 2010 (N= 946)



Source: CISDUS2010, National Drug Council

Methods

The CISDUS employs a census (i.e., a 100% sample) of students enrolled in grades 7 to 12. In 2010, 9 middle and high schools and Eagle House participated in the survey. For 1998, 2000, 2002 and 2006 all twelve middle and high schools in the Cayman Islands participated in the surveys. Student participation rates were 88% in 2010; 84% in 2006, 88% in 2002, 94% in 2000 and 86.0% in 1998. The demographic composition of the sample did not significantly change between 1998 and 2010.

Because of the survey's complete sample (i.e., a census) there is no sampling error attached to an estimate (although estimates still have error based on non-sampling error, such as misreporting). Thus, no confidence intervals are required. Regarding the survey results, readers should bear in mind the following points:

- Since there is still the element of chance findings, the element of non-sampling errors, we cannot treat all absolute differences in percentages as meaningful and important.
- Small percentages are more unreliable than larger percentages.

Terminology

- **Illicit use in the Past 2 Weeks** is defined as using an illicit drug at least once during the two weeks before the survey.
- **Any Drug Use, Excluding Inhalants and Ganja** is defined as use of one or more of the following 13 drugs at least once during the past 12 months: Tranquilizers, donkey weed, pain killers ("oxycotin"), stimulants, ecstasy, magic mushrooms, seasoned spliff (combination of cocaine and marijuana), cocaine powder, methamphetamine, LSD, crack cocaine, methadone and heroin.
- **Significant Difference** refers to a difference between percentages that is not likely due to chance. For example, a difference found at the $p < .05$ level of statistical significance is one that is less than 5% likely to occur by chance alone. In this report, any difference is considered statistically significant if the probability is at the .05 level or lower.

Source

CISDUS 2010 - Cayman Islands: National Drug Council.

To obtain the CISDUS questionnaire or other CISDUS Reports, please visit our web site: www.ndc.ky