



Prevalence of Cannabis Use in British Columbia

Introduction

The following tables present the life-time prevalence and last year prevalence of cannabis use in British Columbia and the rest of Canada from 2008 to 2012. Data are presented for the total population and for males and females. Table 3 presents the proportion of medical marijuana users in BC and Canada. The data were compiled from the Canadian Alcohol and Drug Use Monitoring Survey (CADUMS, 2008-2012). National annual reports are accessible [here](#).

Methods

The method of comparison of two proportions was used to test whether there is a significant difference in the prevalence of cannabis use in lifetime and in past year between BC and rest of Canada for males, females and combined males and females in each of years and all years together [1]. Multivariate logistic regression was used to examine trends in cannabis use in BC and rest of Canada from 2008-2012 [2].

Results

The prevalence of cannabis use in lifetime (Table 2) and in past year (Table 3) by gender was a significantly higher in BC than that in rest of Canada every year from 2008-2012. The proportion of medical marijuana users was also significantly higher in BC than that in rest of Canada in 2011 (Table 3). The life-time prevalence of cannabis use in BC was stable from 2008-2012, but decreased significantly for the rest of Canadians (Table 4). The past-year prevalence in BC increased for males from 2008-2012, but remained stable for females in BC and for the rest of Canada.

References

1. Pagano M, Gauvreau K: **Principles of biostatistics**, 2 edn. Pacific Grove, CA: Duxbury; 2000.
2. Hosmer DW, Lemeshow S: **Applied logistic regression**. New York: Wiley; 2000.
3. Adlaf E, Ialomiteanu A: **Canadian Addiction Survey 2004: Microdata eGuide**. In. Ottawa: Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse. Available from URL: <http://www.ccsa.ca/2004%20CCSA%20Documents/ccsa-005363-2004.pdf>. Accessible 11 October 2012; 2005.



Table 1. Percentage of cannabis users in lifetime by gender in British Columbia and rest of Canada, 2008-2012							
Gender	Region	Year					
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008-2012
Total	BC	49.57 [47.85 - 51.28]	47.46 [45.70-49.23]	48.93 [45.40-52.47]	44.34 [40.15-48.54]	48.66 [45.85-51.48]	48.04 [46.79-49.28]
	Rest of Canada	43.02 [41.27 - 44.78]	41.67 [39.83-43.50]	40.31 [38.60-42.02]	38.62 [36.63-40.60]	40.44 [38.47-42.41]	41.04 [40.21-41.87]
Male	BC	54.00 [51.40-56.61]	50.75 [48.06-53.43]	58.34 [53.20-63.49]	52.51 [46.23-58.79]	52.52 [48.22-56.81]	53.77 [51.90-55.64]
	Rest of Canada	48.62 [45.88-51.35]	47.61 [44.80-50.42]	47.38 [44.68-50.09]	44.44 [41.39-47.48]	47.19 [44.06-50.33]	47.25 [45.96-48.54]
Female	BC	45.39 [43.16-47.62]	44.38 [42.07-46.69]	40.08 [35.50-44.65]	36.63 [31.24-42.03]	45.03 [41.38-48.68]	42.64 [41.02-44.25]
	Rest of Canada	37.7 [35.54-40.01]	36.08 [33.72-38.43]	33.68 [31.62-35.75]	33.13 [30.60-35.66]	34.05 [31.65-36.45]	35.20 [34.16-36.24]

Note: The estimates were based on the Canadian Alcohol and Drug Use Monitoring Survey, 2008-2012 and weighted. []: 95% confidence interval of the prevalence of cannabis use.



Table 2. Percentage of cannabis users in past year by gender in British Columbia and rest of Canada, 2008-2012							
Gender	Region	Year					
		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008-2012
Total	BC	13.07 [11.81-14.33]	12.68 [11.38-13.99]	12.63 [10.33-14.93]	12.14 [9.35-14.94]	13.78 [11.72-15.85]	12.88 [12.02-13.73]
	Rest of Canada	11.14 [9.91-12.36]	10.29 [8.99-11.59]	10.43 [9.36-11.49]	8.66 [7.46-9.85]	9.70 [8.42-10.98]	10.18 [9.63-10.73]
Male	BC	15.95 [13.93-17.97]	15.82 [13.73-17.91]	16.62 [12.84-20.40]	15.76 [11.50-20.02]	19.02 [15.52-22.51]	16.57 [15.19-17.95]
	Rest of Canada	14.17 [12.22-16.11]	13.97 [11.80-16.14]	14.31 [12.42- 16.19]	11.66 [9.65-13.67]	12.90 [10.75-15.04]	13.55 [12.63-14.46]
Female	BC	10.36 [8.82-11.90]	9.73 [8.14-11.33]	8.87 [6.19-11.55]	8.73 [5.04-12.42]	8.85 [6.64-11.06]	9.40 [8.38-10.43]
	Rest of Canada	8.29 [6.78-9.79]	6.83 [5.39-8.28]	6.79 [5.77-7.81]	5.83 [4.52-7.14]	6.68 [5.26-8.10]	7.02 [6.39- 7.64]

Note: The estimates were based on the Canadian Alcohol and Drug Use Monitoring Survey, 2008-2012 and weighted. []: 95% confidence interval of the prevalence of cannabis use.



Table 3. Percentage of medical marijuana use by gender in BC and rest of Canada in 2011		
Gender	BC	Rest of Canada
Total	3.28 [2.01-4.55]	1.36 [0.87-1.85]
Male	4.31 [2.20-6.42]	1.78 [0.91-2.65]
Female	2.30 [0.83-3.77]	0.97 [0.49-1.45]

Note: The estimates were based on the weighted sample of the 2011 Canadian Alcohol and Drug Use Monitoring Survey. The CV ranges of all the estimates in BC and rest of Canada were between 16.6 and 33.3; thus the estimates have moderate sampling variability and should be interpreted with caution [3].

Table 4. Adjusted odds ratio and 95% CI [] of cannabis use in lifetime and in past year for the year in BC and rest of Canada			
Cannabis use	Gender	BC	Rest of Canada
Lifetime	Total	0.98 [0.95-1.01]	0.97 [0.94-0.99] **
	Male	1.00 [0.95-1.06]	0.98 [0.94-1.02]
	Female	0.96 [0.92-1.01]	0.98 [0.92-0.99] **
Past year	Total	1.03 [0.98-1.09]	0.96 [0.91-1.01]
	Male	1.08 [1.00-1.16] *	0.98 [0.92-1.04]
	Female	0.97 [0.89-1.05]	0.93 [0.86-1.00]

Note: The estimates were based on the pooled 2008-2012 CADUMS. Covariates included in multivariate logistic models are age, sex, marital status, education and family income.