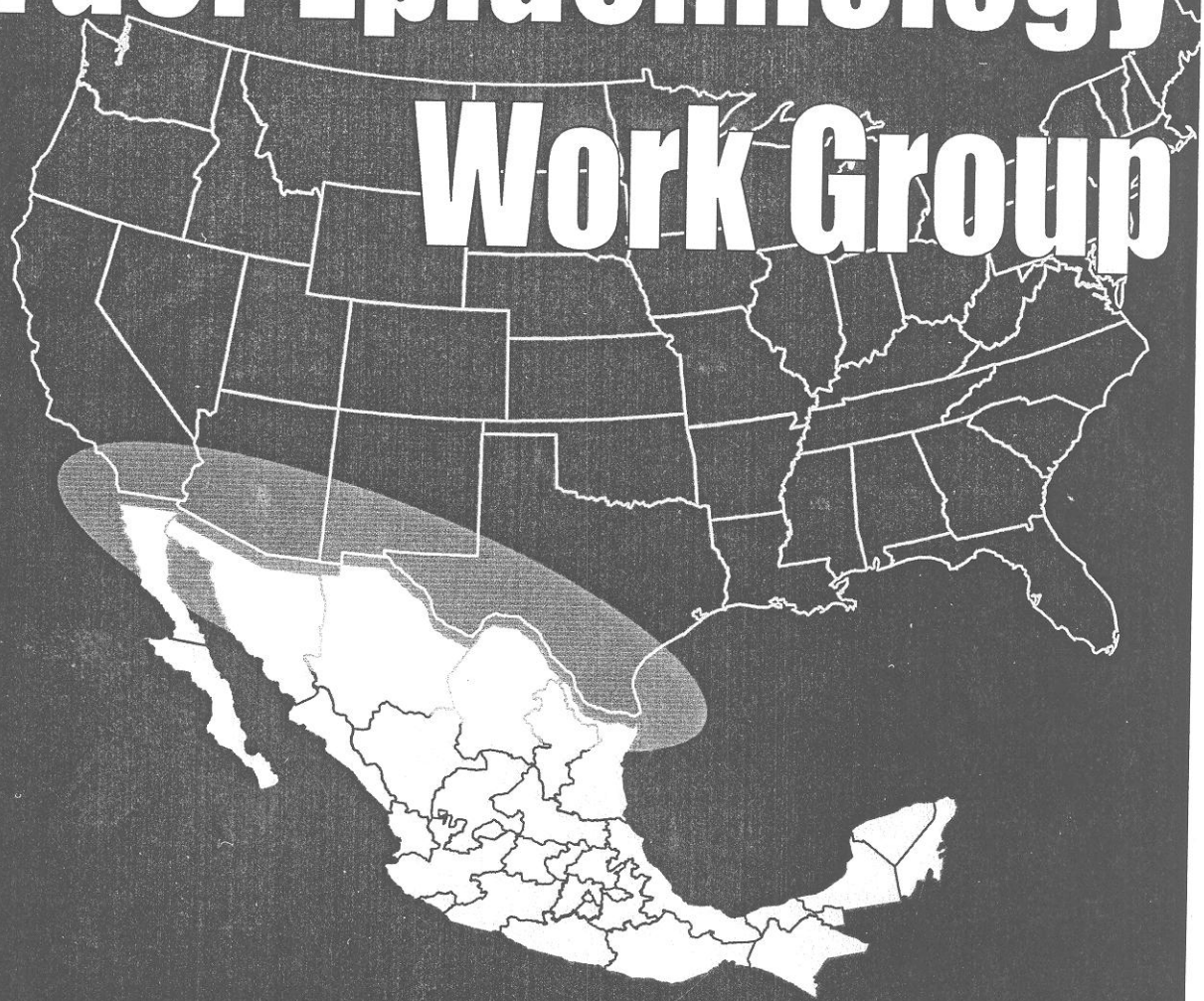


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Drug Use Among 7th–9th Grade Students in Baja California and Sonora and General Population Trends in Drug Use in Tijuana and Ciudad Juárez: 1998–2005

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Data from school surveys of 7th–9th grade students in Baja California and Sonora show the percentages of male and female students who experimented (five times or less) with drugs in 1991 and 2006. Findings from the surveys included...

- In 2006, 8.1 percent of the male students in Baja California and 8.8 percent of those in Sonora reported experimentation with illicit drugs. Also, 6.1 percent of male students in Baja California and 6.9 percent of those in Sonora reported use of prescription drugs. Smaller proportions of females in both areas reported experimenting with illicit or prescription drugs.
- The highest proportions for specific drugs reported by Sonora males in 2006 were marijuana (7.3 percent), cocaine (7.2 percent), and amphetamines and tranquilizers (each 6.2 percent), while experimentation among their female counterparts was highest for marijuana (3.2 percent) and tranquilizers (3.1 percent).
- In both areas, the proportions of male and female students who reported experimenting with

drugs were generally higher in 2006 than in 1991. The exceptions included the higher proportions of males (6.6 percent) and females (5.2 percent) in Baja California who reported inhalant use in 1991.

Household surveys conducted in Tijuana and Ciudad Juárez in 1998 and 2005 (subjects age 12–65) showed that marijuana and cocaine were the most commonly reported drugs. Trend data on marijuana and cocaine use showed...

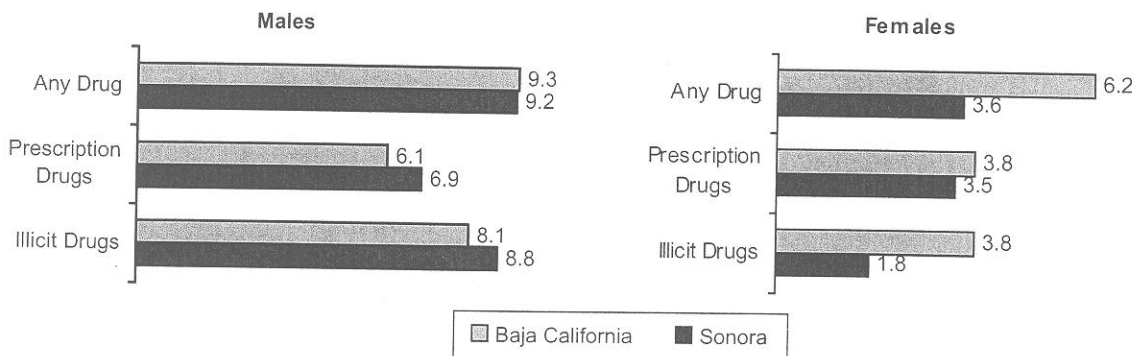
- Lifetime marijuana use by males increased from 15.0 percent in 1998 to 25.1 percent in 2005. Cocaine use increased from 6.0 percent in 1998 to 13.6 percent in 2005.
- For females, lifetime use of marijuana also increased from 1998 to 2005 (2.8 to 6.0 percent) as did lifetime use of cocaine (0.6 to 3.6 percent).

DRUG ABUSE PATTERNS AND TRENDS

Student Drug Use Survey

Approximately 9 percent of male 7th–9th grade students in Baja California and Sonora reported any lifetime experimental (5 times or less) drug use in 2006, with males reporting more illicit drug than prescription drug use (exhibit 1). Among females, more Baja California than Sonora students reported any experimental drug use (6.2 vs. 3.6 percent) as well as illegal drug use (3.8 vs. 1.8 percent). Among both male and female students reporting any drug use in Sonora, nearly 40 percent reported consuming multiple drugs.

Exhibit 1. Proportions of 7th–9th Grade Students in Baja California and Sonora Reporting Experimental¹ Drug Use, by Type of Use and Gender: 2006

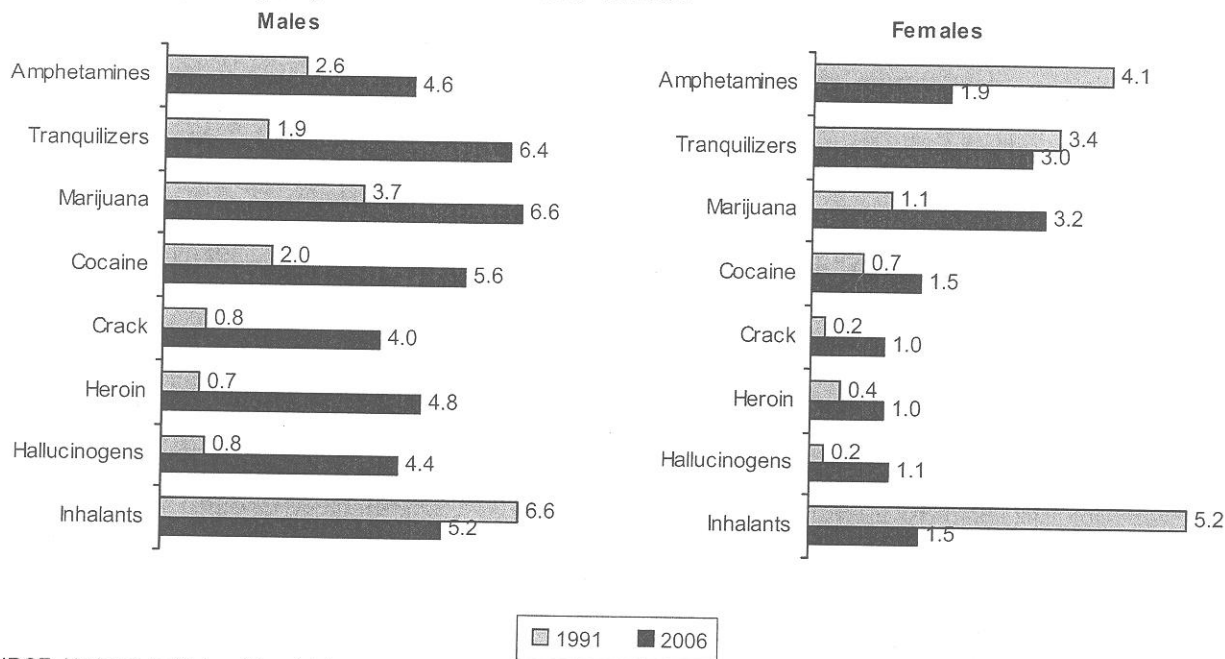


¹Experimental use is defined as use no more than five times.
SOURCE: National Institute of Psychiatry

A comparison of 1991 and 2006 data shows an increase in the proportion of male students in Baja California who reported experimental use of amphetamines, tranquilizers, marijuana, cocaine, crack, heroin, and hallucinogens (exhibit 2). The percentage-point increases were largest for tranquilizers (4.5), heroin (4.1), and hallucinogens (3.6); only inhalant use showed a decrease. Among female stu-

dents, there were decreases for amphetamines, tranquilizers, and inhalants, most notably inhalants (3.7 percentage points). The proportions of females reporting experimental use of marijuana, cocaine, crack, heroin, and hallucinogens all increased by at least 100 percent during this period.

Exhibit 2. Proportions of Baja California Students in Grades 7–9 Reporting Experimental Use of Prescription and Illegal Drugs, by Gender and Year: 1991 vs. 2006

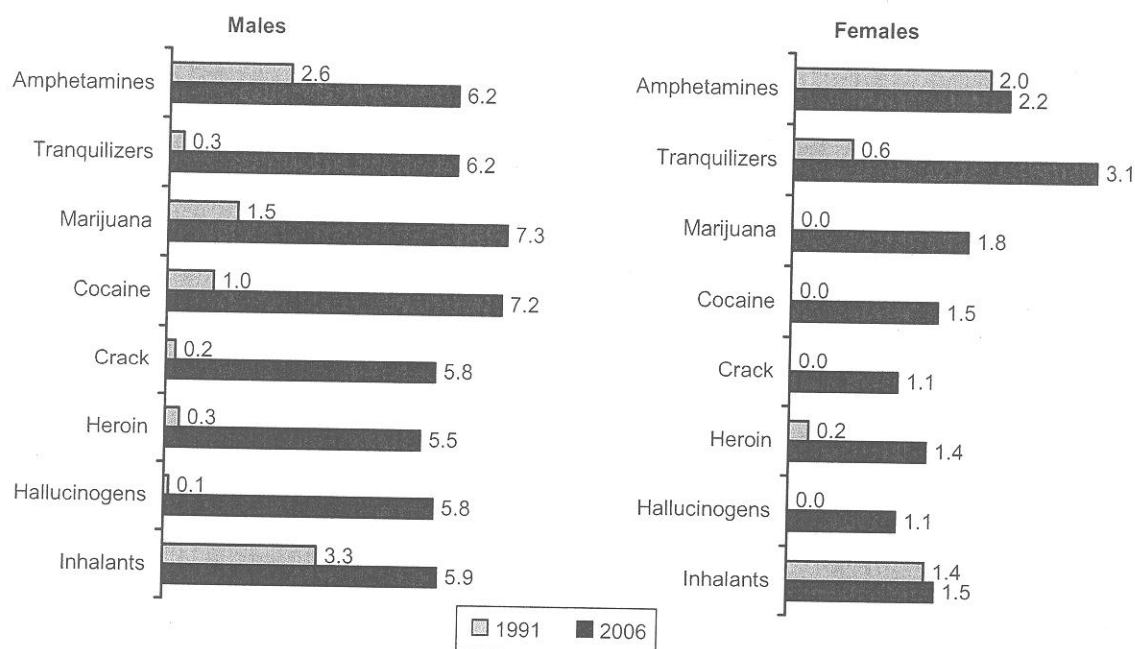


SOURCE: National Institute of Psychiatry

Experimental use of amphetamines, tranquilizers, marijuana, cocaine, crack, heroin, hallucinogens, and inhalants among Sonora male students all increased 5 percentage points or more between 1991 and 2006 (exhibit 3). Marijuana, cocaine, and crack use among males was higher in Sonora than in both Baja Califor-

nia and Mexico City. For females, the proportions for all drugs increased as well, most notably for tranquilizers (from 0.6 to 3.1 percent). Additionally, it is important to note that the consumption of methamphetamine appears to be elevated among high school students in Baja California.

Exhibit 3. Proportions of Sonora Students in Grades 7–9 Reporting Experimental Use of Prescription and Illegal Drugs, by Gender and Year: 1991 vs. 2006



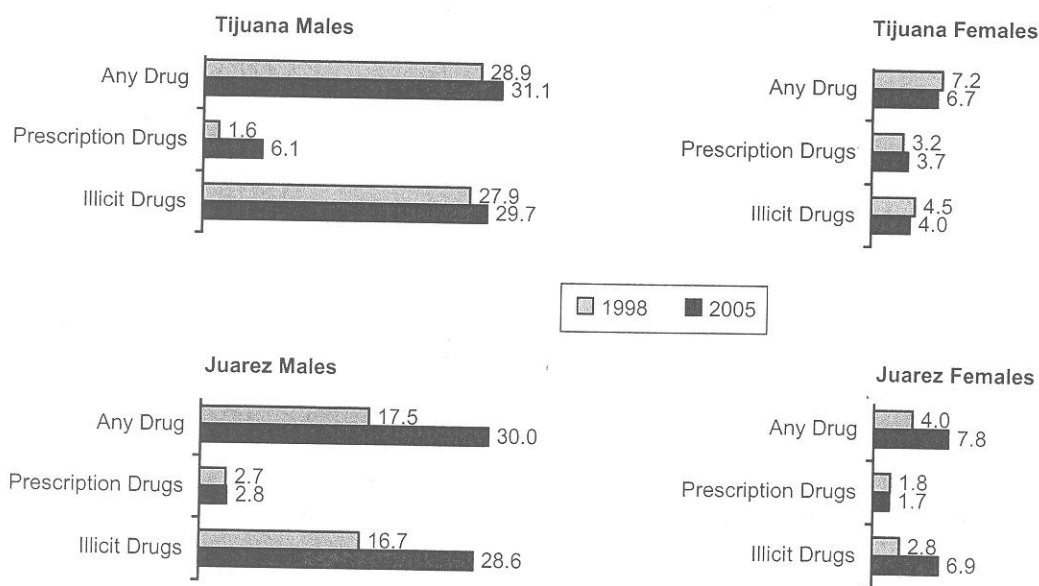
SOURCE: National Institute of Psychiatry

Surveys in Family Homes

Surveys on lifetime drug use were conducted in family homes in Tijuana and Ciudad Juarez among those age 12–65 in 1998 and 2005. As shown in exhibit 4, males in Ciudad Juarez showed the greatest increases

in reported use of any drug, prescription drugs, and illegal drugs from 1998 to 2005. Females in Ciudad Juarez reported increased levels of illegal drug use, while such use among females in Tijuana declined during that period.

Exhibit 4. Proportions of Reported Lifetime Drug Use Among Those Age 12–65 in Tijuana and Ciudad Juarez, by Gender and Year: 1998 vs. 2005

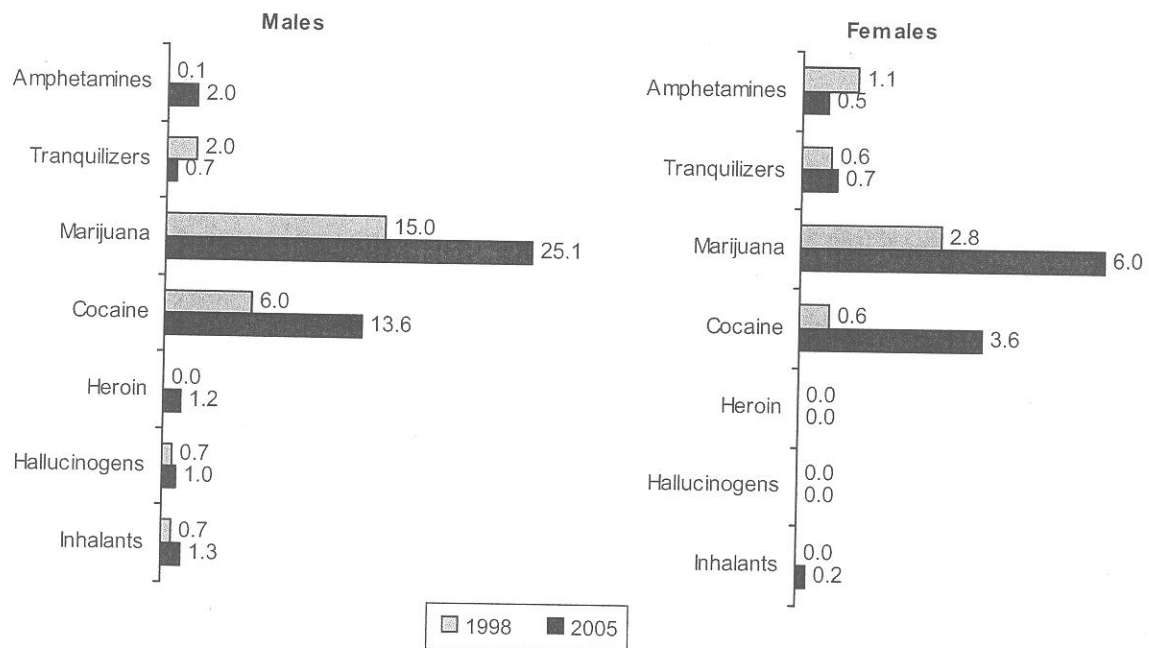


SOURCE: National Institute of Psychiatry

In Ciudad Juarez, marijuana and cocaine were the most commonly reported drugs among both males and females in 2005, and the proportions reporting both drugs were higher that year than in 1998 (exhibit 5). Other increases between 1998 and 2005 included increases among male respondents for lifetime use of amphetamines (from 0.1 to 2.0 percent), heroin (from 0.0 to 1.2 percent), and inhalants (from 0.7 to 1.3 percent). Among females, the proportions reporting tranquilizer use declined during that period (from 2.0 to 0.7 percent). In Tijuana, results were similar to those in Ciudad Juarez, with respondents reporting

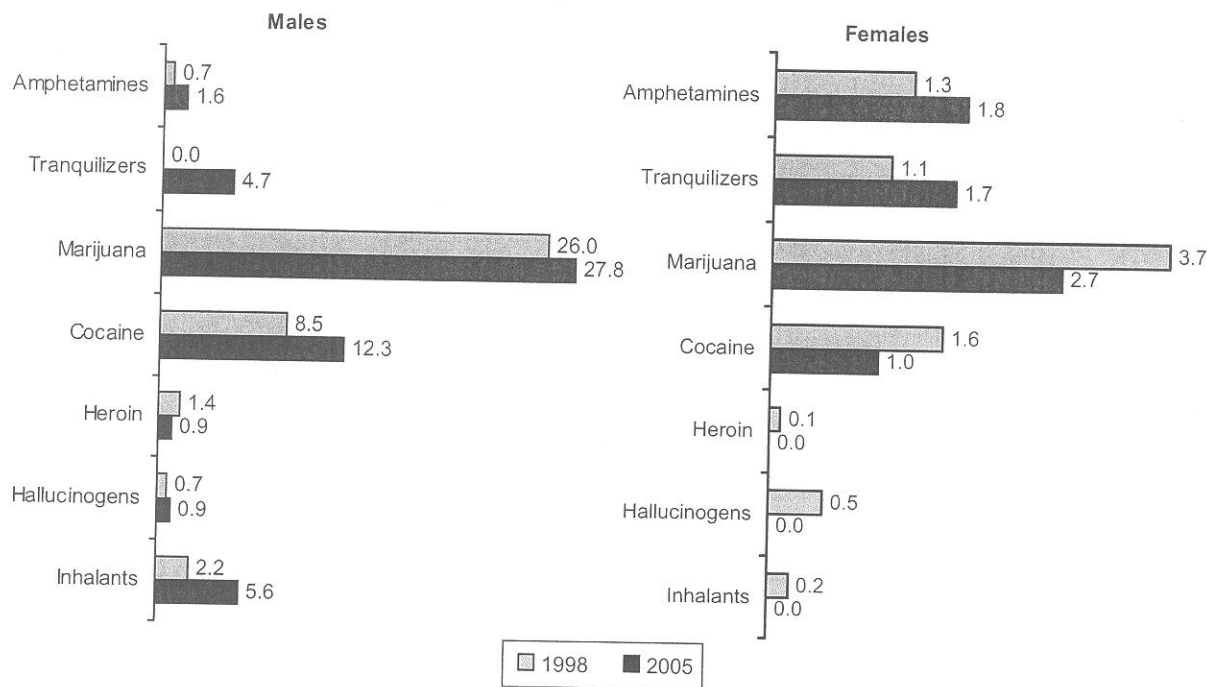
high levels of marijuana and cocaine use (exhibit 6). The proportions for females for these drugs were lower, however, in Tijuana than in Ciudad Juarez. While no male respondents in Tijuana reported lifetime tranquilizer use in 1998, 4.7 percent did so in 2005. The proportions of females reporting lifetime use of amphetamines or tranquilizers increased between 1998 and 2005, while the proportions of females reporting lifetime use of all illegal drugs fell during that period. Lifetime inhalant use among males was much higher in Tijuana (5.6 percent) than in Ciudad Juarez (1.3 percent).

Exhibit 5. Reported Lifetime Drug Use Among the Population Age 12–65 in Ciudad Juarez, by Gender, Year, and Percent: 1998 and 2005



SOURCE: National Institute of Psychiatry

Exhibit 6. Reported Lifetime Drug Use Among the Population Age 12–65 in Tijuana, by Gender, Year, and Percent: 1998 and 2005



SOURCE: National Institute of Psychiatry

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