



# CISDUS Brief

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## Multiple Substance Use\* Among Students, 1998-2010

This brief discusses the multi-substance use of Cayman Islands students in grades 7 through 12, and the trends 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.

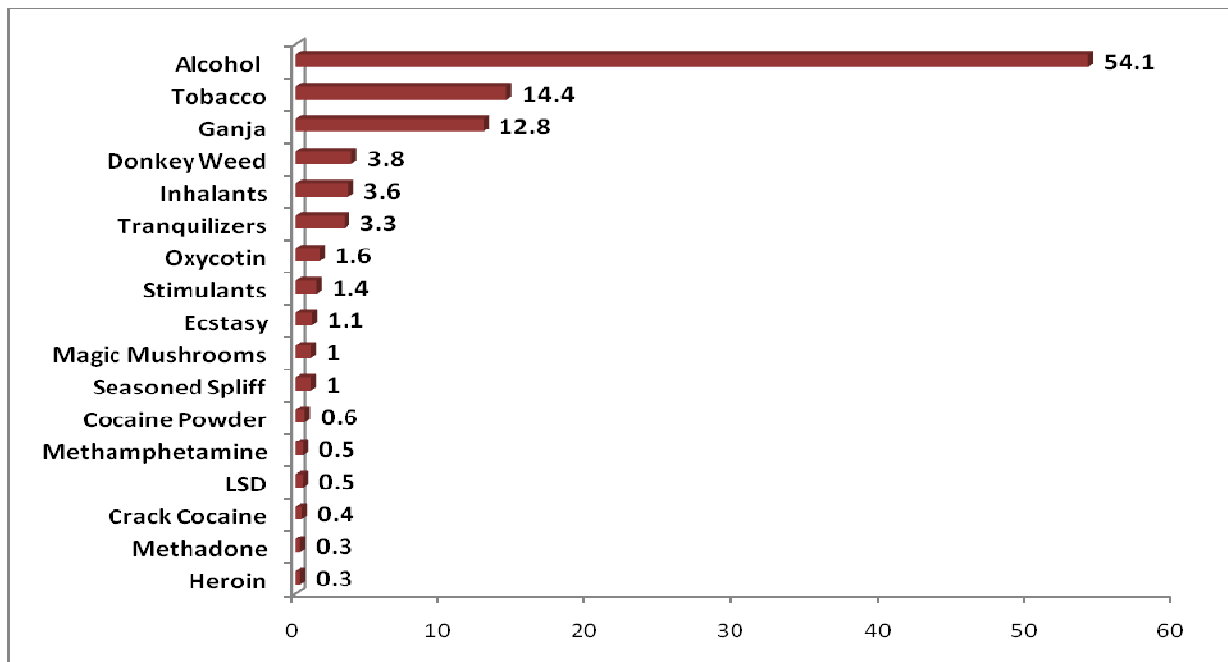
### Prevalence of Multiple Substance Use, 2010

Among the 17 substances asked about in CISDUS 2010, the most prevalent substance used was alcohol. About 54% of students surveyed, reported drinking in the past year. The second most commonly used substance was tobacco (14%) followed by ganja (13%). The remaining drugs were used by 3% or less of students (Figure 1).

### Key Highlights

- Alcohol was the most commonly used substance among students in the Cayman Islands, followed by tobacco and ganja.
- More than half (54%) of all students reported, no substance use at all.
- About one-fifth (20%) of all students restrict their substance use to only alcohol.
- The proportion of students that reported *no* substance use in 2010 is higher than that found in the previous survey year (2006).

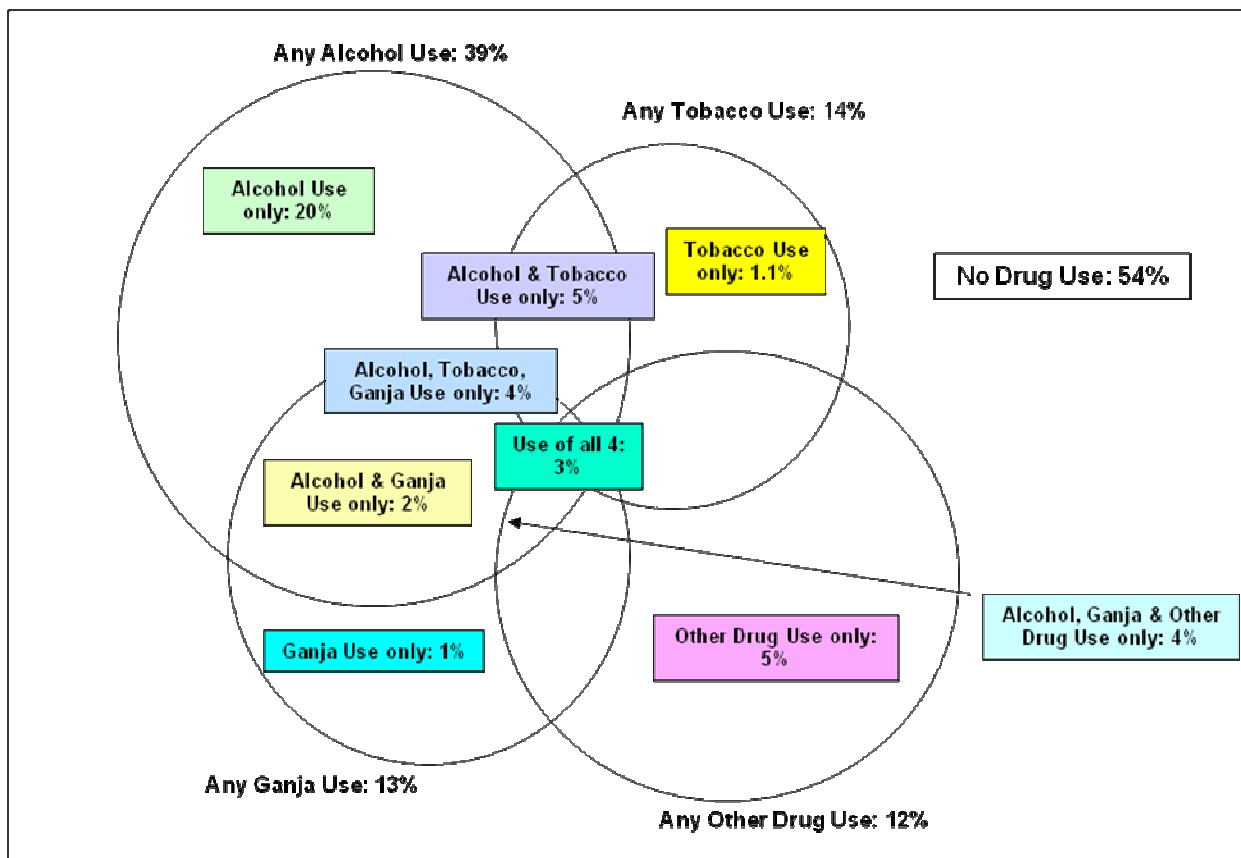
**Figure 1: Percentage of Students Reporting Past Year Multiple Substance Use, Grades 7 to 12, 2010 CISDUS**



Source: CISDUS2010, National Drug Council

\*Multiple Substance Use in this report refers to the use of different substances, but no necessary used in combination with each other (i.e., on the same occasion).

**Figure 2: The Overlap of Alcohol, Tobacco, Ganja, and Other Drug Use During the Past Year, 2010  
CISDUS (Grades 7 to 12, N=2,612)**



Note: "Other Drug Use" refers to use of at least one of 14 drugs: inhalants (glue/solvents), crack, cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, LSD, methamphetamine, tranquilizers, stimulants, methadone, oxycotin, donkey weed, seasoned spliff and magic mushrooms.

Source: CISDUS2010, National Drug Council

### Multiple Substances Use, 2010

More than half (54%) of all students reported *no* substance use at all in 2010. About one-fifth (20%) of students reportedly used only alcohol. Very few students used only tobacco (1%) or only ganja (about 1%). About 5% use another drug exclusively.

### Trends in Multiple Substance Use, 2010

Some changes over time are evident from Table 1. The most dominant change in the patterns is the increase of "no substance use" that occurred between 2006 (47.2%) and 2010 (54.1%).

The percentage of students that restrict their use to alcohol only decreased in that same period, from 30.3% in 2006 to 20.4% in 2010.

There is also a notable increase in tobacco use only; from 0.4% in 2006 to 1.1% in 2010.

Inhalant use only, in 2010 was reportedly 1% compared to 3.1% use in 2006.

The percentage of students that reported using only alcohol and tobacco significant increased, from 3.1% in 1998 to 4.7% in 2010.

Furthermore, there was an increase in the percentage of students that restrict their use to only alcohol ganja and tobacco between 1998 (2.3%) and 2010 (3.9%).

**Table 1: Multiple Substance Use (%) in the Past Year, 1998-2010 CISDUS**

| Year                               | 1998   | 2000   | 2002   | 2006   | 2010   |
|------------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| N                                  | (1901) | (2107) | (2158) | (2422) | (2612) |
| No Substance Used in the Past Year | 54.4   | 56.3   | 54.7   | 47.2   | 54.1   |
| Alcohol only                       | 26.5   | 26.4   | 25     | 30.3   | 20.4   |
| Tobacco only                       | 0.5    | 0.2    | 0.1    | 0.4    | 1.1    |
| Alcohol + Tobacco only             | 3.1    | 2      | 1.6    | 1.7    | 4.7    |
| Ganja only                         | 0.5    | 0.7    | 0.9    | 0.6    | 1.1    |
| Alcohol + Ganja only               | 1.6    | 2.4    | 3      | 3.9    | 2.3    |
| Tobacco + Ganja only               | 0.2    | 0.3    | 0.2    | 0.2    | 0.3    |
| Alcohol + Tobacco + Ganja only     | 2.3    | 1.8    | 2.4    | 2.5    | 3.9    |
| Inhalants only                     | 2.1    | 2.6    | 3.3    | 3.1    | 1.0    |
| Alcohol + Inhalants only           | 1.7    | 1.5    | 1.3    | 2.6    | 0.7    |
| Other Illicit Drugs only           | 1.9    | 1.4    | 1.8    | 1.7    | 1.1    |
| Alcohol + Other Illicit Drugs only | 1.4    | 1.2    | 1.6    | 1.6    | 1.3    |

Source: CISDUS2010, National Drug Council

Notes: (1) Substances are not necessarily used in combination with each other (i.e., on the same occasion);

(2) "other illicit drug" use refers to use of one or more of the following: crack cocaine, cocaine powder, heroin, ecstasy, LSD, methamphetamine, tranquilizers stimulants, methadone, oxycotin, donkey weed, seasoned spliff, magic mushrooms

### 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

- **Past Year Substance Use** is defined as use of the given substance at least once during the past 12 months. Alcohol use excludes a sip, but includes drinking at special events. Tobacco use excludes trying one cigarette. Inhalants are glue or other solvents, such as nail polish remover.
- **Significant Difference** refers to a difference between percentages that is not likely due to chance. For example, a difference found at the  $p < .01$  level of statistical significance is one that is less than 1% likely to occur by chance alone.

### 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](http://www.ndc.ky)