



Prevalence of substance use in lifetime, past year & past 30 days in BC and other Canadian provinces, 2008-2012

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1. Introduction

In this report, the prevalence of several types of substance use (alcohol, cannabis, pharmaceutical, pain reliever, sedatives, stimulants and cigarettes) in lifetime, past year and past 30 days are presented for British Columbia (BC) and other provinces of Canada from 2008 to 2012. Breakdowns are provided by sex.

2. Methods

The analyses were based on the Canadian Alcohol and Drug Use Monitoring Survey (CADUMS) from 2008 to 2012. The CADUMS is an on-going survey on alcohol and other substance use among Canadians. The survey covers population aged 15 years and older in ten provinces and excludes residents of the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, permanent residents of institutions, people living in households without a telephone and people with cell phones only. Details on the survey can be found elsewhere [1-4].

2.1. Survey sampling

The CADUMS was a virtually continuous survey on alcohol and other substance use among Canadians initiated in April 2008 by the Controlled Substances and Tobacco Directorate, Health Canada.[1-3] The survey was derived from the Canadian Addiction Survey administered in 2004 and



3. Substance Use

3.1 Alcohol consumption

Table 1A, 1B and 1C present the percentages of those using alcohol in lifetime, past year and past 30 days, with breakdowns by gender and provinces from 2008 to 2012. The percent of adults that used



3.4. Pharmaceutical use

Table 4A presents the prevalence of pharmaceutical use (pain relievers, sedatives and stimulants) in past year in BC and other provinces from 2008 to 2012. The prevalence of pharmaceutical use in past year tended to be higher in BC than that in other provinces during the period 2008–2012 (95% $CI_{(diff)}$ of the rate difference: 1.15 to 3.19% for males and females and Z–test $P < 0.001$; 0.32 to 3.12% for males and Z–test $P < 0.05$; 1.16 to 4.08% for females and Z–test $P < 0.001$). The prevalence of pharmaceutical use appeared to decrease significantly in other provinces over years from 2008 to 2012 (Wald test $P < 0.0001$ for combined males and females, $P = 0.0202$ for males and $P < 0.0001$ for females).

3.4.1. Pain reliever use

Table 4B presents the prevalence of pain reliever use in past year in BC and other provinces from 2008 to 2012. The prevalence of pain reliever use in past year tended to be higher in BC than that in other provinces in 2008–2012 (95% $CI_{(diff)}$ of the rate difference: 1.45 to 3.31% for males and females and Z–test $P < 0.001$; 0.72 to 3.32% for males and Z–test $P < 0.01$; 1.39 to 4.05% for females and Z–test $P < 0.001$). The prevalence of pain reliever use appeared to decrease significantly in other provinces over years from 2008 to 2012 (Wald test $P < 0.0001$ for combined males and females, $P = 0.0204$ for males and $P < 0.0001$ for females).

3.4.2. Sedative use

Table 4C presents the prevalence of sedative use in past year in BC and other provinces from 2008 to 2012. The prevalence of sedative use in past year tended to be higher in BC than that in other provinces in 2008–2012 (95% $CI_{(diff)}$ of the rate difference: 0.20 to 1.58% for males and females and Z–test $P < 0.05$; 0.52 to 2.68% for females and Z–test $P < 0.01$). The prevalence of sedative use remained unchanged in either BC or other provinces over years from 2008 to 2012.

3.4.3. Stimulant use

Table 4D presents the prevalence of stimulant use in past year in BC and other provinces from 2008 to 2012. No statistical difference between BC and other provinces was found during the period from 2008 to 2012. The prevalence of stimulant use in past year significantly increased in other provinces from 2008 to 2012 among males (Wald test $P = 0.0191$).

3.5. Smoking

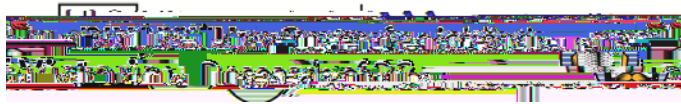


females and Z-test $P < 0.001$). The proportion of past year smokers also tended to be lower in BC than other provinces from 2008 to 2012 (95% $CI_{(diff)}$ of the rate difference: -5.59 to -3.97% for males and females and Z-test $P < 0.001$; -5.95 to -3.49% for males and Z-test $P < 0.001$; -5.88 to -3.78% for females and Z-test $P < 0.001$). The prevalence in lifetime decreased significantly over years in BC overall (Wald test $P < 0.05$) and in other provinces overall and for men (Wald test $P < 0.01$ and < 0.05). The prevalence in past year decreased significantly over years in BC overall (Wald test $P < 0.05$) and in men (Wald test $P < 0.05$).

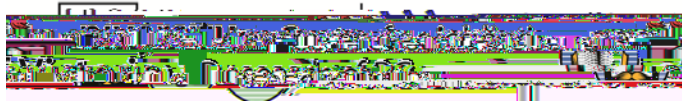


A **A.** **2008 2012 A**

Substance	Lifetime use	Past year use	Past 30 days use
Alcohol	Have you ever had a drink? (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012)	How often did you drink alcoholic beverages during the past 12 months? (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011,)	What about the past 30 days, on how many of these days did you drink alcoholic beverages? (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012)



Stimulants		In the past 12 months how often, if at all, have you used any such stimulants (such as Ritalin, Concerta, Adderall Dexedrine, or others)? (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012)	
Smoking	Have you ever smoked at least 100 cigarettes in		



A



Gender	Year						Wald Test for Trend
	2008–2012 ‡	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
Total							
BC	76.97 [75.92–78.01]	76.96 [75.50–78.41]	75.57 [74.05–77.09]	77.25 [74.42–80.09]	77.15 [73.45–80.84]	78.10 [75.71–80.49]	P=0.8145 (+)
Other provinces	77.43 [76.73–78.13]	77.39 [75.93–78.84]	76.63 [75.11–78.16]	76.91 [75.42–78.39]	78.08 [76.33–79.83]	78.50 [76.85–80.15]	P=0.7386 (+)
Rate difference †	-0.46 [-1.42–0.50]	-0.43 [-2.32–1.46]	-1.06 [-3.23–1.11]	0.34 [-1.74–2.42]	-0.93 [-3.35–1.49]	-0.40 [-2.66–1.86]	
Z-test, P-value	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	ns	
Male							
BC	80.41 [78.90–81.92]	80.96 [78.89–83.04]	78.57 [76.36–80.77]	80.48 [76.37–84.59]	78.81 [73.31–84.30]	83.11 [79.92–86.30]	P=0.7965 (+)
Other provinces	81.31 [80.31–82.32]	81.42 [79.35–83.49]	80.44 [78.27–82.62]	80.21 [77.98–82.43]	82.32 [79.88–84.77]	82.62 [80.26–84.99]	P=0.6589 (+)
Rate difference	-0.90 [-2.19–0.39]	-0.46 [-2.99–2.07]	-1.87 [-4.84–1.10]	0.27 [-2.55–3.09]	-3.51 [-6.86–0.16]	0.49 [-2.45–3.43]	

Z-.



Table 1C. Prevalence (%) of alcohol consumption in past 30 days overall and by gender in British Columbia and other provinces of Canada, 2008–2012							
Gender	Year						Wald Test for Trend
	2008–2012 ‡	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
Total							



Table 2A. Prevalence (%) of cannabis use in lifetime overall and

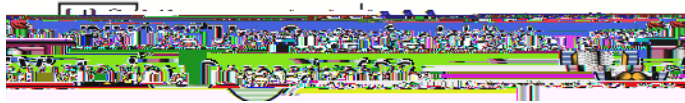




Table 3A. Prevalence (%) of methamphetamine use in lifetime overall and by gender in British Columbia and other provinces of Canada, 2008–2012

Gender	Year						Wald Test for Trend
	2010–2012 †	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
Total							

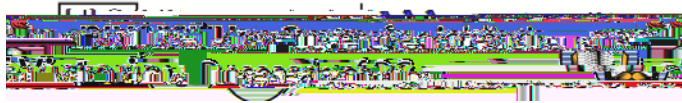




Table 4D

Table 4D. Prevalence (%) of pain stimulant use in past year overall and by gender in British Columbia and other provinces of Canada, 2008–2012			
Gender	2010–2012 †	Year	Wald Test for Trend

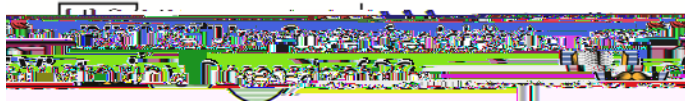




Table 5B. Prevalence (%) of smoking in past year overall and by gender in British Columbia and other provinces of Canada, 2008–2012							
Gender	Year						Wald Test for Trend
	2010–2012 ‡	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
Total							