

2.3 CONSUMPTION OF DRUGS AND PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

Table 2.3.1

Type of drug user by sex and age, population 15 years and over, Quebec, 1998

| | Never used | Former user ¹ % | Current user ² | Population '000 |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Men | | | | |
| 15-24 | 48.1 | 7.6 | 44.3 | 221 |
| 25-44 | 53.1 | 24.5 | 22.4 | 263 |
| 45-64 | 81.4 | 9.8 | 8.8 | 74 |
| 65 years + | 94.4 | 1.1** | 4.6* | 16 |
| Total | 65.1 | 14.6 | 20.3 | 574 |
| Women | | | | |
| 15-24 | 52.6 | 12.5 | 34.8 | 166 |
| 25-44 | 63.1 | 22.6 | 14.2 | 163 |
| 45-64 | 85.9 | 6.8 | 7.3 | 64 |
| 65 years + | 93.3 | 0.4** | 6.3 | 30 |
| Total | 72.2 | 13.2 | 14.5 | 422 |
| Both sexes | | | | |
| 15-24 | 50.3 | 10.0 | 39.7 | 386 |
| 25-44 | 58.1 | 23.6 | 18.4 | 427 |
| 45-64 | 83.7 | 8.3 | 8.0 | 137 |
| 65 years + | 93.8 | 0.7** | 5.5 | 46 |
| Total | 68.7 | 13.9 | 17.4 | 996 |

1. Has not used any drug over the last 12 months

2. Has used one or several drugs over the last 12 months

* Interpret with caution

** Imprecise estimate, indication only

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête sociale et de santé 1998*.

Table 2.3.2**Type of drug user according to certain socio-economic characteristics, population 15 years and over, Quebec, 1998**

| | Never used | Former user ¹ | Current user ² | Population |
|---------------------|------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------|
| | % | | | '000 |
| Scolarity | | | | |
| Very low | 73.6 | 10.3 | 16.1 | 189 |
| Low | 68.7 | 13.7 | 17.6 | 199 |
| Average | 68.3 | 13.1 | 18.6 | 213 |
| High | 67.0 | 15.7 | 17.3 | 200 |
| Very high | 65.5 | 16.8 | 17.8 | 194 |
| Income level | | | | |
| Very poor | 69.6 | 10.4 | 20.0 | 69 |
| Poor | 71.7 | 10.1 | 18.2 | 116 |
| Lower middle income | 70.4 | 12.4 | 17.3 | 327 |
| Upper middle income | 67.5 | 15.6 | 17.0 | 372 |
| High income | 64.8 | 18.1 | 17.1 | 112 |

1. Has not used any drug over the last 12 months

2. Has used one or several drugs over the last 12 months

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

Table 2.3.3

**Current drug user¹ according to the type of drug, population 15 years and over,
Quebec, 1998**

| | Marijuana only | Marijuana and other drugs, or other drugs only | All types of drugs |
|-------------------|----------------|---|-----------------------|
| | % | | |
| Men | | | |
| 15-24 | 28.6 | 15.7 | 44.4 |
| 25-44 | 15.2 | 7.3 | 22.4 |
| 45-64 | 4.1 | 4.6 | 8.8 |
| 65 years + | -- | 4.6* | 4.6* |
| Total | 12.6 | 7.7 | 20.3 |
| Women | | | |
| 15-24 | 23.1 | 11.8 | 34.9 |
| 25-44 | 8.9 | 5.4 | 14.2 |
| 45-64 | 2.1* | 5.2 | 7.3 |
| 65 years + | 0.0** | 6.3 | 6.3 |
| Total | 8.0 | 6.5 | 14.5 |
| Both sexes | | | |
| 15-24 | 25.9 | 13.8 | 39.7 |
| 25-44 | 12.0 | 6.3 | 18.4 |
| 45-64 | 3.1 | 4.9 | 8.0 |
| 65 years + | 0.0** | 5.5 | 5.5 |
| Total | 10.3 | 7.1 | 17.4 |

1. Has consumed one or more drugs over the last 12 months

* Interpret with caution

** Imprecise estimate, indication only

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête sociale et de santé 1998*.

Table 2.3.4

Use of psychoactive substances (drugs and alcohol) according to certain socio-economic characteristics, population 15 years and over, Quebec, 1998

| | No psychoactive substance | Alcohol only | Alcohol and drugs, or drugs only |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|--|
| | % | | |
| Scolarity | | | |
| Very low | 26.5 | 57.1 | 16.4 |
| Low | 20.1 | 62.1 | 17.8 |
| Average | 17.4 | 63.9 | 18.8 |
| High | 11.8 | 70.7 | 17.5 |
| Very high | 8.9 | 73.3 | 17.9 |
| Income level | | | |
| Very poor | 29.6 | 50.1 | 20.3 |
| Poor | 29.1 | 52.5 | 18.4 |
| Lower middle income | 18.8 | 63.7 | 17.5 |
| Upper middle income | 12.7 | 70.2 | 17.1 |
| High income | 7.2 | 75.6 | 17.3 |

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

Table 2.3.5

Cigarette use according to the consumption of psychoactive substances (drugs and alcohol) population 15 years and over, Quebec, 1998

| | Never smoked | Former smoker | Current smoker |
|----------------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | % | | |
| Alcohol ¹ | 15.8 | 33.5 | 50.7 |
| Drugs ² | 18.5 | 26.4 | 55.1 |

1. consumed 14 drinks or more in a period of 7 days
2. consumed at least one drug in the last 12 months

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

Table 2.3.6

Use of drugs (non-prescription) over a lifetime by mother tongue

| | N= | 18211 | 1029 | 1045 | 445 |
|---------------------|----|---------------|----------------|--------------|------------|
| | | French | English | Other | n/a |
| Abstinent | | 64.91% | 63.85% | 77.13% | 65.17% |
| Former user | | 13.27% | 19.14% | 7.46% | 6.52% |
| Current user | | 16.98% | 11.66% | 8.61% | 13.93% |
| Unknown | | 4.84% | 5.34% | 6.79% | 14.38% |
| | | 100.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% |

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

Table 2.3.7

Type of drug used in the 12 months prior to the survey (non-prescription) by mother tongue

| | N= | 18211 | 1029 | 1045 | 445 |
|---|----|---------------|----------------|--------------|------------|
| | | French | English | Other | n/a |
| Abstinent | | 78.17% | 82.99% | 84.59% | 71.69% |
| Marijuana only | | 10.04% | 7.00% | 4.11% | 6.74% |
| Other drugs/ Other drugs and marijuana | | 6.95% | 4.66% | 4.50% | 7.19% |
| Unknown | | 4.84% | 5.34% | 6.79% | 14.38% |
| | | 100.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% |

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

Table 2.3.8

Use of psychoactive substances (drugs and alcohol) by mother tongue

| | N= | 18211 | 1029 | 1045 | 445 |
|-----------------------------------|----|---------------|----------------|--------------|------------|
| | | French | English | Other | n/a |
| No psychoactive substances | | 15.31% | 16.52% | 24.31% | 21.12% |
| Alcohol only | | 61.73% | 65.79% | 59.23% | 48.09% |
| Alcohol and drugs | | 16.98% | 11.66% | 8.61% | 13.93% |
| Unknown | | 5.98% | 6.03% | 7.85% | 16.85% |
| | | 100.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% | 100.00% |

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.

Table 2.3.8

Type of drug used by those stating to have consumed drugs in their lifetime, by mother tongue

| | N= | 5103 | 321 | 96 | 76 |
|---|----|---------------|----------------|--------------|------------|
| | | French | English | Other | n/a |
| Marijuana (hashish, pot, grass) | | 47.95% | 32.71% | 41.67% | 61.84% |
| Amphetamines, stimulants, speed, ecstasy | | 3.96% | 3.12% | 0.00% | 7.89% |
| Cocaine, crack, free base | | 6.29% | 3.43% | 6.25% | 9.21% |
| Heroin (smack), morphine | | 0.33% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| LSD (acid), mescaline | | 5.51% | 3.74% | 0.00% | 10.53% |
| Non-prescription tranquilizers | | 3.61% | 1.99% | 3.07% | 4.27% |

Source: Institut de la statistique du Québec, *Enquête social et de santé 1998*.