Quebec's Social and Health Survey Information: Baseline Data Report 2008
(Section 2.3)

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

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

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

- When the consumption of drugs and psychoactive substances are considered by sex and age, men were more likely than women to have used one or several drugs over the last 12 months prior to the survey.

- Women were more likely than men to have never used drugs and 68.7% of the combined male and female group reported never using drugs. For both sexes, the highest percentage of current users of drugs was 15-24 years of age. A much higher percentage of older respondents reported never having used drugs compared to younger respondents.

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

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

1- Has not used any drug over the last 12 months
2 - Has used one or several drugs over the last 12 months

- Level of scolarity is not strongly associated with the tendency to be a current user of drugs. Low scolarity is a socio-economic characteristic more likely to be associated with never having used drugs.

- Those respondents who are very poor were slightly more likely to be current users of drugs.

Table 2.3.3 – *Current drug user[1] 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

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

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

*   Interpret with caution
**   Imprecise estimate, indication only

- Among current drug users, male respondents were the most frequent users and a high percentage of them consume all types of drugs. The greater percentage of drug users was found among men 15-24 years of age and they reported using all types of drugs.

- The greatest percentage of current users among women is in the 15-24 age group and a high percentage of these consume all types of drugs.

*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.*

- The least likelihood of using any psychoactive substances (drugs and alcohol) is strongly associated with low scolarity and low income.

- The greatest percentage of survey respondents who report using alcohol only, and the highest levels of alcohol only use, are associated with high scolarity and high income levels.

- The use of both alcohol and drugs, or drug use only, is somewhat more likely among respondents who are poor and very poor.

*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

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

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

- Current cigarette smokers were much more likely to be consumers of alcohol and drugs than non-smokers and former smokers.

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.*

- English-speaking survey respondents were much more likely (44% more in relative terms) than Francophones to report being former users of non-prescription drugs over their lifetime and much less likely (30% in relative terms) to be current users.

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.*

- 83% of Anglophone survey respondents reported not having used non-prescription drugs in the 12 months prior to the survey compared to 78.17% of Francophones.

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.*

- Anglophone survey respondents were somewhat more likely to report not using psychoactive substances (drugs and alcohol) than Francophones and less likely to report using a combination of alcohol and drugs.

Table 2.3.9 − 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.*

- Among those survey respondents who stated they had consumed drugs in their lifetime, the greatest percentages of both Francophones and Anglophones used marijuana (hashish, pot and grass).