

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 sociale 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 sociale 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 sociale 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*.