

Canadian Addiction Survey (CAS)

*A National Survey of Canadians'
Use of Alcohol and Other Drugs*

Focus on Gender



Health Canada Santé
Canada Canada



Canadian Executive Council on Addictions
Conseil exécutif canadien sur les toxicomanies



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Chapter 1 - Introduction

This report, one in a series of follow-up reports from the Canadian Addiction Survey (2004), presents an analysis of alcohol and illicit drug use with respect to gender. Expanding on the detailed report of the Canadian Addiction Survey (Adlaf, Begin and Sawka, 2005), which presented the prevalence of alcohol and illicit drug use broken down by key demographic characteristics among the total Canadian population, this secondary report presents each demographic by sex to uncover any key similarities and differences between females and males. Due to the magnitude of the Canadian Addiction Survey (CAS) dataset, sample sizes among most sub-populations were large enough to provide reliable estimates.

Historically there has been an absence of research attention to substance use by girls and women. Research has traditionally accounted for the experiences of males and applied the findings to females. Over the past two decades, however, there has been increased attention to the necessity of examining substance use and other health problems among females and males separately (Health Canada, 2003; Johnson, Greaves and Repta, 2007). There is now compelling evidence of sex and gender differences in the experience of substance use and addiction and further knowledge generation and gender-based analyses of the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs are warranted (Poole and Dell, 2005; Poole and Greaves, 2007).

Survey data are valuable in that they can promote understanding of broad levels, patterns and predictors of substance use that allow for the development of sensitive approaches to substance use policy, prevention, treatment and research. Gender-based analysis of survey data allows us to examine, for example, differences between the sexes in the rates of drinking and driving or prescription drug use that can help tailor policy, practice and research efforts to be more effective. Gender-based analysis also allows us to examine age, income and other differences within gender groups, so that we can develop appropriate and targeted prevention campaigns or treatment programs. For example, examining income differences would allow us to design a

Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder prevention program that takes into account that high-income women are at equal, if not greater, risk of having a child affected by FASD than women with low incomes, due to their drinking levels and patterns in child-bearing years.

Survey data cannot provide all that we need to know about substance use and substance use problems experienced by women and men in Canada. Through other types of research, we can further explore the areas highlighted by the CAS, to help us better understand how diversity and the dominant health, social, political and economic structures affect women's and men's substance use. Other types of research can also help us understand biological as well as gender differences in the effects of substances on females and males, and illuminate gender-specific pathways to substance use, abuse and addiction. These CAS data serve as the foundation for our current understanding and future knowledge generation, by pointing to key gender differences in levels, patterns and trends of substance use by women and men in this country.

Objective

The objective of this report is to present the CAS data disaggregated by sex and to provide some gender-based analysis of it. The report will compare and contrast the experiences of women and men 15 years of age and older in terms of their substance use patterns and predictors. Specifically, focus will be placed on determining the demographics (e.g. age, education) that predict a variety of outcomes (e.g. alcohol and illicit drug use) among women and men, highlighting both similarities and differences. It is expected that some demographics will be statistically significant at the 95% confidence level in predicting an outcome for women, but not so for men, and vice versa. For example, statistical testing may confirm that there are provincial differences among women with respect to their views on cannabis use, but show no provincial differences among men, or instead it may be found that the patterns are similar for women and men.

Overview

This report has five main chapters:

**Chapter 2: Research Design
and Methodology**

Chapter 3: Alcohol Use

**Chapter 4: Use of Cannabis
and Other Illicit Drugs**

**Chapter 5: Harms of the Use of
Alcohol and Drugs**

**Chapter 6: Changes in the Use of Alcohol,
Cannabis and Other Illicit Drugs
Over Time**

Chapter 2 - Research Design and Methodology

The Canadian Addiction Survey (2004)

The Canadian Addiction Survey (CAS) is one of the most comprehensive telephone surveys on the use of alcohol and illicit drugs in Canada to date. To gauge the behaviour of more than 24,214,815 Canadians, the CAS interviewed more than 13,909 respondents over 15 years of age, of which, 8,188 were women and the remaining 5,721 were men. The survey consisted of over 400 unique questionnaire items, typically drawn from existing national surveys and internationally recognized scales. The median interview time was 23 minutes. Most interviews (80%) were completed within 30 minutes. The response rate of the CAS was 47%.

The CAS was a collaborative initiative sponsored by Health Canada, the Canadian Executive Council on Addictions (CECA) and the provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and British Columbia. The CECA includes the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA), the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC), the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba (AFM), the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), P.E.I. Provincial Health Services Authority, and the Kaiser Foundation/Centre for Addictions Research of B.C. (CAR-BC).

Survey Sample Design

Specific details on the research design and methods can be found in the CAS detailed report (Adlaf, Begin and Sawka, 2005), and the *Canadian Addiction Survey 2004: Microdata eGuide* (CCSA, 2004), both of which are available online at the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse Web site (www.ccsa.ca). Presented below is a brief summary of the methodology relevant to this report.

The CAS is based on a sample design using a two-stage (telephone household, respondent) random sample stratified by region. In the first stage, households were sampled at random based on random dialing, and in the second stage, one member of the household was selected at random from all eligible members. The sampling frame was based on an electronic inventory (Statplus) of active telephone numbers and exchanges in Canada. Telephone interviews were conducted in both English and French by Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) methods between December 16 and December 23, 2003, and from January 9 to April 19, 2004. The CAS was

administered by the research firm Jolicoeur et associés, which was responsible for the sample selection, telephone interviewing and preparation of the initial micro data file.

A three-panel design was implemented to reduce interview time and encourage participation. The three panels consisted of about 4,600 respondents each (4,612, 4,639, and 4,658 respectively). Most questions presented in this report, such as those about alcohol and illicit drug use indicators as well as alcohol- and drug-related harms were asked of all 13,909 respondents. Selected questions on public opinion and attitudes were distributed among the panels. More details about public opinions, attitudes, and knowledge are published in another secondary report from the CAS data (Racine, Flight and Sawka, in press) as well as more information pertaining to youth aged 15-24 (Flight, in press). Table 2.1 presents the demographic distribution by sex of respondents surveyed in the Canadian Addiction Survey. Table 2.2 presents the socio-demographics of each panel by sex.

Weighting and Design Effect

A weight adjustment was applied to the CAS to ensure that the CAS compared favorably to the Census data for sex, age and province. The weights for the CAS sample are based on 252 population classes, stratified by 21 regional areas, by six age groups and by sex. Since the CAS has employed complex sampling procedures, such as stratification, weighting and multistage selection, the CAS, like all complex sampling designs, may underestimate the variance and the confidence intervals of estimates, as compared to a simple random-sampling design (SRS). The design effect is defined as the ratio of the variance of an estimate derived from the particular sampling design over the variance of the same estimate resulting from a random-sampling design of the same size. Due to the two-stage selection and the disproportional sampling fractions related to equal provincial allocations, the CAS has, on average, a design effect of 3.4, which means the sample error is more than three times higher than a design that uses a simple random sample. All estimates of variances, confidence intervals, and related statistical tests are based on Taylor series methods implemented in Stata in order to account for the sample design and design effects (Korn and Graubard, 1999;

StataCorp, 2003).

Precision and Stability

There are two aspects to the statistical quality of survey data: precision, typically measured by the 95% confidence interval (CI), and stability, typically measured by the coefficient of variation (CV), defined as the ratio of the standard error to its estimate. This report follows Statistics Canada guidelines for ensuring the presentation of statistically reliable data. Estimates are evaluated as follows:

CV Range	Estimate Stability
0-16.5	Estimate stable and reportable
16.6-33.3	Estimate has moderate sampling variability and should be interpreted with caution
33.3+	Estimate unstable and is suppressed

In addition, those estimates with a corresponding cell count less than 30 were suppressed.

Key Independent Variables

The following independent variables (socio-demographic) are used throughout the various chapters. Outcomes variables (dependant variables) such as alcohol-use and illicit-drug-use indicators are described at the beginning of each chapter.

Measure	Categories
Age	Where possible, 9 categories: 15-17; 18-19; 20-24; 25-34; 35-44; 45-54; 55-64; 65-74; 75+. To ensure reliable estimates, some tables collapsed age groups. For example, 15-17 and 18-19 were collapsed to form 15-19 and age groups 65-74 and 75+ were collapsed to form 65+.
Province	10 provinces: Newfoundland and Labrador; Prince Edward Island; Nova Scotia; New Brunswick; Quebec; Ontario; Manitoba; Saskatchewan; Alberta; British Columbia. In several cases, 5 regions were reported to ensure reliable estimates: Atlantic region; Ontario; Quebec; Prairies; British Columbia.
Marital Status	Married/partnered; formerly married (widowed/divorced/separated); single/never married.
Education	Less than secondary; completed secondary; some post-secondary; university degree.
Income Adequacy	Income adequacy is based on the combination of household income and number in household: Lowest: (less than \$20K with 1-4 people or, less than \$30K with 5+ people). Highest: (\$60K or more with 1-2 people or \$80K or more with 3+ people). Not reported: did not report income. Middle: all other respondents.
Household Location	Rural vs. non-rural. Rural is defined by the presence of a "0" (zero) as the second character of the respondent's postal code.

Description of Analysis

Both cross tabulations (Pearson chi-square) and multivariate analysis (logistic regression) were used to examine the responses of key questionnaire items for each demographic listed in Table 2.1. Cross tabulations were used to evaluate the percentage estimates, such as the proportion of drinkers between the ages of 18 and 19 or between the ages of 20 and 24 who typically drank five or more drinks on one occasion in the past year (39% vs. 33% respectively). In univariate analysis, a demographic characteristic is considered to have an effect on or vary with a response (outcome variable) at the 95% confidence level. In this example, if the demographic of age were significant, one could examine at what age-level differences exist, and conclude that those 18 to 19 years of age drink significantly more than those aged 20 to 24.

Where cell sizes were sufficient, multivariate analysis was used to study the effect of a particular demographic on the dependent variable, while controlling for the possible effects of all other demographics listed in the table. The multivariate analysis utilized was logistic regression, a term that comes from the use of the logit or transformed odds. An odds ratio describes the likelihood of an event. An odds ratio greater than one indicates greater than average odds (an event is more likely) whereas an odds ratio less than one indicates less than average odds (an event is less likely). When an odds ratio is greater than one, an event is more likely as the number increases. The opposite is true when an odds ratio is less than one: The smaller the number, the less likely the odds of a positive outcome.

In logistic regression, the odds ratios are adjusted for all other variables in the regression. For example, when examining the effect of marital status on heavy drinking (defined as four or more drinks for women or five or more drinks for men on one occasion), age, income adequacy, education, and household location are held constant. This means that women (or men) of similar demographic characteristics are compared

together, and an overall assessment with respect to each demographic is made. In this report, if a demographic was significant at the 95% confidence level in a logistic regression, it was considered to vary with or predict the outcome while controlling for the effects of all other demographics. If it was not, we could not confirm whether or not the particular demographic had any effect on the outcome.

Once a demographic was confirmed to be significant (F test), the adjusted odds ratio was used to judge the contribution of a particular demographic category (relative to another category) while adjusting for all other demographics. For example, an adjusted odds ratio of 4.0 for women 18-19 years of age would mean that those women are four times more likely than their comparison group (women aged 15-17 years) to show a particular outcome when adjusted for all other demographics assessed by the regression (province, marital status, education, income adequacy, and household location). It is important to note that an odds ratio of 4.0 means that one level of the independent variable is four times more likely than another level. However, the corresponding percentages might not reflect this difference.

Throughout the report, the tables at the end of each chapter present the results of the significance testing for both the univariate and multivariate tests. Asterisks (*) reflect the significance level and NS denotes that a particular test was not statistically significant. The asterisks and NS under the odds ratio (OR) column denotes the significance testing for the multivariate logistic regression, and those found under the percentage (%) and confidence interval (CI) columns correspond to the significance testing of the univariate chi-square test. Because the multivariate test is the more comprehensive of the two, only results of the multivariate logistic regression are discussed in the text of this report. An exception to this rule is made for particular results for which it was deemed necessary to present the univariate point of view. In such cases, this will be clearly explained to the reader.

Data Limitations

The limitations of the Canadian Addiction Survey (CAS) are common to large telephone-based surveys involving self-report measures (Adlaf, Begin and Sawka, 2005). For example, such surveys tend to over-represent those with higher education and under-represent those with lower education. The CAS deals with a sensitive subject matter—asking people to report behaviors that may not be socially acceptable or are illegal. As a result, it is expected that some under-reporting may occur. Reviews of self-report methods for alcohol and drug use suggest telephone surveys are still regarded as the best available means to estimate such behaviors (Harrison and Hughes, 1997). Telephone surveys are especially valid if respondents are: 1) confident that their responses will be confidential and anonymous, 2) believe the research is legitimate, and 3) believe that there are no adverse consequences in reporting certain behaviors.

Telephone surveys assume that everyone in the population lives in a conventional residence with telephone access. However, a small proportion of Canadian households does not have telephones, and other groups would not be accessed this way because they are in hospitals, prisons, military establishments or are homeless. Nevertheless, these excluded populations are relatively small, and should have a minimal effect on prevalence estimates among Canadian women and men. Canada has a high telephone-coverage rate that exceeds 97% (Trewin and Lee, 1988).

More generally, there are also limitations inherent in the questions asked. For example, the questions relating to prescription drugs did not specifically mention nor examine separately the misuse of tranquillizers, a category of drugs more commonly prescribed to women than to men (Therapeutics Initiative, 2004). Similarly the ASSIST (Alcohol, Smoking, and Substance Involvement Screening Test) questions examining problems associated with alcohol and illicit drugs cover health, social, legal and financial types of problems, but not parenting or family problems, so the problems experienced by women may not be adequately captured. In questions about influences on use, the influence of one's partner was not specifically explored. In questions about harmful effects of another's substance use, sexual violence and verbal, physical violence were not named. In questions about harmful effects of use, the harmful effects on parenting, mental health or sexual behaviour were not included. These missed opportunities preclude a more detailed understanding of gender differences in alcohol and drug use, and point to areas for improving future surveys.

Table 2.1 Demographic characteristics of the CAS 2004 sample by sex.

	N	Women				Men			
		N	%	% Weighted	Design Effect	N	%	% Weighted	Design Effect
Total	13909								
Age									
15-17	581	275	3.5	4.1	3.3	306	5.4	4.2	2.8
18-19	439	212	2.7	3.3	3.2	227	4.0	3.9	3.8
20-24	1065	559	7.0	8.4	3.2	506	9.0	9.1	3.8
25-34	2342	1340	16.8	16.2	2.7	1002	17.8	16.7	3.2
35-44	2720	1614	20.3	20.7	2.7	1106	19.7	21.4	4.3
45-54	2706	1609	20.2	17.9	2.8	1097	19.5	18.5	4.1
55-64	1853	1104	13.9	11.7	2.4	749	13.3	12.0	3.4
65-74	1179	746	9.4	10.4	3.5	433	7.7	9.5	4.4
75+	719	516	6.5	7.4	3.3	203	3.6	4.7	4.6
Province									
Newfoundland and Labrador	1001	624	7.6	1.7	0.1	377	6.6	1.7	0.2
Prince Edward Island	1000	608	7.4	0.4	0.0	392	6.9	0.4	0.1
Nova Scotia	1002	589	7.2	3.1	0.2	413	7.2	3.0	0.4
New Brunswick	1000	585	7.1	2.4	0.2	415	7.3	2.4	0.3
Quebec	1003	593	7.2	24.1	1.3	410	7.2	24.0	2.5
Ontario	1000	590	7.2	38.7	1.6	410	7.2	38.4	3.0
Manitoba	1502	867	10.6	3.6	0.2	635	11.1	3.6	0.3
Saskatchewan	1000	567	6.9	3.1	0.2	433	7.8	3.1	0.4
Alberta	2401	1406	17.2	9.6	0.4	995	17.4	10.1	0.7
British Columbia	3000	1759	21.5	13.3	0.4	1241	21.7	13.4	0.7
Marital Status									
Married/partnered	7930	4602	56.7	53.0	2.9	3328	58.5	57.9	3.8
Divorced/separated/widowed	2253	1685	20.8	21.8	3.1	568	10.0	11.7	4.3
Single/never married	3632	1834	22.6	25.2	2.9	1798	31.6	30.4	3.7
Education									
Less than secondary	2471	1403	18.8	17.8	3.0	1068	13.1	16.8	3.4
Secondary	3926	2273	29.1	26.5	2.8	1653	38.4	27.1	3.7
Some post-secondary	4267	2648	28.5	31.1	2.7	1619	19.4	30.0	3.9
University degree	3146	1806	23.6	24.6	2.9	1340	29.1	26.1	4.0
Income Adequacy									
Lowest	1544	1076	13.1	12.3	2.6	468	8.2	7.7	3.8
Middle	5450	3146	38.4	37.3	2.8	2304	40.3	38.8	3.8
Highest	3183	1585	19.4	20.9	2.9	1598	28.4	29.5	3.9
Not stated	3732	2381	29.1	29.3	2.9	1351	23.7	24.0	3.9
Location of Household									
Rural	3016	1811	22.1	14.6	2.1	1205	21.1	16.8	3.2
Non-rural	10893	6377	77.9	85.4	2.1	4516	78.9	83.2	3.2

Table 2.2 Number of respondents by panel and sex.

	Panel A		Panel B		Panel C	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
Total	2684	1928	2786	1853	2718	1940
Age						
15-17	104	97	97	98	74	111
18-19	66	75	65	78	81	74
20-24	182	167	186	171	191	168
25-34	440	356	464	314	436	332
35-44	518	364	549	365	547	377
45-54	538	368	555	375	516	354
55-64	387	248	357	227	360	274
65-74	218	154	252	131	276	148
75+	165	66	185	61	166	76
Province						
Newfoundland and Labrador	204	113	210	135	210	129
Prince Edward Island	221	132	195	130	192	130
Nova Scotia	185	149	213	123	191	141
New Brunswick	180	134	197	125	208	156
Quebec	198	139	194	135	201	136
Ontario	194	146	196	117	200	147
Manitoba	267	211	306	206	294	218
Saskatchewan	185	144	197	148	185	141
Alberta	465	346	480	317	461	332
British Columbia	585	414	598	417	576	410
Marital Status						
Married/partnered	1491	1102	1559	1096	1552	1130
Divorced/separated/widowed	551	198	579	171	555	199
Single/never married	619	614	625	576	590	608
Education						
Less than secondary	465	361	489	341	449	366
Secondary	750	548	744	525	779	580
Some post-secondary	862	533	920	552	866	534
University degree	589	468	613	425	604	447
Income Adequacy						
Lowest	351	172	383	134	342	162
Middle	1030	763	1064	742	1052	799
Highest	545	533	551	523	489	542
Not stated	758	460	788	454	835	437
Location of Household						
Rural	594	394	626	405	591	406
Non-rural	2090	1534	2160	1448	2127	1534

Chapter 3 - Alcohol Use

Highlights

- **Prevalence:** In the 12 months prior to the survey, 76.8% of Canadian women and 82.0% of Canadian men over the age of 15 had consumed alcohol. For each demographic characteristic studied, almost as many women as men reported drinking in the past year.
- **Drinkers:** Past-year drinking varied with age, province, marital status, education and income adequacy among women. Marital status did not predict past-year drinking among men.
- **Frequency vs. Quantity:** For both men and women, frequent drinking increased with age, income adequacy and education. The typical quantity of alcohol consumed varied with income adequacy among women, but not among men. As age increased, more Canadians, especially women, reported “almost always drinking alcohol with a meal.”
- **Risky Drinking:** Three quarters of all women and about one half of all men drink in moderation (one to two drinks). With the exception of age, some of the socio-demographics that influence the drinking patterns of Canadian women and men were different.

Results

Prevalence of Current Drinking

Over three quarters of all Canadian women (76.8%) and men (82.0%), reported they drank in the past year (Table 3.1). When controlling for all demographic characteristics, having drunk in the past year varied with age, province, marital status, education and income adequacy for women. The same characteristics, except for marital status, predicted the prevalence of drinking in the past 12 months in men.

The percentage of women who drank in the past year peaked at 18 to 19 years of age (90.7%). Past-year drinking for women between the ages of 18 and 19 years was four times more likely than for those aged 15 to 17 years (65.6%). Similarly, males between the ages of 18 and 19 were more than five times more likely (90.9%) than those between the ages of 15 and 17 years (58.9%) to have drunk in the past year.

Women from Quebec had the highest proportion of past-year drinkers (80.8%) and had 1.6 greater odds of drinking than the rest of Canada, whereas those from Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador were less likely to drink than women from the rest of Canada (70.0% and 69.7%, respectively). Among males, those from Quebec were most likely (83.9%), whereas those from Prince Edward Island were the least likely (70.4%) to currently drink.

As education increased, so did the prevalence of current drinking. Women with a university degree had almost twice the odds of current drinking (81.9%) than those who had not completed high school (63.4%). This pattern was the same for men; males with a university degree had more than twice the odds of having drunk in the past year (86.3%) than those with less than a high school education.

Women who were divorced, separated or widowed were more likely to currently drink than those who were married or partnered. However, when looking at marital status in isolation from the other demographics (univariate test), those who were married were more likely to drink than those divorced, separated or widowed. Marital status did not predict past-year drinking rates among males.

Women in the highest income-adequacy group were three times more likely to have drunk in the past 12 months than those in the lowest income group (86.1% vs. 66.6%). Similarly, men reporting the highest income-adequacy category were five times more likely to report current drinking (90.7%) than men reporting the lowest income-adequacy category (65.4%).

Key Differences and Similarities: For women, there was a significant decrease in past-year drinking at ages 55 to 64 compared to women aged 45 to 54. However, this significant decrease did not occur for men. In addition, at age 55 to 64 years, there was a significant difference in the proportion of men who drank compared to women: Men were significantly more likely than women in this age category to currently drink alcohol (82.1% vs. 71.4%). Divorced, separated or widowed women were more likely to have consumed alcohol in the past year. This effect was not observed among men. For both men and women, current drinking peaked at 18 to 19 years of age. Those from Quebec were more likely to drink than individuals from the rest of Canada and those from Prince Edward Island less likely. Males and females with a university degree were more likely to have drunk in the past year than those who had not completed high school, and those in the highest income-adequacy group were more likely to currently drink than those in the lowest.

Frequency of Drinking

Respondents who reported drinking in the past year were asked how often they drank. The most common frequency of drinking for women was one to three times a month (35.9%), followed by less than once a month (31.4%) and one to three times a week (26.9%) (Table 3.2). Among women, frequency of drinking varied with age, province, education and income adequacy. Regardless of demographic characteristics, men drank more frequently than women: 14.1% reported drinking less than once a month, compared to 31.4% of women, whereas 55.2% of men reported drinking at least once a week, compared to 32.8% of women (Table 3.3). Comparable to women, when all demographics were controlled for, drinking frequency for men varied with age, province, education and income adequacy, but also varied with marital status.

Women aged 18 to 19 years of age were five times more likely to drink one to three times a week than those 15 to 17 years of age (28.7% vs. 6.8%). There was a significant decrease in weekly drinking for women 25 to 34 years of age, compared to those aged 20 to 24 (23.4% vs. 32.8%), possibly reflecting more typical drinking behaviours of women during their childbearing years. Overall, the number of women drinking four or more times a week increased with increasing age. More than one tenth of women over 65 reported this drinking pattern. The number of men drinking one to three times a month decreased with increasing age; 36.0% of men aged 25 to 34 reported this pattern, compared with only 16.2% of men aged 75 and over. Drinking four or more times a week increased with increasing age, with 6.6% of men aged 25 to 34 and 41.0% of men 75 years or older reporting this drinking pattern.

Women from Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick reported lower frequencies of drinking than did those from the rest of Canada, whereas those from British Columbia and Ontario reported the highest rates of drinking. Males from Nova Scotia reported the lowest frequencies of drinking among Canadian men, whereas those from Ontario reported the highest.

Women with some post-secondary education or a university degree were significantly less likely to drink less than once a month than those with less than high-school (30.4% and 23.8% vs. 43.0%) but more likely to drink one to three times a week (26.8% and 35.3% vs. 16.1%).

Divorced, separated or widowed men were about twice as likely as married men to report drinking four or more times a week (27.7% and 14.4%, respectively). In addition, men who were divorced, separated or widowed were significantly less likely than married men (29.7% vs. 43.3%) to report drinking one to three times a week; there were no differences in drinking pattern among women according to marital status.

Women and men in the highest income-adequacy group drank more frequently than those in the lowest.

Key Differences and Similarities: A greater proportion of men drank more frequently than women. Women from Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick reported drinking less frequently, whereas men from Nova Scotia reported a lower drinking frequency. For men, being separated, divorced or widowed was a significant predictor of drinking four or more times a week, but not for women. For both men and women, drinking frequency increased with increasing age; men and women were more likely to drink four or more times a week as age increased. Interestingly, among men there was a significant decrease in the number drinking less than once a month at ages 20 to 24 years and a significant increase in the number drinking one to three times a week at these ages. Among women, however, at ages 25 to 34, the likelihood of drinking less than once a month more than doubled, whereas there was a significant decrease in the likelihood of drinking one to three times a week.

Drinking with Meals

Respondents who answered “yes” to past-year drinking were asked the question “How often did you drink with meals?” Table 3.4 presents the proportion of women and men who drank with meals as a function of age.

As age increased, so too did the proportion of women who drank with meals. Older women were more likely to drink with meals than were younger women. Of those 65 years or older, 52.5% reported “almost always” drinking with a meal, compared to only 16.4% of women between 15 and 17 years of age, and 18.3% of women between 20 and 24 years of age. Conversely, the number of past-year women drinkers reporting “rarely” drinking with a meal decreased with increasing age: 61.8% aged 15 to 17 years and 57.6% aged 18 to 19 years, compared to only 27.3% aged 75 years or older.

Similarly, the percentage of past-year male drinkers who “almost always” drank with a meal tended to increase with age. Older men were more likely to drink with meals than were younger men: 40.6% of those aged 65 to 74, vs. only 14.4% of those aged 15 to 17, reported drinking with meals. However, men aged 55 to 64 and 75 and older were exceptions to this pattern. In these age groups, there was a decrease instead of an increase in the number reporting always drinking with meals. In addition, the number of male drinkers reporting “rarely” drinking with a meal decreased with increasing age. Again, men between the ages of 55 and 64 (33.8%) and men 75 years or older (41.7%) were exceptions.

Key Differences and Similarities: Drinking “almost always” with meals increased with age among both men and women, but especially among women. Overall, men and women past-year drinkers responded differently to this question. Statistical differences were observed among men and women between the ages of 25-34 years, 45-54 years, 55-64 years and 75 years or older, with a lower proportion of men than women reporting drinking alcohol with a meal.

Quantity of Alcohol Consumed

Aside from drinking frequency, it is also important to examine the quantity of alcohol consumed on a typical occasion. Among women, when adjusting for all demographic variables, drinking quantity varied with age, province, marital status, education, income adequacy and location of household (Table 3.5). Among males, drinking quantity varied with age, province, marital status, and education (Table 3.6).

The majority of women (74.2%) drank only one or two drinks per typical drinking day. However, the quantity drunk tended to decrease with increasing age. Older women were more likely to consume less per typical drinking day, and younger women more likely to consume more. Four out of ten women (38.8%) 18 to 19 years of age drank five or more drinks in a typical drinking session, but this percentage dropped significantly as age increased, with most women over the age of 35 drinking one to two drinks at most (75.3% to 93.0%). In addition 49.6% of 15- to 17-year-olds reported drinking one to two drinks per typical drinking day, compared with 93.0% of those aged 65 and older.

Men were significantly less likely than women to drink one to two drinks per typical drinking day (53.4% vs. 74.2%) and more likely than women to report five or more drinks (23.2% vs. 8.8%). As with women, older men consumed less and younger men more. Forty-five percent (45.6%) of men aged 18 to 19 reported consuming five or more drinks per typical drinking day, but this rate dropped significantly as age increased with only 11% to 23% of males 35 and older reporting drinking five or more drinks per occasion.

Women residing in Quebec reported the highest rates of drinking one to two drinks (76.2%), when compared with the average, whereas women and men residing in Newfoundland and Labrador reported the highest rates of drinking five or more drinks (17.4% and 43.6%) and the lowest rates of one to two drinks (62.2% and 37.8%). Males from Alberta and Quebec also reported the lowest rates of drinking five or more drinks (25.9% and 17.9%) and the highest rates, along with males from British Columbia, of drinking one to two drinks (53.8%, 55.2% and 56.6%).

Single women and those who have never been married were more likely than women who had been or are currently partnered to report drinking five or more drinks per typical drinking day (18.0% vs. 3.9% and 6.2%, respectively). Married women also had a decreased likelihood of drinking three to four drinks per occasion and an increased likelihood of drinking one to two drinks per occasion. Though it did among women, marital status did not predict the likelihood of drinking three to four drinks among men. However, being a single or formerly married man was associated with an increased likelihood of drinking five or more drinks per occasion, compared to married men (23.4% and 34.7% vs. 17.3%). Being single was also associated with a decreased likelihood of consuming one to two drinks per occasion (37.1% vs. 60.8%).

The quantity of drinking at a typical drinking session decreased with increasing education for women. Women with a university degree had an increased likelihood of drinking one to two drinks per occasion, when compared to those with less than a secondary education (81.0% vs. 71.4%). In addition, women with a secondary education, some post-secondary education or a university degree were all significantly less likely to drink five or more drinks per occasion when compared to those with less than a secondary education (10.6%, 8.7% and 4.7% vs. 13.2%). This was also demonstrated with men. Holding a university degree resulted in an increased likelihood of drinking one or two drinks per occasion compared to men with less than a secondary education (63.8% vs. 49.4%). However, unlike women, men with some post-secondary education also had an increased likelihood of drinking one or two drinks per occasion. For men, as with women, having a secondary education, some post-secondary education, or a university degree resulted in a decreased likelihood of drinking five or more drinks per occasion when compared to those with less than a secondary education (30.2%, 23.7% and 12.5% vs. 30.8%).

Overall income adequacy was associated with drinking five or more drinks per occasion for women, but this was possibly due to the "not stated" category. Women living in a non-rural location were significantly less likely to drink five or more drinks per occasion (8.2% vs. 12.1%). These differences were not encountered in men.

Key Differences and Similarities: Females aged 18 to 19 had 7.6 times greater odds than 15- to 17-year-olds of drinking five or more drinks per typical drinking day, but there was no significant difference between males aged 15-17 and 18-19. In addition, the increase in those drinking one to two drinks per drinking day occurs later in life for men than for women. There was a significant shift in this pattern at age 25 for women, but for men this did not occur until age 35. Unlike drinking frequency, which increased with age, the quantity of alcohol consumed per typical drinking occasion was inversely related to age for both men and women. That is, as age increased the quantity of alcohol consumed by both men and women significantly decreased. In addition, men and women from Newfoundland and Labrador reported consuming the most per occasion. Interestingly, men with some post-secondary education (as well as those with a university degree) had an increased likelihood of drinking one to two drinks per occasion. Among women this was only the case for those with a university degree. In terms of marital status, men and women who were single tended to drink more per occasion. Among women, those who were formerly married had a decreased likelihood of drinking one to two drinks per occasion and an increased likelihood of drinking three to four drinks per occasion, while among men, those formerly married had an increased likelihood of drinking five or more per occasion.

Heavy Drinking

Monthly Heavy Drinking

Table 3.7 presents the prevalence and likelihood of heavy monthly drinking among Canadian women and men who reported drinking in the past year. Heavy monthly drinking among Canadian women and men varied with age and marital status. Province, education and household location also contributed to heavy monthly drinking for men. The prevalence of heavy monthly drinking was significantly greater among Canadian men than among women (33.9% vs. 17.0%).

The likelihood of heavy monthly drinking decreased with increasing age, dropping significantly for women 25 to 34 years of age (18.8%) and again at age 55 and older (7.6%). Heavy monthly drinking peaked among men between 18 and 19 years of age (59.6%), dropping significantly at ages 35 to 44 (32.4%) and again at age 65 and older (14.9%).

Men from Newfoundland and Labrador had almost twice the odds of engaging in heavy monthly drinking than those from the rest of Canada (48.5% vs. 33.9%), whereas men from Alberta were less likely to drink heavily (32.6% vs. 33.9%). Province was not associated with heavy monthly drinking for women.

Men who had some post-secondary education (33.7%) or a university degree (25.7%) were significantly less likely to engage in heavy monthly drinking than those with less than a secondary education (36.2%). Education did not predict monthly heavy drinking for women.

Divorced, separated or widowed women and women who were single or never married were more than 1.5 times more likely than married or partnered women to report heavy monthly drinking. This was similarly demonstrated among men.

Men from non-rural locations were more likely to drink heavily (34.8%), compared to men from rural locations (29.9%). Household location was not associated with heavy monthly drinking for women.

Key Differences and Similarities: Monthly heavy drinking varied with province, education and household location among men, but not among women. Specifically, men from Newfoundland and Labrador, those with secondary or less than secondary education, and those from a non-rural household were more likely to engage in heavy monthly drinking. Of the demographics studied, only age and marital status predicted heavy monthly drinking among women. In addition, among males 18- to 19-year-olds were twice as likely to engage in heavy monthly drinking than those aged 15 to 17. However, among women there was no significant difference between these age groups. There was a pronounced significant decrease in heavy monthly drinking among women at ages 25 to 34 years, but this decrease occurred later for men at age 35 to 44. In terms of similarities, marital status was related to heavy monthly drinking for both men and women, with those who were married being the least likely to participate in monthly heavy drinking.

Weekly Heavy Drinking

Table 3.8 presents the prevalence and likelihood of weekly heavy drinking among Canadian women and men who reported drinking in the past-year. Age groups were collapsed to improve the stability of estimates. When adjusted for all other demographics, heavy weekly drinking varied with age and income adequacy among women. Weekly heavy drinking varied with age and education, but not income adequacy, among Canadian men. Men were significantly more likely than women to engage in heavy weekly drinking (9.2% vs. 3.3%).

One in every 10 women between the ages of 15 and 24 engaged in heavy weekly drinking (7.8% of women aged 15 to 19 years and 11.8% of women 20 to 24 years of age). This rate dropped significantly to about 2.0% for women aged 25 and older. When results were adjusted for all tabled demographics, women aged 25 to 44 years were less likely than women aged 20 to 24 years to report such drinking. There was also a significant decrease in weekly heavy drinking among men, but this did not occur until age 45 and over (5.7%). The proportion of heavy weekly drinking was significantly higher for men aged 25 and older, compared to women.

Men with a university education were significantly less likely than those with less than a secondary education (2.9% vs. 11.5%), to report heavy weekly drinking. Weekly heavy drinking was not associated with education for women.

Rates of heavy weekly drinking were highest among women reporting the lowest income-adequacy category (8.5%). Women in the middle adequacy group were less likely to participate in heavy weekly drinking (2.2%), and those who did not state their income were also less likely than women in the lowest income-adequacy group to drink in such quantities. Income adequacy did not predict weekly heavy drinking for men.

Key Differences and Similarities: When adjusted for other key demographics, the rate of weekly heavy drinking among women decreased significantly at ages 25 to 44. However, this significant drop in the rate of weekly heavy drinking did not occur until age 45 and over for men. Overall, for both men and women, weekly heavy drinking decreased as age increased. Men with a university degree were significantly less likely to drink heavily weekly, but this was not demonstrated for women. Women in the lowest income-adequacy group were most likely to report heavy weekly drinking. This effect was not observed among men.

Drinking Patterns

Patterns of drinking were derived based on reported drinking frequency and quantity. Women and men were examined in terms of the characteristics associated with the four patterns of drinking: heavy infrequently, light infrequently, heavy frequently, and light frequently. These categories are defined as follows: A light infrequent drinker drinks fewer than five drinks per sitting and often less than once a week; a light frequent drinker drinks fewer than five drinks per sitting but weekly; a heavy infrequent drinker drinks less often than once a week but usually drinks five or more drinks at one time; and finally, a heavy frequent drinker usually drinks five or more drinks per sitting weekly.

More than half of women over the age of 15 drank lightly and infrequently (62.0%), almost one third drank lightly and frequently (29.2%), 5.1% drank heavily and infrequently and 3.7% drank heavily and frequently (Table 3.9). When controlling for all demographics, age, region, education, and income adequacy were predictors of women's drinking patterns. Drinking patterns for men are described in Table 3.10. Much higher proportions of men than women reported heavy infrequent and heavy frequent drinking patterns (9.0% and 14.2% respectively). Age, province, marital status, education and income adequacy were predictors of drinking patterns for men.

In general, as age increased in women, there was an increase in the rate of light frequent drinking and a decrease in the rate of heavy frequent drinking and heavy infrequent drinking. Among men, the same overall pattern was demonstrated. There was a continuous decrease in the proportion of men who drank heavily and infrequently or heavily and frequently as age increased, and an increase in light frequent drinking as age increased.

The drinking patterns for women were examined across region instead of province¹. Women from Quebec and British Columbia were the least likely to drink lightly and infrequently (59.4% and 58.6%) and more likely than those from the rest of Canada to drink lightly and frequently (35.6% and 32.1%). On the other hand, women from the Atlantic and Prairie regions were more likely than those from the rest of Canada to drink lightly and infrequently (both 65.4%) and least likely to drink lightly and frequently (19.9% and 22.8%). Although there was a significant effect of region for heavy infrequent drinking, it is difficult to report results, due to suppressed estimates for Quebec and Ontario. Men from Newfoundland and Labrador reported the highest rates of heavy frequent drinking and heavy infrequent drinking (24.3% and 19.3% respectively), whereas those from Quebec reported the lowest rates of heavy frequent drinking (11.0%). Those from Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia were less likely to report light and frequent drinking (24.9%, 24.8% and 24.4%) while those from Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia were more likely to drink lightly and frequently (46.8%, 43.9% and 38.1%).

Light frequent drinking and heavy infrequent drinking patterns were associated with education for women. Women with some post-secondary education or a university degree were more likely to drink lightly and frequently and less likely to drink heavily and infrequently, compared to women with less than secondary education. Similarly, among men, increasing education was associated with drinking pattern. Having a university degree was associated with light frequent drinking, but having some post-secondary education was not associated with light frequent drinking for men, as it was for women. Like women, men with some post-secondary education or a university degree had a decreased likelihood of drinking heavily and infrequently. In addition, heavy frequent drinking was associated with education level in men; those with a university degree were significantly less likely to drink heavily and frequently.

Drinking patterns of women were not affected by their marital status. However, among men, those who were divorced, separated or widowed had twice the odds of those currently married or partnered (17.7% vs. 11.0%) of drinking heavily frequently.

Women with the highest income adequacy reported lower rates of light infrequent drinking, but higher rates of light frequent drinking, than those in the lowest income group. Similarly, men reporting higher income adequacy reported significantly lower rates of light infrequent drinking than those in the lowest income-adequacy group.

Key Differences and Similarities: For women, there was a significant decrease at ages 25 to 34 in the rate of heavy frequent drinking, and a significant increase in the rate of light infrequent drinking, when compared to women aged 20 to 24 years. These changes are possibly associated with these being childbearing years for women. Among men, this pattern is not observed. However, for women and men, the overall pattern was similar. There was an increase in the rate of light frequent drinking as age increased, mirrored by a decrease in drinking heavily and infrequently as well as heavily and frequently. While drinking patterns of men were associated with their marital status, this was not the case for women. Males who were divorced, separated, or widowed were twice as likely as those who were currently married or partnered to report drinking heavily frequently. Income had the same effect on drinking for both women and men. Those in the highest income-adequacy groups were more likely than those in the lowest to report drinking lightly frequently. Education for women was associated with light frequent drinking and heavy infrequent drinking. Those with some post-secondary education and a university degree were significantly more likely than those with less than a secondary education to drink lightly and frequently, and less likely to drink heavily infrequently. Among men, some post-secondary education was not associated with drinking lightly frequently. However, having a university degree was a predictor; those with a university degree were more likely to drink lightly frequently and less likely to drink heavily infrequently or frequently.

¹ Region was used instead of the province in order to increase the precision of the estimate by increasing the cell size.

Exceeding Low-Risk Drinking Guidelines

Table 3.11 provides the prevalence and likelihood of exceeding the low-risk drinking guidelines for males and females who had drunk in the past year. These guidelines were released by the Addiction Research Foundation (now the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health) and the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse and are intended to represent low risk of the most important forms of harm.

When adjusted for all tabled demographics, the likelihood of exceeding the low-risk drinking guidelines varied with age and marital status among Canadian women. In addition to age and marital status, income adequacy also predicted this outcome for men. The proportion of men who exceeded the low-risk drinking guidelines was twice that of women (30.2% vs. 15.1%).

Overall, as age increased, women were less likely to have exceeded the low-risk drinking guidelines. A significant decrease in exceeding the guidelines occurs at ages 25 to 34, compared to women in the 20 to 24 age group, and this decline may be due to these being child-bearing years (15.6% vs. 30.4%). Among males, as with females, as age increased, the proportion of those exceeding the low-risk drinking guidelines decreased. Unlike the experience for women, there were no points in time for men when there was a significant increase or decrease from one age group to the next.

Single women or women who had never married, as well as divorced, separated or widowed women, had 1.6 to 2 times higher odds than married or partnered women of exceeding these guidelines. Among men, being formerly married was not associated with having exceeded the guidelines, but single or never-married men were 1.6 times more likely than married or partnered males to have done so.

The likelihood of exceeding the low-risk drinking guidelines varied with income adequacy for men. However, this effect was likely due to the lower rates reported among the "not stated" or "refused" category.

Key Differences and Similarities: For men, unlike women, although age was a factor associated with exceeding the low-risk drinking guidelines, there were no significant shifts between any of the age categories. Instead, for men, there was a general trend of a decreasing likelihood as age increased. For women, however, there was a significant increase in the likelihood of exceeding the low-risk drinking guidelines at ages 18 to 19 years, and a significant decrease at 25 to 34 years of age, when compared to the previous age group. In terms of marital status, both men and women who were single or never married were more likely than those who were married to exceed the low risk- drinking guidelines. For women this was also the case for those who were divorced, separated or widowed.

Summary and Discussion

In general, more women than men drank in moderation, but many similarities were observed in their drinking behaviors. The main similarity between males and females in terms of their drinking behavior was age. Both Canadian women and men reported the highest rates of risky drinking between the ages of 18 and 19, and the rate of drinking large quantities of alcohol decreased with increasing age, although it declined more rapidly for women. Another similarity between the characteristics associated with drinking patterns for men and women was province. Both women and men from Quebec reported the highest rates of past-year drinking, and those from Prince Edward Island reported the lowest. Both women and men from Quebec reported the highest rate of drinking one to three times a week, and both women and men from Newfoundland and Labrador reported being more likely to drink five or more drinks per occasion.

Although many similarities exist in terms of the demographic characteristics associated with different alcohol-use outcomes, there are also some differences. Although age was associated with drinking behavior for both men and women, the age category 25 to 34 years seems to be a major point of change in the quantity and frequency of drinking for women, but less so for men. For women at this age, there was a significant decrease in the rate of drinking one to three times a week, a decrease in the rate of heavy monthly drinking, heavy weekly drinking and drinking heavily and frequently. This decrease was not significant for men, and where it did occur, it wasn't until the age of 35.

In addition, marital status often predicted drinking behavior differently for women and men. For example, in terms of currently drinking, women who were divorced, separated or widowed were significantly more likely than married women to currently drink. Marital status did not predict current drinking for men. In terms of drinking patterns, however, men who were divorced, separated or widowed were less likely than married men to drink one to three times a week, and more likely to do so four or more times a week. Being formerly married or widowed, however, did not predict frequency of alcohol use for women. Similarly, quantity consumed per

occasion was predicted by marital status for both males and females. Those who were single were almost twice as likely as those married to drink five or more drinks per occasion. However, for men, being divorced, separated or widowed also doubled the odds of drinking five or more drinks per occasion. This finding was also demonstrated for the heavy frequent drinking pattern. For men, being divorced, separated or widowed was a significant risk factor for heavy and frequent drinking, but this was not the case for women.

Education was another variable that had both similar and different impacts on alcohol outcome for men and women. As education increased, the proportion of men and women drinking five drinks per occasion decreased. However, those women who had some post-secondary education or university degree were significantly more likely to drink one to three times a week and less likely to drink less than once a month, and this was not the case for men. Heavy monthly or weekly drinking and exceeding the low-risk drinking guidelines were impacted by education in men but not in women. For example, as education increased, men with some post-secondary education or university degrees were less likely to drink heavily monthly or weekly or to have exceeded the low-risk drinking guidelines.

Although there are many similarities in terms of the social-demographic predictors of alcohol use among women and men, differences in some of these predictors, as demonstrated above, suggest that some influences behind these behaviors may be different. These findings may have their largest application in how one might best reach out to drinkers to drink responsibly. Health promotion initiatives should be tailored to address gender-specific risks.

Table 3.1 Percentage of past-year drinkers, by sex, Canada, aged 15+, 2004.

	Total Population		Women			Men		
	%	CI	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR
	79.3	78.1-80.5	76.8	75.1-78.4		82.0	80.1-83.8	
Age (previous age group)	**		**		**	**		**
15-17	62.3	54.9-69.2	65.6	54.6-75.1	---	58.9	48.7-68.5	---
18-19	90.8	85.6-94.2	90.6	82.1-95.3	4.023**	90.9	83.5-95.1	5.147**
20-24	89.5	85.7-92.3	87.3	81.6-91.4	0.692	91.5	85.8-95.1	0.816
25-34	85.2	82.5-87.6	82.4	78.5-85.8	0.613	88.0	84.1-91.1	0.549
35-44	81.8	79.0-84.4	80.6	76.9-83.7	0.892	83.1	78.5-86.9	0.672
45-54	80.8	77.8-83.4	79.9	76.1-83.2	0.974	81.7	76.9-85.7	0.813
55-64	76.7	73.1-79.9	71.4	66.3-74.6	0.681*	82.1	77.0-86.2	1.302
65-74	70.0	65.1-74.4	69.0	62.8-74.6	0.999	71.1	63.2-86.2	0.646
75+	64.4	58.0-70.3	58.3	50.4-65.7	0.727	74.6	63.3-83.3	1.307
Province (Canada)	**		*		**	NS		**
Newfoundland and Labrador	73.9	70.9-76.7	69.7	65.7-73.3	0.797*	78.5	73.6-82.6	0.966
Prince Edward Island	70.2	67.2-73.1	70.0	66.1-73.7	0.777**	70.4	65.6-74.8	0.594**
Nova Scotia	76.0	73.1-78.7	71.7	67.6-75.4	0.854	80.7	76.5-84.4	1.129
New Brunswick	73.8	70.8-76.6	71.5	67.6-75.1	0.964	76.3	71.6-80.4	0.940
Quebec	82.3	79.7-84.6	80.8	77.4-83.8	1.585**	83.9	79.8-87.3	1.309*
Ontario	78.7	76.0-81.3	76.0	72.2-79.4	1.039	81.7	77.4-85.3	0.930
Manitoba	76.5	74.3-78.6	74.2	71.2-77.1	1.046	78.9	75.5-82.0	0.949
Saskatchewan	78.2	75.5-80.7	74.3	70.5-77.7	0.999	82.2	78.2-85.7	1.315
Alberta	79.5	77.7-81.2	76.7	74.1-79.1	1.039	82.4	79.8-84.7	1.021
British Columbia	79.3	77.7-80.7	76.4	74.3-78.4	1.097	82.3	80.0-84.3	1.059
Marital Status	**		**		*	NS		NS
Married/partnered (C)	79.7	78.0-81.3	76.9	74.1-79.1	---	82.4	79.8-84.6	---
Divorced/separated/widowed	75.2	71.9-78.2	72.3	68.3-76.0	1.368*	80.8	74.7-85.8	1.217
Single/never married	81.0	78.6-83.2	80.1	76.7-83.2	1.276	81.7	78.3-84.7	0.942
Education	**		**		**	**		**
Less than secondary (C)	64.5	61.0-67.8	63.4	58.7-67.9	---	65.6	60.4-70.5	---
Secondary	79.2	76.7-81.4	77.0	73.8-79.9	1.517**	81.4	77.6-84.7	1.705**
Some post-secondary	84.2	82.1-86.1	80.5	77.6-83.0	1.637**	88.3	85.2-90.8	2.917**
University degree	84.1	81.6-86.4	81.9	78.5-84.9	1.755**	86.3	82.5-89.4	2.287**
Income Adequacy	**		**		**	**		**
Lowest (C)	66.2	61.7-70.4	66.6	61.5-71.4	----	65.4	56.8-73.1	---
Middle	80.9	78.9-82.7	79.5	76.8-81.9	1.846**	82.4	79.4-85.0	2.727**
Highest	88.7	86.7-90.5	86.1	82.8-88.8	2.919**	90.7	88.0-92.9	5.138**
Not stated	73.2	70.5-75.7	70.9	67.5-74.1	1.446*	76.1	71.6-80.0	1.986**
Location of Household	NS		NS		NS	NS		NS
Rural (C)	79.2	76.4-81.7	76.7	73.0-80.0	----	81.5	77.2-85.2	---
Non-rural	79.3	78.0-80.7	76.8	74.9-78.6	0.834	82.1	80.0-84.1	0.854

Notes: OR - Adjusted Odds Ratio; Adjusted for all variables in the table, CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

(C) - denotes comparison group, unless otherwise specified by parentheses

* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; NS - not statistically significant

Prevalence estimates in **bold** show where differences among women and men were significant by the conservative method of non-overlapping confidence intervals. The bolded estimates reflect the higher rate.

Table 3.2 Drinking Frequency over the past year among past-year drinkers, Canadian females, aged 15+, 2004.

	Less than Once a Month				One to Three Times a Month				One to Three Times a Week				Four or More Times a Week			
	N	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR
Total	6087	31.4	29.3-33.5		35.9	33.7-38.0		26.9	24.9-28.9		5.9	4.9-7.2				
Age (previous age group)			*	*	**	**	*	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
15-17	184	38.9	27.6-51.4	-----	53.8	41.6-65.6	-----	6.8	3.1-14.4	-----	s	s	s	s	s	s
18-19	370	25.1	15.7-37.6	0.595	46.2	34.5-58.4	0.687	28.7	18.7-41.4	4.934**	s	s	s	s	s	s
20-24	482	20.8	15.6-27.0	0.841	45.4	37.8-53.2	1.010	32.8	25.8-40.7	1.075	s	s	s	s	s	s
25-34	1097	33.5	28.8-38.6	2.312**	40.9	35.8-46.2	0.865	23.4	19.5-28.0	0.505**	s	s	s	s	s	s
35-44	1297	30.1	26.0-34.5	0.828	35.3	31.1-39.8	0.818	28.7	24.7-33.0	1.301	6.0	3.9-9.0	2.984*	6.0	3.9-9.0	2.984*
45-54	1234	31.7	27.1-36.8	1.068	30.0	25.5-34.8	0.814	31.3	26.7-36.3	1.117	7.0	4.6-10.6	1.176	7.0	4.6-10.6	1.176
55-64	758	31.0	25.7-36.9	0.874	30.2	25.0-36.1	1.000	29.1	23.9-34.9	0.988	9.6	6.4-14.2	1.538	9.6	6.4-14.2	1.538
65-74	564	33.8	26.1-42.4	1.009	30.7	23.3-39.2	1.055	21.9	15.4-30.1	0.744	13.7	8.2-21.9	1.711	13.7	8.2-21.9	1.711
75+	264	40.1	30.1-50.9	1.188	30.3	21.2-41.3	1.092	18.4	11.9-27.4	0.842	11.2Q	5.8-20.6	0.736	11.2Q	5.8-20.6	0.736
Province (Canada)			**	**	NS	NS	NS	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
Newfoundland and Labrador	624	39.1	34.4-43.9	1.138	35.6	31.1-40.4	0.939	22.5	18.7-26.9	1.018	s	s	s	s	s	s
Prince Edward Island	608	41.1	36.3-46.0	1.292*	36.4	31.7-41.3	0.952	18.7	15.1-23.0	0.798	s	s	s	s	s	s
Nova Scotia	589	37.0	32.2-42.1	1.141	34.4	29.5-39.6	0.883	25.2	20.7-30.2	1.055	s	s	s	s	s	s
New Brunswick	585	43.6	38.7-48.6	1.434**	37.2	32.5-42.1	1.040	17.6	14.1-21.7	0.649**	s	s	s	s	s	s
Quebec	593	26.2	22.4-30.4	0.598**	35.5	31.2-40.0	0.972	34.3	30.1-38.7	1.820**	s	s	s	s	s	s
Ontario	590	32.9	28.5-37.6	0.981	35.3	30.8-40.4	0.966	23.9	20.1-28.3	0.917	7.9	6.5-9.5	2.133**	7.9	6.5-9.5	2.133**
Manitoba	867	34.6	31.0-38.4	0.956	36.5	32.8-40.0	0.995	24.1	20.9-27.6	1.039	4.8	3.4-6.7	1.358	4.8	3.4-6.7	1.358
Saskatchewan	567	32.7	28.4-37.5	0.891	43.4	18.0-26.1	1.315**	21.8	18.0-26.1	0.927	s	s	s	s	s	s
Alberta	1406	33.4	30.4-36.5	0.992	38.4	21.5-27.0	1.070	24.1	21.5-27.0	0.966	4.1	6.5-9.5	1.108	4.1	6.5-9.5	1.108
British Columbia	1759	29.8	27.3-32.3	0.839*	34.7	25.2-30.2	0.926	27.6	25.2-30.2	1.158*	7.9	6.5-9.5	2.102**	7.9	6.5-9.5	2.102**

Table 3.2 Continued

	Less than Once a Month				One to Three Times a Month				One to Three Times a Week				Four or More Times a Week			
	N	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR
Total	6087	31.4	29.3-33.5		35.9	33.7-38.0		26.9	24.9-28.9		5.9	4.9-7.2				
Marital Status			NS	NS	**	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	**	NS	NS	**	NS	NS
Married/partnered (C)	3443	31.3	28.6-34.1	-----	34.5	31.7-37.4	-----	28.3	25.7-31.1	-----	5.9	4.5-7.6	-----			
Divorced/ separated/ widowed	1141	34.3	29.6-39.7	0.832	29.3	24.8-34.3	0.892	26.5	22.1-31.4	1.186	9.8	6.7-14.1	1.567			
Single/never married	1458	29.0	25.2-33.2	0.865	43.6	39.3-48.1	1.167	24.2	20.7-28.1	0.879	3.1	2.0-5.0	1.605			
Education			**	**	NS	NS	**	NS	NS	**	NS	NS	NS	**	NS	NS
Less than secondary (C)	1403	43.0	37.1-49.2	-----	34.0	28.5-40.1	-----	16.1	12.0-21.2	-----	6.9	3.9-11.8	-----			
Secondary	2273	33.9	29.9-38.3	0.713*	36.6	32.5-40.9	1.229	24.4	20.8-28.4	1.387	5.1	3.3-7.6	0.715			
Some post-secondary	2648	30.4	27.1-34.0	0.581**	36.8	33.3-40.5	1.251	26.8	23.6-30.3	1.610*	5.9	4.2-8.4	0.862			
University degree	1806	23.8	20.2-27.7	0.430**	34.6	30.4-39.0	1.201	35.3	31.2-39.7	2.303**	6.3	4.5-8.9	0.748			
Income Adequacy			**	**	NS	NS	**	**	**	NS	**	**	**	**	**	**
Lowest (C)	1076	43.4	37.0-50.1	-----	30.0	24.6-36.1	-----	21.6	16.5-27.7	-----	4.9	2.9-8.4	-----			
Middle	3146	32.1	28.9-35.4	0.566**	37.9	34.4-41.4	1.449*	24.9	21.9-28.1	1.231	5.2	3.6-7.4	1.179			
Highest	1585	24.3	20.4-28.6	0.412**	33.1	28.9-37.5	1.186	33.3	29.1-37.7	1.622*	9.4	6.7-13.0	3.045*			
Not stated	2381	31.7	27.7-36.0	0.540**	37.7	33.5-42.0	1.414	26.2	22.5-30.4	1.425	4.4	2.8-6.6	0.903			
Location of Household			NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	*	*	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Rural (C)	1811	35.8	31.0-40.9	-----	36.2	31.3-41.5	-----	22.2	18.2-26.8	-----	5.8	3.7-8.8	-----			
Non-rural	6377	30.6	28.4-32.9	0.942	35.8	33.5-38.2	0.961	27.7	25.5-29.9	1.152	6.0	4.8-7.4	0.912			

Notes: OR - Adjusted Odds Ratio; Adjusted for all variables in the table

CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

(C) - denotes comparison group, unless otherwise specified by parentheses

s - estimate suppressed due to unacceptably high sampling variability (or cell size less than 30)

Q - qualified release due to high sampling variability

* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; NS - not statistically significant

Table 3.3 Drinking Frequency over the past year among past-year drinkers, Canadian males, aged 15+, 2004.

	Less than Once a Month				One to Three Times a Month				One to Three Times a Week				Four or More Times a Week			
	N	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR
Total	4609	14.1	12.5-15.8	**	30.8	28.4-33.2	**	41.3	38.8-43.9	**	13.9	12.0-15.9	**	13.9	12.0-15.9	**
Age (previous age group)																
15-17	187	36.9	27.6-48.0	-----	34.1	24.9-44.7	-----	25.2	15.9-37.5	-----	S	S	S	S	S	S
18-19	203	19.1	11.1-30.7	0.458	42.1	30.4-54.8	1.198	32.4	22.1-44.7	1.719	S	S	S	S	S	S
20-24	461	9.0	6.1-13.2	0.408*	36.5	29.1-44.5	0.917	49.1	41.1-57.0	1.936*	S	S	S	S	S	S
25-34	881	11.3	8.7-14.6	1.531	36.0	30.0-40.5	0.954	47.0	41.6-52.6	0.910	6.6	4.4-9.7	1.008	6.6	4.4-9.7	1.008
35-44	921	12.6	9.5-16.5	1.249	34.0	28.4-40.0	0.915	43.3	37.5-49.3	0.856	10.1	7.1-14.2	1.546	10.1	7.1-14.2	1.546
45-54	868	15.2	11.3-20.1	1.151	23.5	18.9-28.8	0.598**	43.2	37.1-49.5	1.066	18.2	13.5-24.1	1.904*	18.2	13.5-24.1	1.904*
55-64	580	14.1	10.2-19.1	1.005	26.8	20.9-33.7	1.147	40.5	33.8-47.6	0.853	18.6	13.6-47.6	1.109	18.6	13.6-47.6	1.109
65-74	300	16.8	11.0-25.0	1.180	23.9	16.8-32.9	0.840	30.9	22.6-40.6	0.683	28.3	20.0-38.4	1.768	28.3	20.0-38.4	1.768
75+	139	12.3	6.1-23.01	0.677	16.2	9.0-27.5	0.543	30.6	19.3-44.8	1.111	41.0	27.6-55.8	1.604	41.0	27.6-55.8	1.604
Province (Canada)				**			NS			NS			NS			**
Newfoundland and Labrador	303	14.9	11.2-19.4	0.841	36.2	30.9-41.9	1.163	41.9	36.4-47.7	1.106	7.0	4.4-10.9	0.702	7.0	4.4-10.9	0.702
Prince Edward Island	278	19.7	15.4-25.0	1.220	34.8	29.4-40.7	1.044	37.8	32.3-43.7	0.931	7.6	5.1-11.3	0.813	7.6	5.1-11.3	0.813
Nova Scotia	330	23.0	18.5-28.1	1.443**	35.7	30.4-41.4	1.141	30.8	25.8-36.4	0.702**	10.5	7.5-14.4	1.021	10.5	7.5-14.4	1.021
New Brunswick	322	20.6	16.5-25.5	1.254	31.9	26.8-37.4	0.862	38.0	32.7-43.7	1.005	9.5	6.6-13.5	1.016	9.5	6.6-13.5	1.016
Quebec	347	15.6	12.0-20.0	0.907	26.5	40.3-51.0	0.718**	45.6	40.3-51.0	1.343**	12.3	9.1-16.5	1.220	12.3	9.1-16.5	1.220
Ontario	337	9.2	6.5-12.9	0.496**	31.6	26.7-37.1	0.979	41.2	35.9-46.8	1.095	17.9	14.0-22.6	1.840**	17.9	14.0-22.6	1.840**
Manitoba	501	18.7	15.4-22.5	1.071	34.3	30.2-38.6	1.026	37.1	32.9-41.5	0.971	9.9	7.5-13.0	0.975	9.9	7.5-13.0	0.975
Saskatchewan	358	19.4	15.5-24.0	1.043	37.0	32.0-42.2	1.260*	37.1	32.1-42.4	0.943	6.5	4.3-9.8	0.619*	6.5	4.3-9.8	0.619*
Alberta	818	17.5	15.0-20.3	1.100	32.5	29.3-35.8	0.996	39.1	35.7-42.6	0.954	10.9	8.8-13.4	1.090	10.9	8.8-13.4	1.090
British Columbia	1015	16.7	14.5-19.2	0.975	30.3	27.5-33.2	0.927	40.4	37.3-43.5	1.072	12.6	10.7-14.9	1.145	12.6	10.7-14.9	1.145

Table 3.3 Continued

	Less than Once a Month			One to Three Times a Month			One to Three Times a Week			Four or More Times a Week			
	N	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR
Total	4609	14.1	12.5-15.8	NS	30.8	28.4-33.2		41.3	38.8-43.9		13.9	12.0-15.9	
Marital Status				NS			NS			*		**	**
Married/partnered (C)	2699	12.4	10.6-14.6	-----	29.8	26.8-33.0	-----	43.3	40.0-46.7	-----	14.4	12.0-17.1	-----
Divorced/separated/ widowed	437	14.2	9.9-20.0	1.036	28.1	21.2-36.3	0.969	29.7	23.0-37.5	0.614*	27.9	20.9-36.2	2.105*
Single/never married	1454	17.0	14.0-20.5	1.306	33.4	29.3-37.8	0.838	42.0	37.6-46.6	1.020	7.6	5.3-10.7	1.002
Education				*		**	*		*	NS		NS	NS
Less than secondary (C)	692	20.1	15.7-25.3	-----	28.6	23.2-34.8	-----	38.5	32.0-45.3	-----	12.8	8.7-18.5	-----
Secondary	1347	14.1	11.3-17.5	0.939	38.2	33.5-43.0	1.382	36.2	31.8-40.8	0.708	11.6	8.6-15.3	1.050
Some post-secondary	1390	13.5	10.9-16.7	1.066	29.2	25.2-33.6	0.915	44.8	40.2-49.5	0.919	12.5	9.6-16.1	1.199
University degree	1152	11.2	8.5-14.7	0.901	26.5	22.3-31.2	0.878	44.2	39.2-49.3	0.853	18.1	14.1-22.8	1.709
Income Adequacy				**		NS	NS		**	**		NS	NS
Lowest (C)	313	19.1	13.0-27.1	-----	32.8	24.4-42.5	-----	40.2	30.5-50.6	-----	8.0	28.0	-----
Middle	1865	15.9	13.2-18.9	0.810	32.7	28.9-36.6	1.054	37.0	33.2-40.9	0.861	14.4	11.5-18.0	1.890
Highest	1422	9.3	7.1-12.1	0.442**	26.2	22.4-30.3	0.751	48.8	44.2-53.4	1.416	15.8	12.6-19.6	2.103
Not stated	1009	16.5	13.2-20.4	0.747	33.6	28.6-39.0	0.978	38.3	33.1-43.8	1.095	11.6	8.3-16.0	1.429
Location of Household				NS		NS	NS		NS	NS		NS	NS
Rural (C)	934	14.9	11.6-19.1	-----	28.2	23.4-33.5	-----	42.7	36.9-48.8	-----	14.2	10.2-19.3	-----
Non-rural	3675	13.9	12.2-15.8	0.965	31.3	28.4-33.2	1.166	41.0	38.2-43.9	0.898	13.8	11.8-16.1	1.027

Notes: OR - Adjusted Odds Ratio; Adjusted for all variables in the table

CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

(C) - denotes comparison group, unless otherwise specified by parentheses

s - estimate suppressed due to unacceptably high sampling variability (or cell size less than 30)

* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; NS - not statistically significant

Table 3.4 Percentage of respondents who “almost always” and “rarely” drank with meals among past-year drinkers, by age and sex, Canada, aged 15+, 2004.

Question: During the past 12 months, on those days that you drank, how often did you drink with meals?	Women		Men	
	“Almost always” % [CI]	“Rarely” % [CI]	“Almost always” % [CI]	“Rarely” % [CI]
Age				
15-17	16.4 [9.2-27.5]	61.8 [49.5-72.7]	14.4 [10.1-20.1]	55.4 [44.2-66.0]
18-19	s	57.6 [45.2-69.1]	24.0 [14.2-37.5]	48.5 [36.4-60.9]
20-24	18.3 [13.2-24.7]	48.4 [40.7-56.1]	16.8 [11.5-24.0]	43.6 [35.9-51.6]
25-34	37.6 [32.6-42.9]	30.9 [26.3-35.8]	26.0 [21.3-31.2]	36.2 [31.3-41.5]
35-44	42.7 [38.1-47.3]	30.2 [26.1-34.5]	36.0 [30.3-42.1]	33.8 [28.4-39.6]
45-54	49.8 [44.6-54.9]	24.2 [19.7-29.4]	38.2 [32.2-44.5]	31.3 [25.9-37.3]
55-64	51.6 [45.6-57.6]	27.4 [20.6-36.2]	33.2 [27.5-40.8]	33.8 [27.5-40.8]
65-74	51.4 [42.7-60.0]	27.7 [20.6-36.2]	40.6 [31.4-50.4]	28.8 [20.9-38.3]
75+	54.4 [43.6-64.8]	27.3 [18.7-37.9]	29.2 [18.4-43.1]	41.7 [28.5-56.1]

Note: CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

s - estimate suppressed due to unacceptably high sampling variability (or cell size less than 30)

Prevalence estimates in **bold** show where differences among women and men were significant by the conservative method of non-overlapping confidence intervals. The bolded estimates reflect the higher rate.

Table 3.5 Usual drinking quantity on a typical drinking day among past-year drinkers, Canadian females, aged 15+, 2004.

	N	One to Two Drinks			Three to Four Drinks			Five or More Drinks		
		%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR
Total	6087	74.2	72.2-76.0		17.1	15.4-18.8		8.8	7.7-10.0	
Age (previous age group)		**		**	**		**	**		**
15-17	184	49.6	37.4-61.9	-----	36.2	25.2-48.5	-----	14.1	7.9-23.9	-----
18-19	186	40.2	28.8-52.8	0.592	21.0	12.8-32.3	0.400*	38.8	27.2-51.8	7.600**
20-24	482	49.0	41.2-56.9	1.140	29.3	22.6-37.1	1.866	21.6	16.3-28.2	0.502
25-34	1097	66.1	61.0-70.9	1.514*	22.0	17.9-26.8	0.840	11.9	9.1-15.3	0.662
35-44	1297	75.3	71.2-79.1	1.571**	16.4	13.3-20.0	0.697	8.3	6.2-11.1	0.657
45-54	1234	80.0	75.5-83.8	1.251	16.5	12.9-20.7	1.067	3.6	2.2-5.9	0.403**
55-64	758	86.3	81.6-89.9	1.766*	11.5	8.1-15.9	0.615*	s	s	s
65+	718	93.0	88.7-95.7	2.543**	6.3	3.6-10.7	0.442*	s	s	s
Province (Canada)		*		**	NS		NS	**		**
Newfoundland and Labrador	624	62.2	57.4-66.9	0.755**	20.4	16.7-24.6	1.102	17.4	14.0-21.4	1.433*
Prince Edward Island	608	66.0	60.9-70.7	0.823	18.8	15.0-23.3	1.059	15.2	11.7-19.4	1.335
Nova Scotia	589	67.4	62.2-72.1	0.855	18.1	14.4-22.6	1.035	14.5	11.2-18.6	1.364
New Brunswick	585	66.1	61.1-70.8	0.822	20.8	17.0-25.2	1.092	13.1	9.9-17.1	1.388
Quebec	593	76.2	72.1-79.9	1.449**	18.8	15.5-22.7	1.025	s	s	s
Ontario	590	75.3	71.0-79.2	1.124	15.9	12.6-19.7	0.974	8.8	6.5-11.9	0.842
Manitoba	867	73.6	69.8-77.0	1.199	16.0	13.2-19.2	0.881	10.5	8.1-13.3	0.846
Saskatchewan	567	70.5	65.8-74.8	0.993	18.5	15.0-22.6	1.070	11.0	8.3-14.5	0.947
Alberta	1406	71.4	68.4-74.2	1.026	16.1	13.9-18.5	0.872	12.5	10.5-14.8	1.198
British Columbia	1759	74.2	71.7-76.6	1.151	16.5	14.5-18.7	0.924	9.3	7.8-11.0	0.879
Marital Status		**		**	**		**	**		*
Married/partnered (C)	3443	80.6	78.3-82.8	-----	13.2	11.4-15.3	-----	6.2	4.9-7.7	-----
Divorced/separated/widowed	1141	81.3	76.9-85.0	0.656*	14.8	11.4-19.0	1.548*	3.9	2.7-5.7	1.170
Single/never married	1458	55.4	51.0-59.8	0.514**	26.6	22.9-30.8	1.662**	18.0	14.9-21.5	1.794**
Education		**		**	NS		NS	**		**
Less than secondary (C)	796	71.4	65.7-76.5	-----	15.4	11.6-20.1	-----	13.2	9.7-17.6	-----
Secondary	1655	70.2	66.1-74.0	1.121	19.1	16.0-22.7	1.443	10.6	8.2-13.7	0.412**
Some post-secondary	2136	73.0	69.5-76.2	1.427	18.3	15.5-21.4	1.266	8.7	7.0-10.9	0.309**
University degree	1471	81.0	77.2-84.2	2.087**	14.4	11.4-17.9	0.987	4.7	3.3-6.7	0.183**
Income Adequacy		**		NS	*		NS	*		*
Lowest (C)	665	65.5	59.0-71.5	-----	20.7	15.7-26.8	-----	13.8	10.0-18.7	-----
Middle	2446	71.7	68.4-74.9	1.022	19.1	16.4-22.2	1.046	9.1	7.4-11.2	0.893
Highest	1351	77.7	73.8-81.1	1.222	13.9	11.2-17.1	0.755	8.5	6.2-11.4	1.065
Not stated	1625	78.1	74.4-81.4	1.441	15.4	12.6-18.7	0.894	6.5	4.7-8.9	0.525*
Location of Household		NS		NS	NS		NS	*		*
Rural (C)	1276	72.3	67.5-76.7	-----	15.6	12.3-19.5	-----	12.1	9.1-16.0	-----
Non-rural	4811	74.5	72.3-76.5	1.165	17.3	15.5-19.3	1.080	8.2	7.0-9.6	0.615*

Note: OR - Adjusted Odds Ratio; Adjusted for all variables in the table
 CI - Confidence Interval (95%)
 (C) - denotes comparison group, unless otherwise specified by parentheses
 s - estimate suppressed due to unacceptably high sampling variability (or cell size less than 30)
 * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; NS - not statistically significant

Table 3.6 Usual drinking quantity on a typical drinking day among past-year drinkers, Canadian males, aged 15+, 2004.

	N	One to Two Drinks			Three to Four Drinks			Five or More Drinks		
		%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR
Total	4609	53.4	50.8-56.0		23.4	21.2-25.7		23.2	21.1-25.4	
Age (previous age group)		**		**	NS		NS	**		**
15-17	193	25.1	17.3-35.0	-----	28.9	19.1-41.2	-----	45.9	35.0-57.3	-----
18-19	203	28.7	18.2-42.1	1.066	25.7	16.5-37.6	0.645	45.6	33.6-58.2	1.571
20-24	461	28.9	22.0-37.0	0.819	30.6	23.4-38.9	1.167	40.5	33.1-48.4	1.189
25-34	881	43.6	38.3-49.2	1.574	24.7	20.1-30.1	0.798	31.6	26.9-36.8	0.827
35-44	921	57.1	51.1-62.8	1.730**	23.4	18.8-28.7	1.008	19.5	15.3-24.5	0.463**
45-54	868	55.3	48.9-61.5	0.927	22.0	17.2-27.7	0.950	22.7	17.7-28.6	1.169
55-64	580	68.7	61.8-74.9	1.796**	20.0	14.8-26.4	0.908	11.3	7.5-16.5	0.398**
65+	439	77.9	70.3-84.0	1.725*	18.0	12.3-25.5	0.880	s	s	s
Province (Canada)		NS		**	NS		*	**		**
Newfoundland and Labrador	303	37.8	32.2-43.6	0.574**	18.6	14.4-23.7	0.885	43.6	38.0-49.4	2.101**
Prince Edward Island	278	44.1	38.3-50.2	0.822	19.2	15.0-24.4	0.918	36.6	31.0-42.6	1.361*
Nova Scotia	330	50.5	44.7-56.3	1.010	18.5	14.4-23.5	0.826	31.0	26.0-36.5	1.229
New Brunswick	322	45.5	39.9-51.3	0.923	19.6	15.5-24.4	0.854	34.9	29.7-40.5	1.269
Quebec	347	55.2	49.8-60.5	1.291*	26.9	22.4-32.0	1.392**	17.9	14.1-22.3	0.496**
Ontario	337	53.2	47.6-58.7	1.124	24.1	19.7-29.2	1.161	22.7	18.4-27.6	0.771
Manitoba	501	48.2	43.7-52.8	0.906	23.0	19.4-27.0	1.153	28.8	24.9-33.0	0.999
Saskatchewan	358	49.9	44.5-55.2	1.012	23.9	19.7-28.7	1.236	26.2	21.9-31.0	0.826
Alberta	818	53.8	50.2-57.3	1.304**	20.4	17.6-23.4	0.902	25.9	22.9-29.0	0.810*
British Columbia	1015	56.6	53.4-59.7	1.311**	19.2	16.8-21.8	0.841	24.2	21.7-27.0	0.878
Marital Status		**		*	*		NS	**		**
Married/partnered (C)	2699	60.8	57.5-64.1	-----	21.9	19.1-24.8	-----	17.3	14.9-20.0	-----
Divorced/separated/widowed	437	57.7	49.5-65.5	0.740	18.9	13.6-25.8	0.848	23.4	17.1-31.0	1.913**
Single/never married	1454	37.1	32.8-41.7	0.671**	28.2	24.1-32.7	1.202	34.7	30.7-38.9	1.396*
Education		**		**	NS		NS	**		**
Less than secondary (C)	692	49.4	42.7-56.1	-----	19.8	15.0-25.7	-----	30.8	25.0-37.2	-----
Secondary	1347	45.7	40.9-50.6	1.116	24.1	20.2-28.5	1.311	30.2	26.1-34.6	0.617*
Some post-secondary	1390	52.5	47.8-57.2	1.566*	23.8	20.0-28.1	1.253	23.7	20.1-27.8	0.418**
University degree	1152	63.8	58.7-68.6	2.281**	23.7	19.5-28.5	1.264	12.5	9.5-16.2	0.215**
Income Adequacy		NS		NS	NS		NS	NS		NS
Lowest (C)	313	49.4	39.5-59.4	-----	24.7	16.7-35.0	-----	25.9	19.0-34.2	-----
Middle	1865	51.0	46.9-55.1	0.761	24.6	21.3-28.3	1.078	24.4	21.2-28.0	1.346
Highest	1422	54.3	49.7-58.9	0.716	24.1	20.2-28.5	1.044	21.6	18.1-25.5	1.426
Not stated	1009	57.3	52.0-62.8	1.077	19.6	15.6-24.4	0.732	22.9	18.8-27.5	1.251
Location of Household		NS		NS	NS		NS	NS		NS
Rural (C)	934	55.5	49.6-61.2	-----	20.5	16.2-25.8	-----	24.0	19.5-29.1	-----
Non-rural	3675	53.0	50.1-55.9	0.828	23.9	21.5-26.5	1.275	23.1	20.8-25.5	0.990

Note: OR - Adjusted Odds Ratio; Adjusted for all variables in the table

CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

(C) - denotes comparison group, unless otherwise specified by parentheses

s - estimate suppressed due to unacceptably high sampling variability (or cell size less than 30)

* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; NS - not statistically significant

Table 3.7 Percentage of monthly heavy drinking among past-year drinkers, by sex, Canada, aged 15+, 2004.

	Total Population		Women			Men		
	%	CI	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR
	25.5	24.0-27.1	17.0	15.4-18.8		33.9	31.5-36.4	
Age (previous age group)	**		**		**	**		**
15-17	35.7	28.2-43.8	27.7	18.4-39.4	---	44.9	34.2-56.1	---
18-19	51.8	43.0-60.5	42.9	31.3-55.3	2.111	59.6	47.2-70.9	2.158*
20-24	47.0	41.4-60.5	42.8	35.3-50.6	1.104	50.7	42.8-58.7	0.916
25-34	30.4	27.0-33.9	18.8	15.3-22.9	0.366**	41.4	36.1-46.8	0.841
35-44	24.2	21.1-27.6	15.9	12.9-19.5	0.814	32.4	27.2-38.1	0.674*
45-54	22.0	18.7-25.8	13.4	10.1-17.5	0.845	30.5	25.0-36.8	0.892
55-64	17.5	14.0-21.6	7.6	5.0-11.5	0.498*	26.3	20.5-33.1	0.814
65+	6.4	4.4-9.2	s	s	s	14.9	9.6-22.3	0.414**
Province (Canada)	NS		NS		NS	NS		**
Newfoundland and Labrador	35.5	31.9-39.2	21.7	17.9-26.0	1.120	48.5	42.8-54.3	1.864**
Prince Edward Island	26.2	22.8-29.8	18.3	14.6-22.7	0.903	34.7	29.2-40.6	0.969
Nova Scotia	27.5	24.1-31.1	21.1	17.1-25.8	1.205	33.6	28.5-39.2	0.982
New Brunswick	27.9	24.6-31.5	18.3	14.7-22.6	1.022	37.6	32.3-43.2	0.998
Quebec	25.2	22.2-28.4	17.7	14.5-21.5	0.968	32.9	28.1-38.1	0.890
Ontario	25.0	21.9-28.4	15.0	11.8-18.8	0.849	35.0	29.9-40.5	1.010
Manitoba	27.4	24.8-30.2	18.4	15.5-21.8	1.022	36.4	32.2-40.8	1.063
Saskatchewan	24.3	21.4-27.5	17.3	14.0-21.3	0.906	30.9	26.3-35.9	0.831
Alberta	26.5	24.5-28.7	20.1	17.7-22.7	1.114	32.6	29.4-35.9	0.815*
British Columbia	24.5	22.7-26.4	17.2	15.2-19.4	0.947	31.7	28.8-34.6	0.872
Marital Status	**		**		**	**		**
Married/partnered (C)	20.2	18.4-22.1	12.5	10.7-14.6	---	27.2	24.3-30.3	--
Divorced/separated/ widowed	20.9	17.3-25.0	12.2	9.2-16.0	1.671*	36.3	28.7-44.6	1.734**
Single/never married	38.8	35.7-41.9	30.0	26.1-34.1	1.688**	46.3	41.8-50.8	1.574**
Education	**		NS		NS	**		**
Less than secondary (C)	26.1	22.3-30.2	16.6	12.8-21.3	---	36.2	30.0-42.9	---
Secondary	29.6	26.7-32.8	17.4	14.3-21.0	0.912	41.7	37.0-46.6	0.898
Some post-secondary	26.6	24.0-29.4	19.6	16.8-22.9	1.055	33.7	29.5-38.1	0.606*
University degree	19.8	17.2-22.7	13.6	10.9-16.9	0.763	25.7	21.5-30.4	0.474**
Income Adequacy	NS		NS		NS	NS		NS
Lowest (C)	26.6	22.1-31.7	22.8	17.8-28.7	---	33.6	25.2-43.1	---
Middle	26.4	24.1-28.9	17.0	14.6-19.8	0.921	35.8	32.0-39.8	1.570
Highest	25.5	22.7-28.5	16.6	13.4-20.4	1.019	31.8	27.7-36.2	1.535
Not stated	23.7	20.9-26.8	15.1	12.3-18.4	0.839	34.0	29.0-39.4	1.454
Location of Household	NS		NS		NS	NS		*
Rural (C)	24.6	21.4-28.2	18.5	14.7-23.0	---	29.9	25.0-35.4	---
Non-rural	25.7	24.0-27.4	16.8	15.0-18.7	0.775	34.8	32.1-37.5	1.363*

Note: OR - Adjusted Odds Ratio; Adjusted for all variables in the table

CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

(C) - denotes comparison group, unless otherwise specified by parentheses

s - estimate suppressed due to unacceptably high sampling variability (or cell size less than 30)

* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; NS - not statistically significant

Prevalence estimates in **bold** show where differences among women and men were significant by the conservative method of non-overlapping confidence intervals. The bolded estimates reflect the higher rate.

Table 3.8 Percentage of weekly heavy drinking among past-year drinkers, by sex, Canada, aged 15+, 2004.

	Total Population		Women			Men		
	%	CI	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR
	6.2	5.5-7.1	3.3	5.5-7.1		9.2	7.8-10.7	
Age (previous age group)	**		**		**	**		**
15-19	12.4	8.7-17.3	7.8	4.3-13.7	---	17.0	11.0-25.2	---
20-24	14.9	11.4-19.3	11.8	7.3-18.4	1.559	17.8	12.7-24.3	1.275
25-44	5.8	4.7-7.2	2.1	1.4-3.1	0.214**	9.5	7.4-12.1	0.595
45+	3.8	2.9-5.1	2.0	1.2-3.3	0.975	5.7	4.1-7.9	0.550**
Region (Canada)	NS		NS		NS	NS		NS
Atlantic region	7.7	6.6-8.9	4.0	3.0-5.3	1.128	11.3	9.5-13.5	1.251*
Quebec	6.1	4.5-8.1	2.5Q	1.4-4.4	0.731	9.7	6.9-13.5	1.042
Ontario	6.2	4.7-8.3	3.7Q	2.2-6.0	1.245	8.8	6.2-12.3	0.965
Prairies	6.1	5.4-7.0	3.0	2.3-3.8	0.877	9.1	7.8-10.7	0.895
British Columbia	6.0	5.0-7.1	3.7	2.8-4.9	1.111	8.2	6.7-10.1	0.889
Marital Status	**		**		NS	**		NS
Married/partnered (C)	4.6	3.7-5.7	2.1	1.4-3.2	---	6.9	5.4-8.8	---
Divorced/separated/ widowed	4.9	3.7-7.5	2.0Q	1.0-4.1	1.031	10.0	6.0-16.3	1.757
Single/never married	10.2	8.5-12.3	6.7	4.7-9.3	1.437	13.3	10.7-16.4	1.427
Education	**		NS		NS	**		**
Less than secondary (C)	7.7	5.6-9.2	4.3Q	2.4-7.3	---	11.5	7.7-16.8	---
Secondary	7.3	5.7-9.2	2.8	1.7-4.6	0.700	11.7	9.0-15.2	0.914
Some post-secondary	8.0	6.5-9.8	4.5	3.0-6.6	1.219	11.6	9.0-14.7	0.878
University degree	2.4	1.6-3.6	1.8Q	1.0-3.4	0.615	2.9	1.7-5.0	0.220**
Income Adequacy	NS		**		**	**		NS
Lowest (C)	8.7	6.1-10.7	8.5	5.2-13.6	----	9.1Q	5.5-14.6	---
Middle	6.0	4.9-7.5	2.2	1.4-3.4	0.310**	9.9	7.7-12.6	1.455
Highest	6.7	5.1-8.7	2.9	1.6-5.4	0.474	9.4	6.9-12.5	1.812
Not stated	5.2	4.0-6.8	3.1	1.9-4.9	0.423*	7.7	5.5-10.6	1.057
Location of Household	NS		NS		NS	NS		NS
Rural (C)	6.6	4.9-8.8	4.1	2.5-6.8	---	8.7	6.1-12.3	---
Non-rural	6.2	5.3-7.2	3.1	2.4-4.2	0.666	9.3	7.8-11.0	1.129

Note: OR - Adjusted Odds Ratio; Adjusted for all variables in the table

CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

(C) - denotes comparison group, unless otherwise specified by parentheses

Q - qualified release due to high sampling variability

* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; NS - not statistically significant

Prevalence estimates in **bold** show where differences among women and men were significant by the conservative method of non-overlapping confidence intervals. The bolded estimates reflect the higher rate.

Table 3.9 Drinking Patterns among past-year drinkers, Canadian females, aged 15+, 2004.

	Light Infrequent			Light Frequent			Heavy Infrequent			Heavy Frequent		
	N	%	OR	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR
Total	6087	62.0	59.8-64.2	29.2	27.2-31.3	5.1	5.1	4.3-6.0	3.7	3.7	2.9-4.6	**
Age (previous age group)			NS			**			**			**
15-19	370	64.9	56.0-72.9	8.1	4.4-14.4	-----	16.7	11.0-24.4	-----	10.3	5.8-17.6	-----
20-24	482	56.6	48.8-64.2	21.7	15.7-29.2	2.423*	8.9	6.3-12.5	0.627	12.7	8.2-19.2	1.535
25-34	1097	66.5	61.5-71.2	21.6	17.7-26.2	0.756	8.1	5.8-11.3	1.312	3.7	2.5-5.5	0.337**
35-44	1297	60.2	55.5-64.7	31.5	27.3-36.1	1.666**	5.0	3.4-7.2	0.584	3.3	2.0-5.4	0.903
45+	2710	61.9	58.4-65.3	35.8	32.4-39.3	1.355*	1.2	0.7-2.0	0.229**	1.1	0.6-2.0	0.309**
Region (Canada)			NS			**			**			NS
Atlantic	1694	65.4	62.6-68.2	19.9	17.6-22.4	0.664**	10.1	8.5-12.0	1.886**	4.6	3.5-5.9	1.151
Quebec	474	59.4	54.8-63.8	35.6	31.3-40.1	1.677**	s	s	s	s	s	s
Ontario	444	62.9	58.0-67.5	28.3	24.1-32.9	0.961	s	s	s	s	s	s
Prairies	2130	65.4	63.1-67.6	22.8	20.9-24.8	0.783**	7.3	6.1-8.6	1.364**	4.5	3.7-5.6	1.123
British Columbia	1345	58.6	55.8-61.3	32.1	29.6-34.8	1.193**	5.8	4.7-7.2	1.155	3.5	2.6-4.7	0.969
Marital Status			NS			NS			**			**
Married/partnered (C)	3443	61.7	58.7-64.6	32.2	29.3-35.1	-----	3.9	2.9-5.1	-----	2.3	1.6-3.3	-----
Divorced/separated/ widowed	1141	62.0	56.6-67.1	34.1	29.1-39.5	1.186	2.0	1.3-3.2	0.716	1.9	1.0-3.5	1.535
Single/never married	1458	62.5	58.2-66.6	19.5	16.3-23.1	0.799	10.0	7.8-12.7	1.435	8.0	5.8-10.9	1.912
Education			*			NS			**			NS
Less than secondary (C)	1403	67.8	61.5-73.5	19.0	14.1-25.0	-----	8.8	6.0-12.5	-----	4.5	2.6-7.7	-----
Secondary	2273	64.3	59.9-68.4	25.1	21.4-29.1	1.391	6.4	4.7-8.7	0.630	4.3	2.7-6.7	0.944
Some post-secondary	2648	62.3	58.6-66.0	28.9	25.5-32.6	1.806**	4.7	3.5-6.3	0.413**	4.0	2.8-5.8	0.866
University degree	1806	56.1	51.6-60.5	39.2	34.9-43.7	2.523**	2.3	1.4-3.8	0.207**	2.3	1.4-4.0	0.598
Income Adequacy			**			**			**			NS
Lowest (C)	1076	63.9	57.3-70.0	22.3	17.1-28.6	-----	9.3	6.2-13.8	-----	4.5	2.6-7.6	-----
Middle	3146	64.5	61.0-67.9	26.4	23.3-29.7	1.181	5.4	4.2-7.0	0.636	3.7	2.5-5.3	1.138
Highest	1585	52.9	48.2-57.6	38.6	34.1-43.3	1.831*	4.5	2.9-6.9	0.704	3.9	2.5-6.1	1.557
Not stated	2381	65.7	61.2-69.9	27.8	23.9-32.1	1.329	3.3	2.3-4.9	0.290**	3.2	1.9-5.3	0.947
Location of Household			NS			NS			NS			NS
Rural (C)	1811	64.9	59.7-69.7	23.0	18.9-27.7	-----	6.8	4.7-9.9	-----	5.3	3.3-8.4	-----
Non-rural	6377	61.5	59.0-63.9	30.3	28.0-32.6	1.236	4.8	3.9-5.8	0.706	3.4	2.6-4.4	0.542

Note: OR - Adjusted Odds Ratio; Adjusted for all variables in the table
 CI - Confidence Interval (95%)
 (C) - denotes comparison group, unless otherwise specified by parentheses
 s - estimate suppressed due to unacceptably high sampling variability (or cell size less than 30)
 * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; NS - not statistically significant

Table 3.10 Drinking Patterns among past-year drinkers, Canadian males, aged 15+, 2004.

	Light Infrequent			Light Frequent			Heavy Infrequent			Heavy Frequent		
	N	%	OR	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR
Total	4609	36.0	33.5-38.5	40.9	38.3-43.5		9.0	7.8-10.5		14.2	12.5-16.0	
Age (previous age group)			*	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	*
15-19	396	41.2	32.8-50.1	13.1	7.8-21.0	-----	24.5	18.0-32.3	-----	21.3	14.7-29.7	-----
20-24	461	29.4	22.6-37.1	30.1	22.8-38.7	2.278*	16.3	11.5-22.6	1.024	24.2	18.4-31.2	1.477
25-34	881	31.1	26.4-36.3	37.3	31.9-42.9	1.155	15.3	11.7-19.6	1.150	16.4	13.0-20.4	0.721
35-44	921	41.5	35.7-47.5	39.5	33.8-45.5	1.126	5.4	3.3-8.9	0.311**	13.7	10.2-181	0.749
45+	1887	35.0	31.3-39.0	50.9	46.8-55.0	1.724**	3.8	2.7-5.3	0.633	10.2	7.9-13.2	0.696
Province (Canada)			NS	**	**	**	**	**	**	NS	NS	**
Newfoundland and Labrador	303	31.5	26.3-37.2	24.9	20.1-30.4	0.642**	19.3	15.2-24.2	1.766**	24.3	19.8-29.5	1.792**
Prince Edward Island	278	38.6	32.9-44.5	24.8	20.1-30.2	0.695**	16.2	12.2-21.2	1.228	20.4	16.0-21.5	1.289
Nova Scotia	330	44.5	38.8-50.4	24.4	19.6-29.8	0.634**	14.1	10.5-18.7	1.267	17.0	13.3-21.5	1.103
New Brunswick	322	36.5	31.2-42.2	28.6	23.6-34.1	0.909	16.1	12.3-20.7	1.494*	18.9	14.8-23.7	1.143
Quebec	347	35.4	30.3-40.7	46.8	41.4-52.2	1.936**	s	s	s	11.0	8.0-15.0	0.619**
Ontario	337	33.5	28.4-39.0	43.9	38.4-49.6	1.612**	7.8	5.3-11.4	0.660	14.7	11.3-19.0	0.907
Manitoba	501	39.9	35.5-44.4	31.3	27.2-35.3	1.006	12.6	10.0-15.8	1.024	16.2	13.2-19.8	0.983
Saskatchewan	358	43.4	38.1-48.8	30.3	25.6-35.5	0.916	12.6	9.6-16.4	1.861	13.7	10.5-17.7	0.805
Alberta	818	38.8	35.4-42.3	35.4	32.0-38.9	1.115	11.3	9.3-13.6	0.924	14.6	12.3-17.2	0.818
British Columbia	1015	37.6	34.6-40.7	38.1	35.1-41.3	1.213*	9.4	7.7-11.9	0.812	14.9	12.8-17.2	0.946
Marital Status			NS	**	**	NS	**	**	NS	**	**	*
Married/partnered (C)	2699	36.5	33.3-39.8	46.4	43.0-49.8	-----	6.1	4.8-7.8	-----	11.0	9.1-13.3	-----
Divorced/separated/ widowed	437	36.8	29.2-45.1	39.8	32.1-48.1	0.743	5.6	3.2-9.6	1.287	17.7	12.1-25.3	2.007**
Single/never married	1454	34.4	30.2-38.8	30.9	26.6-35.5	0.882	15.9	13.0-19.3	1.494	18.8	15.8-22.3	1.353

Table 3.10 Continued

	Light Infrequent			Light Frequent			Heavy Infrequent			Heavy Frequent			
	N	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR
Total	4609	36.0	33.5-38.5	NS	40.9	38.3-43.5	**	9.0	7.8-10.5	**	14.2	12.5-16.0	
Education			NS	NS	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**
Less than secondary (C)	692	35.1	29.1-41.5	-----	34.8	28.3-41.8	-----	13.6	10.0-18.3	-----	16.5	12.0-22.3	-----
Secondary	1347	39.2	34.5-44.1	1.341	30.6	26.3-35.3	0.799	13.2	10.4-16.6	0.865	17.0	13.8-20.7	0.874
Some post-secondary	1390	36.0	31.6-40.6	1.239	40.3	35.7-45.0	1.148	6.9	5.1-9.2	0.439**	16.9	13.7-20.6	0.834
University degree	1152	32.8	28.2-37.7	1.138	54.7	49.6-59.7	1.837**	5.4	3.5-8.2	0.386**	7.2	5.0-0.2	0.336**
Income Adequacy			**	**	**	**	**	**	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Lowest (C)	313	39.2	29.9-49.2	-----	35.0	25.4-45.9	-----	12.5	8.3-18.5	-----	13.4	8.4-20.5	-----
Middle	1865	39.7	35.8-43.8	0.958	35.9	32.0-40.0	0.844	9.0	7.0-11.4	0.944	15.0	12.7-18.6	1.534
Highest	1422	28.4	24.4-32.6	0.525**	50.3	45.7-55.0	1.377	7.2	5.3-9.7	0.935	14.1	11.2-17.6	1.730
Not stated	1009	39.8	34.5-45.4	0.845	37.1	31.8-42.8	1.046	11.0	8.1-14.7	1.086	12.1	9.2-15.8	1.145
Location of Household			NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
Rural (C)	934	32.6	27.5-38.1	-----	43.4	37.5-49.5	-----	10.7	7.9-14.4	-----	13.2	9.7-17.7	-----
Non-rural	3675	36.6	33.9-39.4	1.240	40.3	37.5-43.2	0.853	8.7	7.3-10.3	0.727	14.3	12.5-16.4	1.120

Note: OR - Adjusted Odds Ratio; Adjusted for all variables in the table

CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

(C) - denotes comparison group, unless otherwise specified by parentheses

s - estimate suppressed due to unacceptably high sampling variability (or cell size less than 30)

* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; NS - not statistically significant

Table 3.11 Percentage exceeding low-risk drinking guidelines among past-year drinkers, by sex, Canada, aged 15+, 2004.

	Total Population		Women			Men		
	%	CI	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR
	22.6	21.2-24.1	15.1	13.5-16.8		30.2	32.6-37.8	
Age (previous age group)	**		**		**	**		*
15-17	24.6	18.0-32.7	16.4	9.6-26.7	---	33.9	23.5-46.1	---
18-19	32.3	24.6-41.1	31.2	20.8-44.0	2.597*	33.3	22.8-45.8	1.010
20-24	38.0	32.6-43.7	30.4	23.7-38.0	1.081	45.0	37.1-53.2	1.605
25-34	24.9	21.8-28.2	15.6	12.4-19.5	0.490**	33.6	28.7-38.8	0.708
35-44	22.3	19.3-25.7	15.2	12.1-18.9	1.046	29.3	24.3-34.9	0.868
45-54	22.4	18.9-26.3	13.3	10.1-17.3	0.884	31.4	25.7-37.8	1.129
55-64	18.4	14.9-22.6	10.5	7.2-15.1	0.770	25.5	19.8-32.3	0.781
65+	11.9	8.6-16.3	7.7	4.3-13.4	0.695	16.9	11.4-24.5	0.586
Province (Canada)	NS		NS		NS	NS		NS
Newfoundland and Labrador	27.3	24.0-30.9	16.1	12.8-20.0	1.068	38.2	32.8-44.0	1.451**
Prince Edward Island	21.7	18.6-25.2	13.0	9.8-17.0	1.069	31.1	25.8-36.8	1.069
Nova Scotia	23.3	20.2-26.8	16.7	13.1-21.1	1.103	29.9	25.0-35.4	1.010
New Brunswick	23.7	20.6-26.8	14.8	11.5-18.8	1.037	32.9	27.8-38.4	1.040
Quebec	22.7	19.8-25.9	15.4	12.4-19.0	1.063	30.3	25.5-35.5	0.950
Ontario	22.6	19.6-25.9	14.7	11.5-18.6	1.021	30.4	25.5-35.8	0.947
Manitoba	21.4	19.0-24.0	13.3	10.8-16.4	0.904	29.6	25.6-33.9	1.004
Saskatchewan	21.5	18.6-24.6	13.8	10.7-17.5	0.890	28.9	24.4-34.0	0.917
Alberta	22.5	20.6-24.6	15.7	13.6-18.1	1.046	29.0	25.9-32.3	0.810*
British Columbia	22.4	20.6-24.2	15.3	13.4-17.4	1.021	29.4	26.5-32.3	0.916
Marital Status	**		**		**	**		*
Married/partnered (C)	19.3	17.5-21.2	11.5	9.7-13.6	--	26.3	23.4-29.5	---
Divorced/separated/ widowed	18.0	14.7-21.9	12.1	8.9-16.4	1.609*	28.4	21.7-36.2	1.258
Single/never married	31.9	29.0-35.0	24.4	20.8-28.4	2.079**	38.4	34.0-42.9	1.573**
Education	NS		NS		NS	NS		NS
Less than secondary (C)	20.7	17.1-24.8	13.6	9.6-18.7	---	28.4	22.6-34.9	---
Secondary	21.2	18.7-24.0	13.6	10.9-16.9	0.823	28.8	24.7-33.3	0.798
Some post-secondary	25.8	23.2-28.6	16.9	14.1-20.0	1.040	34.8	30.4-39.4	1.009
University degree	21.2	18.5-24.2	15.1	12.2-18.6	0.911	27.1	22.7-31.9	0.731
Income Adequacy	NS		NS		NS	**		**
Lowest (C)	20.5	16.4-25.4	14.6	10.7-19.7	---	30.7	22.3-40.6	---
Middle	22.3	20.1-24.7	14.0	11.7-16.7	1.249	30.6	26.9-34.5	1.217
Highest	27.4	24.4-30.5	17.6	14.2-21.5	1.814*	34.4	30.1-38.9	1.599
Not stated	18.4	15.8-21.3	14.6	11.6-18.1	1.417	23.0	18.8-27.9	0.827
Location of Household	NS		NS		NS	NS		NS
Rural (C)	20.5	17.4-23.9	13.1	10.3-16.6	---	26.8	21.9-32.4	---
Non-rural	23.0	21.4-24.7	15.4	13.6-17.3	1.264	30.9	28.2-33.6	1.264

Note: OR - Adjusted Odds Ratio; Adjusted for all variables in the table

CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

(C) - denotes comparison group, unless otherwise specified by parentheses

* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; NS - not statistically significant

Prevalence estimates in **bold** show where differences among women and men were significant by the conservative method of non-overlapping confidence intervals. The bolded estimates reflect the higher rate.

Chapter 4 - Use of Cannabis and Other Illicit Drugs

Highlights

- Overall, 39.2% of women had tried cannabis, and 10.2% had used cannabis in the past year. By comparison, 50.1% of men had tried cannabis, and 18.2% had used it in the past year. For both men and women, the typical age of initiation was 17.
- Of the demographics studied, past-year cannabis use among Canadian women varied with age, province, marital status, income adequacy and location of household. Among men, past-year cannabis use also varied with their level of education.
- About one quarter (25.9%) of women and one third (30.8%) of men who had used cannabis in the 12 months prior to the survey reported that they had sometimes used it to alleviate a medical condition, although this was not their main reason for using it. Among these individuals, about half (47.3% of women and 55.8% of men) reported that they had used cannabis to reduce pain, such as back pain or headaches. The prevalence of women using cannabis to reduce depression was twice that of men (31.6% compared to 15.1%).
- Among women and men, illicit drug use varied with age, province, marital status, education and income. Just over one in every 10 women (12.2%), compared to just over one in every five men (21.1%), reported having used an illicit drug other than cannabis at least once in their lifetime. For both women and men, illicit drug use was higher in Quebec and the western provinces, in particular British Columbia.

Results

This chapter presents the demographic characteristics of Canadian women and men who use cannabis and illicit drugs.

Lifetime Cannabis Use

As seen in table 4.1, 39.2% of women and 50.1% of men had tried cannabis. When adjusted for key demographics, cannabis use among women and men varied with age, province, marital status, and income adequacy. Among men it also varied with education.

Women aged 18 to 19 years were almost three times more likely than those 15 to 17 years of age to have used cannabis (60.7% vs. 34.9%). The rate of lifetime cannabis use decreased significantly among women aged 25 to 34 and again among women aged 45 to 54, after which it continued a steady decline. The percentage of men who had tried cannabis peaked at ages 18 and 19 (77.9%), with the odds of this age group having used being almost six times greater than for those 15 to 17 years of age. Among men the prevalence of cannabis use declined with age, albeit more slowly than for women, and the first significant decline was at ages 55 to 64.

Women from British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba reported the highest prevalence of cannabis use (47.0%, 43.9% and 39.5% respectively) and those from Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador reported the lowest rates (28.4% and 28.6% respectively). Like women, men from British Columbia reported the highest prevalence of cannabis use (57.5%) and were 1.5 times more likely than men in the rest of Canada to use cannabis when all other demographics were controlled. Males from Ontario and Saskatchewan were the least likely to have used cannabis (44.9% and 44.1%).

The odds of having tried cannabis were 1.5 to 2 times greater among separated or widowed women and single or never-married women, in comparison to married women (30.1% and 52.1% vs. 36.8%). Single men or men who had never married had the highest rates of cannabis use, compared to married men (62.4% vs. 44.9%), while being formerly married did not predict lifetime use.

Men with a university education and men with secondary school education were less likely to have used cannabis than men who had not completed secondary school. Education did not predict lifetime cannabis use for women.

Women in the highest income-adequacy category were more likely to have tried cannabis than women in the lowest income-adequacy group (52.6% vs. 38.8%), and the same was true of men (56.5% vs. 50.0%).

Key Differences and Similarities: For both males and females, lifetime cannabis use decreased as age increased. While the prevalence of use significantly increased for both males and females at 18 to 19 years of age, there was a significant decrease in the rate of use of cannabis at ages 25 to 34 among women. This decrease did not occur for men. At ages 45 to 54 there was another significant decline in the prevalence of cannabis use for women. However for men the first significant decline did not occur until ages 55 to 64. Among both males and females, those from British Columbia were the most likely to have used cannabis. Women from Alberta and Manitoba were also significantly more likely to report doing so. This was not the case for men. Women from Newfoundland and Labrador and Prince Edward Island were significantly less likely than those from the rest of Canada to report lifetime cannabis use, while among Canadian men, those from Ontario and Saskatchewan were less likely. Being single resulted in an increased likelihood of having used cannabis for both males and females. However, for females, having been formerly married also increased the likelihood of lifetime cannabis use. For men, having a university degree was associated with a decreased likelihood of using cannabis, while this was not demonstrated for women. Both males and females in the highest income-adequacy group were significantly more likely to have used cannabis.

Current Cannabis Use

Table 4.2 presents the percentage of women and men who reported using cannabis in the past year (referred to here as current use) by demographic characteristics. Among women, 10.2% reported using cannabis in the past year, while 18.2% of men reported past-year use. Past-year cannabis use varied with age, province, marital status and household location among Canadian women and men. It also varied with education among men and with income adequacy among women.

As women got older they were less likely to currently use cannabis, with a significant decrease in prevalence among women 25 to 34 years of age in comparison with those aged 20 to 24 years (12.7% vs. 30.7%). For men, the prevalence of past-year cannabis use significantly peaked at ages 18 and 19 years in comparison with those aged 15 to 17 years (50.9% vs. 31.3%). Once adjusted for other key demographics, men aged 18 to 19 years were three times more likely to have used cannabis in the past-year than those in the younger age group. As men got older they, like women, were less likely to currently use cannabis, with a significant decrease in prevalence at ages 25 to 34, as was the case for women. However, for men past-year cannabis use continued to significantly decrease with each age category.

Women from British Columbia and Quebec were almost 1.5 times more likely than women from the rest of Canada to have used cannabis in the past year (12.7% and 12.2%), and those from New Brunswick were the least likely to have used in the past year (6.3%). Men from British Columbia and Nova Scotia reported the highest rates of past-year cannabis use (21.2% and 19.8%), in comparison with the national average for men (18.2%).

When controlling for other demographic characteristics, survey data showed that women who were single or had never married or had been divorced, separated or widowed were more likely to have used cannabis in the past year, compared to those who were married or partnered (24.9% and 6.1% vs. 4.9%). Like women, single or never-married men were 1.5 times more likely than married or partnered men to have used cannabis in the past year (31.6% vs. 12.7%). Having been formerly married or widowed was

not associated with an increased likelihood of past-year cannabis use for men.

Non-rural women were more likely to have used cannabis in the past year, compared to rural women (10.9% vs. 6.2%), whereas the opposite was true among men; non-rural men were less likely than rural men. This effect is hidden when examining rates among the total population. It must be pointed out, however, that when examining household location in isolation, for men, those from non-rural households were more likely to have used cannabis (19.2% vs. 13.1%). When controlling for the other demographics however, we see that some other demographic might be responsible for this finding, because now men from non-rural households are less likely to use cannabis.

Men with a university degree were less likely to have used cannabis in the past year, when compared to those who had not completed secondary school (12.6% vs. 19.1%). Education was not a predictor of past-year cannabis use for women.

The likelihood of using cannabis varied with income status among women, but this is most likely due to the lower rates reported among the “not stated” income category. Income adequacy was not related to past-year cannabis use for men.

Key Differences and Similarities: As age increased for both women and men, the prevalence of current cannabis use decreased. Males aged 18 to 19 years were three times more likely to have used cannabis in the past year than those aged 15 to 17 years. This significant peak was not demonstrated among women. However, for both women and men, the prevalence of current cannabis use decreased significantly starting at ages 25 to 34, and continued to decline. Both males and females from British Columbia were more likely than their counterparts from the rest of Canada to have used cannabis in the past 12 months. Women from Quebec and men from Nova Scotia were also at an increased likelihood. Education did not predict past-year cannabis use among women, but men with a university degree were less likely to currently use cannabis than were those with less than secondary schooling. Both men and women who were single were at an increased likelihood of using cannabis in the past year. However, divorced, separated or

widowed women also had an increased likelihood, compared to married or partnered women. Women from non-rural households were significantly more likely to currently use cannabis than those from rural households, whereas the opposite was true for men.

Frequency of Cannabis Use

Only a small proportion (7.2%) of Canadian women had used cannabis in the past three months. During that period, 1.3% used on a daily basis, 1.6% used cannabis on a weekly basis, 1.5% monthly, and 2.7% used once or twice. Among past-year cannabis users, 70.2% of women had used cannabis in the past three months, 26.9% had used cannabis once or twice, 15.2% had used once a month, 15.4% had used weekly, and the remaining women (12.7%) had used on a daily basis (Table 4.3).

In comparison, the proportion of men having used cannabis in the past three months (15.4%) was twice that of women, and men had significantly higher frequency of use in all categories. Among past-year cannabis users, 84.6% of men had used cannabis in the past three months, 23.7% had used cannabis once or twice, 16.5% had used monthly, 23.2% weekly, and 21.3% had used on a daily basis. There was a significantly higher proportion of weekly and daily use in the last three months among men who had used cannabis in the past year.

Key Differences: The proportion of men having used cannabis in the past three months was twice that of women. Men who had consumed cannabis in the past year reported significantly higher rates of daily and weekly cannabis use than women.

Problems Resulting from Cannabis Use

The ASSIST² (Alcohol, Smoking, and Substance Involvement Screening Test) was designed to assess the extent of problems (health, social, financial, legal, relationship) resulting from substance abuse. Table 4.4 shows the prevalence of the five problem indicators of the ASSIST scale for women and men. Among women who had used cannabis in the past three months, the most common problems reported were a strong desire to use (38.7%) and attempts to cut down (36.5%). These problems were followed by friends' concern about their cannabis use (15.9%), and failed expectations (10.7%). Health, social or legal problems were the least-reported indicators (6.7 %).

Among males, similar problems were reported, with attempts to cut down ranking slightly higher than a strong desire to use (46.5 % and 41.6% respectively). Approximately one in five men (21.2%) reported that their friends had been concerned about their cannabis use. Failed expectations and health, social or legal problems were the least-reported indicators among men (7.9% and 6.0% respectively).

Key Differences and Similarities: According to the ASSIST, of those who reported using cannabis in the past three months, more men than women reported that they had tried to control, cut down or stop using cannabis. There were no significant differences between men and women for the other indicators of the ASSIST scale.

Where, With Whom, Why and Why Not?

Respondents who reported that they had used marijuana in the 12 months prior to the survey were asked where they usually consumed marijuana. Among women, the most popular places were at home (53.8%), followed by parties (37.5%) and parks, streets or the outdoors (5.0%). Among males, the same three locations were popular, with 60.7% reporting that they usually consumed cannabis at home, 23.9% reporting that they consumed mostly at parties, and 8.4% stating that they preferred consuming cannabis in parks, streets or the outdoors. The proportion of women who consumed cannabis at parties was significantly higher than that of men. These data are not presented in a table because the other response options (work, school, clubs, bars/pubs/restaurants, concerts/sports events) were not reportable.

Past-year cannabis users were also asked with whom they usually consumed cannabis, marijuana or hashish. Among women, 73.1% reported that they usually consumed cannabis with friends, 9.3% reported that they consumed cannabis with friends and family, and 7.1% reported that they consumed cannabis alone. Among males, 71.2 % reported consuming marijuana with friends, 9.6% reported consuming with friends and family, and 12.9% reported that they consumed cannabis alone. These data are likewise not presented in a table, because the other response options (family members, strangers, colleagues/co-workers, other) were not reportable.

The main reason stated for why women and men tried cannabis, marijuana or hashish for the very first time was "curiosity" (53.3% and 56.4%), followed by "because family/friends are using" (15.1% and 12.0%) and "to be sociable" (5.7% and 4.5%). Approximately 5% of men also stated that they used it the first time "to relax and reduce stress" or "to be cool." Again, these data are not presented in a table because the other response choices (to get high, to feel good, to escape, for recreation, for medical purposes, for spiritual reasons) were not reportable.

² There was an error found in one symptom of the ASSIST scale. Properly stated, the question is 'Have you ever tried [AND FAILED] to control, cut down or stop using cannabis, marijuana or hashish {or other drugs}'. The phrase "and failed" was not asked of respondents. This should not affect estimates of subgroup differences. Caution and warning should be used in making direct comparisons with other studies using the ASSIST.

Respondents who had used cannabis, marijuana or hashish were asked whether they had ever used it to alleviate medical symptoms. The answer from 25.9% of women and 30.8% of men was “yes”. When asked for which medical reason, the most commonly reported reason given by women was pain, such as back pain or headaches (47.3%), followed by depression (31.6%). Back pain was also the most popular reason given by men (55.8%), followed by depression (15.1%). These data are not presented in a table because the other response choices (for nausea, for multiple sclerosis, for anxiety) were not reportable.

Respondents who did not use drugs (cannabis or other illicit drugs) were asked about the most important reason why they did not use. The three most important reasons for not using drugs for both women and men were because they were not interested (41.8% and 39.4%), because it posed a health risk (30.5% and 28.8%) and because drugs are addictive (3.9% and 5.6%). In general, there was no significant difference in the reasons why men and women chose not to use drugs.

Public Opinion on Whether People Should be Allowed to Use Marijuana

Women were less likely than men (32.2% vs. 43.8%) to feel that people should be allowed to use marijuana as it is not a dangerous drug (Table 4.5). Among women, agreement with this statement varied with age, province and marital status. As age increased, women were less likely to agree with the statement that marijuana is not a dangerous drug (18.7% of women aged 65 to 74, compared to 51.9% of women aged 15 to 17). Women from British Columbia and Ontario were most likely to consider marijuana not to be dangerous, with 40.3% and 35.5% respectively reporting that they agreed with this statement. Single women or women who had never been married were 1.7 times more likely than married or partnered women to agree that marijuana was not dangerous. For men, of the demographics studied, agreement varied only with respect to province. Men from Manitoba and British Columbia were more likely (49.1% and 47.8% respectively) to agree and those from Saskatchewan were the least likely (31.6%).

There was a significant correlation between those who had used cannabis and those who felt that marijuana is not a dangerous drug. This correlation was significantly higher for men than for women ($p < 0.005$). This correlation was even stronger when those who had used cannabis in the last 12 months were asked the same question. Again, men were significantly more likely to think that people should be permitted to use marijuana as it is not a dangerous drug ($p < 0.001$).

Use of Other Illicit Drugs

Table 4.6 presents the prevalence of lifetime and past-year illicit drug use by Canadian women and men, as well as the median and mean age of first use. Excluding cannabis, 12.2% of Canadian women and 21.3% of men have used an illicit drug in their lifetime. The illicit drugs most commonly used by women were cocaine (7.3%) and hallucinogens (7.1%), followed by speed and ecstasy (4.1% and 3.0% respectively). Prevalence of illicit drug use among Canadian men was significantly higher, with hallucinogens (16.0%) being slightly more popular than cocaine (14.1%). The prevalence of speed (8.7%) was higher than ecstasy (5.2%) among Canadian men, followed by inhalants (1.9%), heroin (1.3%) and steroids (1.0%). Less than 1.0% of women reported using inhalants and heroin in their lifetime. Excluding cannabis, the prevalence of past-year illicit drug use was 1.9% for women and 4.3% for men. The illicit drugs most commonly used by women in the previous 12 months were cocaine (1.1%), speed (0.7%) and ecstasy (0.7%). Among men, cocaine was the most commonly used illicit drug in the previous 12 months (2.7%), followed by ecstasy (1.5%), hallucinogens (1.0%) and speed (1.0%). Past-year use of inhalants, heroin or steroids by men and women was too small to be reportable.

To estimate the most typical age of initiation among illicit drug users, the median age is tabled. The median places all reported ages in order, from youngest to oldest, divides by two, and provides the middle value. The median eliminates any inflation effect of the average resulting from only a few individuals who may have tried the drug much later in life. For most illicit drugs, including cannabis, the typical start age was between 17 and 20 years, with notable exceptions for inhalants. The typical age of initiation among inhalant users was much younger (14 years). The median start ages among men and women were very similar for all illicit drugs reported.

Key Differences and Similarities: The lifetime and past-year use of illicit drugs were significantly higher for men than for women. The mean age of initiation of most drugs was the same for men and women.

Prevalence of Other Illicit Drug Use by Age

Table 4.7 presents the prevalence of lifetime use of selected illicit drugs, by age, among women and men. This type of analysis cannot be used to profile current drug use by sex and age, but can be used, instead, to suggest generational differences among women and men who may have tried illicit drugs in their lifetime. Past-year illicit drug use could not be broken down by sex and age, due to small sample sizes, especially among women. Further research on illicit drug use by gender is required.

Hallucinogens: Among women, the highest rate of lifetime use of hallucinogens was noted among those aged 20 to 24 years (14.8%). There are significantly fewer women aged 35 years and over who have used hallucinogens. Among men, the highest rate of lifetime use is among those 25 to 34 years old (23.8%), with a significant decrease in use reported by those in the 45-and-over age group.

Cocaine: Prevalence of lifetime cocaine use ranged from 9.4% to 11.8% for women aged 15 to 44 years, with a significant decline in lifetime use among women 45 years or older (3.6%). Unlike women's, men's highest rates of lifetime cocaine use were among those aged 35-44 years (21.4%), but as it is for women, there is a significant difference in lifetime use among men aged 45 years or older (8.7%).

Speed: Lifetime use of speed by women ranged from 4.2% to 9.0% among those 15 to 44 years of age, but decreased significantly for those aged 45 and older (2.5%). Among men, the lifetime use of speed ranged from 6.7% to 14.6%, peaking significantly among those aged 20 to 24 years (14.6%).

Ecstasy: Rates of lifetime use of ecstasy were highest among women 15 to 19 years of age (11.3%), and dropped significantly for older age groups (9.9% of those aged 20 to 24 and 4.7% of those aged 25 to 34). Among men, lifetime use of ecstasy peaked for those aged 20 to 24 years (16.9%), with a significant decrease in use reported by those aged 35 years and above.

Any of Five Illicit Drugs: Table 4.7 also reports the percentage of men and women who have ever used any of five illicit drugs: cocaine, speed, ecstasy, hallucinogens, and heroin. Use of at least one of those five drugs ranged from 6.3% to 22.5% among women. Women aged 45 and older were significantly less likely than women in the previous age group to report lifetime use of any of the five illicit drugs (6.3% vs. 15.9%). Among men, use of any of the five illicit drugs ranged from 12.4% to 33.5%. Men aged 20 to 24 were significantly more likely than those aged 15 to 19 years to report having used any of the five illicit drugs in their lifetime (33.5% vs. 20.7%) and those aged 45 and older were significantly less likely than men in the previous age group (12.4% vs. 26.2%).

Any of Six Illicit Drugs: Use of any one of six illicit drugs (cocaine, speed, ecstasy, hallucinogens, heroin, and cannabis) ranged from 24.8% to 69.0% among women. Prevalence of use was greatest among those aged 20 to 24 (69.0%), and decreased significantly among women aged 25 to 34 years (52.9%) and again among those aged 45 and over (24.8%). Among men, 58.0% to 69.7% of those aged 15 to 44 reported use of any of the six illicit drugs, and those aged 45 and over were significantly less likely to report use than those aged 35 to 44 (37.6% vs. 58.0%).

Any of Eight Illicit drugs: The use of at least one of eight illicit drugs (cocaine, speed, ecstasy, hallucinogens, heroin, cannabis, steroids and inhalants) peaked among women aged 20 to 24 (69.1%), decreased among those aged 25 to 34 (52.9%) and decreased again among those aged 45 and over (24.8%). Use of any of these eight illicit drugs varied from 58.9% to 69.9% among men aged 15 to 44 years of age, and lifetime use decreased significantly among men aged 45 and over (37.7%).

Key Differences and Similarities: Overall, men reported significantly higher prevalence of lifetime illicit drug use than did women. For hallucinogens, women aged 35 and older reported significantly lower rates of use, whereas men reported significantly lower use only in those aged 45 and over. Prevalence of lifetime cocaine use was significantly lower among both men and women aged 45 and over. With speed, the prevalence of use among women was lower for those aged 45 and over, while for men, the rate was highest at ages 20 to 24 and did not change significantly from one age category to the next. Ecstasy use among women began to decrease steadily at age 20 to 24, and continued decreasing across each age group. For men, however, the rate of use was significantly higher among those aged 20 to 24 and did not lower until age 35 and over.

Lifetime Use of Any of Five Illicit Drugs

Table 4.8 presents the demographic characteristics of women and men who have ever tried any of five illicit drugs (cocaine, speed, ecstasy, hallucinogens and heroin). It is important to note that cannabis use is not included. Women were significantly less likely than men to report the use of any of these five illicit drugs (12.2% vs. 21.1%). Among women, lifetime use of one of these drugs was predicted by age, province, marital status, education and income adequacy. Among men, it was predicted by all of these factors except marital status.

Among women, the rate of lifetime illicit drug use decreased significantly for those aged 45 and over, compared to those aged 25 to 44 years (6.3% vs. 16.6%). Among men, rates of lifetime illicit drug use peaked for those aged 20 to 24 years (33.5%) and dropped among men aged 45 years and older, when compared to the previous age group (12.4% vs. 28.6%).

Women from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Quebec reported the highest lifetime rates of using any of the five illicit drugs (19.4%, 15.6%, 12.9%, and 12.7%, respectively), whereas those from Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick (7.1% and 6.5%) were less likely to have used any of the five illicit drugs in their lifetime. Men from British Columbia and Quebec reported the highest lifetime rates of use of any of

the five illicit drugs (26.7% and 23.9%), whereas those from Newfoundland and Labrador reported the lowest lifetime rates of use (12.4%).

Single or never-married women and divorced, separated or widowed women reported the highest use rates (20.5% and 10.3%), when compared to married or partnered women (9.0%). When controlling for other demographics, marital status was not a predictor of illicit drug use for men, though it was for women.

For men, having a university education was associated with significantly lower rates of lifetime illicit drug use (15.3%), compared to having less than a secondary school education (18.4%). Although education was a predictor of use of any of the five illicit drugs for women, the specific level of education associated with an increased or decreased likelihood was not clearly defined.

Lifetime rates of use of any of the five illicit drugs varied with income adequacy, mainly due to the “non stated” category, which reported a significantly lower prevalence (8.4%) than women in the lowest category of income adequacy (15.4%). Comparable to rates among women, lifetime rates of use of any of the illicit drugs among men varied with income adequacy.

Key Differences and Similarities: Men with a university degree reported the lowest rates of lifetime use of any of the five illicit drugs (cocaine, speed, ecstasy, hallucinogens, and heroin), whereas among women, the relation between education and lifetime illicit drug use was not as clearly defined. Women who were single or formerly married had higher lifetime rates of illicit drug use than those who were currently married. However, marital status was not associated with illicit drug use for men. In addition, for men aged 20 to 24, there was an increased likelihood of using illicit drugs. This was not the case for women. Both men and women aged 45 and over had a decreased likelihood of using any of the five illicit drugs, and both men and women from British Columbia and Quebec had an increased likelihood of using illicit drugs in their lifetime.

Summary and Discussion

In general, men had a higher prevalence of illicit drug use, and in the case of cannabis, also used more frequently than did women. In addition, among past-three-month cannabis users, men reported more attempts to cut down than did women.

When examining the different demographic characteristics that are associated with women and men's use of illicit drugs, numerous differences and similarities were observed. For both men and women, as age increased the prevalence of illicit drug use decreased. Both women and men from British Columbia had increased odds of using illicit drugs, and both women and men in the highest income-adequacy categories had increased odds of using cannabis in their lifetime.

Despite these similarities, many factors that influenced illicit drug use among women and men were different. Education, for instance, did not appear to influence cannabis use or illicit drug use among women, but clearly had an impact in predicting the likelihood of illicit drug use among men. Men who had completed a university degree had significantly lower odds of using cannabis in their lifetime or in the previous 12 months and lower odds of using any of the five illicit drugs in their lifetime. Marital status, on the other hand, appeared to impact women's use of illicit drugs more than men's. Both women and men who were single had increased odds of using cannabis in their lifetime or in the previous year and increased odds of using any of the five illicit drugs in their lifetime. For women, however, having been divorced, separated or widowed also resulted in an increased likelihood of using the aforementioned illicit drugs. Another difference pertains to household location: Women from non-rural locations were more likely to have used cannabis in the past year, while men from non-rural households were less likely to have done so.

Unfortunately, the CAS could only provide accurate lifetime estimates by gender for use of any of the five illicit drugs. Further research and data collection will provide more answers on how and perhaps why these demographics differ among women and men in terms of their current use of these drugs.

Table 4.1 Percentage of lifetime cannabis use, by sex, Canada, aged 15+, 2004.

	Total Population		Women			Men		
	%	CI	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR
	44.5	43.0-46.0	39.2	37.3-41.1		50.1	47.8-52.5	
Age (previous age group)	**		**		**	**		**
15-17	39.3	32.7-46.2	34.9	26.0-45.1	---	43.7	34.6-53.3	---
18-19	69.9	62.2-76.6	60.7	48.9-71.4	2.765**	77.9	68.6-85.0	5.997**
20-24	68.5	63.4-73.3	68.4	61.6-74.6	1.436	68.6	60.8-75.5	0.618
25-34	56.8	53.3-60.3	51.9	47.1-56.6	0.511**	61.9	56.7-66.8	0.844
35-44	55.3	51.8-58.8	52.8	48.5-57.0	1.011	57.9	56.7-66.8	0.833
45-54	50.1	46.5-53.8	44.0	39.5-48.6	0.682**	56.4	50.6-61.9	0.909
55-64	28.2	24.7-32.1	23.0	18.7-27.8	0.373**	33.6	28.0-39.6	0.399**
65+	9.2	6.9-12.1	4.7	3.0-7.2	0.143**	15.1	10.5-21.1	0.322**
Province (Canada)	**		**		**	**		**
Newfoundland and Labrador	38.5	35.4-41.7	28.6	25.1-32.4	0.609**	49.1	43.9-54.2	0.968
Prince Edward Island	36.5	33.4-39.7	28.4	24.8-32.4	0.653**	45.3	40.4-50.3	0.860
Nova Scotia	43.4	40.1-46.7	36.0	31.8-40.4	0.969	51.4	46.3-56.5	1.217
New Brunswick	42.1	38.9-45.3	36.1	32.1-40.2	0.940	48.4	43.5-53.4	0.924
Quebec	46.4	43.2-46.4	39.3	35.4-43.4	1.116	53.9	48.9-58.9	1.157
Ontario	40.4	37.3-43.7	36.3	32.4-40.4	0.922	44.9	40.0-49.9	0.735**
Manitoba	44.6	42.0-47.2	39.5	36.2-42.1	1.220*	50.1	46.1-54.0	1.032
Saskatchewan	41.0	37.9-44.1	38.0	34.1-42.1	1.122	44.1	39.4-48.9	0.787*
Alberta	48.7	46.5-50.8	43.9	41.1-46.7	1.224**	53.5	50.3-56.7	1.017
British Columbia	52.1	50.2-54.0	47.0	44.5-49.4	1.603**	57.5	54.7-60.3	1.520**
Marital Status	**		**		**	**		*
Married/partnered (C)	40.9	38.9-42.9	36.8	34.3-39.3	---	44.9	41.8-48.0	---
Divorced/separated/widowed	35.2	31.7-38.8	30.1	26.4-34.1	2.191**	45.2	38.2-52.4	1.304
Single/never married	57.5	54.7-60.4	52.1	48.1-56.0	1.515**	62.4	58.3-66.3	1.397*
Education	**		**		NS	**		**
Less than secondary (C)	34.9	31.6-38.4	26.5	22.6-30.7	---	44.4	39.2-49.7	---
Secondary	42.3	39.5-45.1	34.9	31.4-38.5	0.938	50.0	45.7-54.4	0.678*
Some post-secondary	52.4	49.7-55.2	45.9	42.5-49.3	1.200	59.7	55.3-64.0	0.937
University degree	44.2	41.1-47.3	45.3	41.3-49.4	1.081	43.0	38.4-47.7	0.504**
Income Adequacy	**		**		**	**		**
Lowest (C)	42.9	38.5-47.5	38.8	33.8-44.1	---	50.0	41.7-58.3	---
Middle	44.6	42.2-47.0	40.0	37.0-43.1	0.908	49.3	45.6-53.0	1.083
Highest	54.8	51.7-57.9	52.6	48.2-56.9	1.480*	56.5	52.1-60.9	1.684*
Not stated	35.1	32.3-38.0	28.6	25.4-32.0	0.755	43.5	38.8-48.4	0.917
Location of Household	NS		*		NS	NS		NS
Rural (C)	41.4	38.0-44.9	34.8	30.6-39.2	---	47.6	42.3-52.9	---
Non-rural	45.0	43.4-46.7	39.9	37.8-42.0	1.042	50.6	48.0-53.2	1.080

Note: OR - Adjusted Odds Ratio; Adjusted for all variables in the table

CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

(C) - denotes comparison group, unless otherwise specified by parentheses

* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; NS - not statistically significant

Prevalence estimates in **bold** show where differences among women and men were significant by the conservative method of non-overlapping confidence intervals. The bolded estimates reflect the higher rate.

Table 4.2 Percentage of past-year cannabis use, by sex, Canada, aged 15+, 2004.

	Total Population		Women			Men		
	%	CI	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR
	14.1	13.1-15.1	10.2	9.1-11.5		18.2	16.6-20.0	
Age (previous age group)	**		**		**	**		**
15-17	29.2	23.2-35.9	27.1	18.9-37.2	---	31.3	23.3-40.6	---
18-19	47.2	39.1-55.5	43.0	32.0-54.8	2.513	50.9	39.2-62.4	3.034**
20-24	36.5	31.6-41.6	30.7	24.4-37.9	0.633	42.0	34.8-49.5	0.778
25-34	20.4	17.8-23.4	12.7	10.1-15.9	0.413**	28.2	23.8-33.2	0.651*
35-44	13.2	11.1-15.7	8.9	6.8-11.5	0.678	17.6	14.1-21.9	0.538**
45-54	8.4	6.7-10.5	5.9	4.1-8.3	0.672	11.0	8.1-14.7	0.582*
55-64	4.4	2.9-6.6	s	s	s	5.6	3.2-9.6	0.490*
65+	s	s	s	s	s	s	s	s
Province (Canada)	**		*		**	NS		**
Newfoundland and Labrador	11.6	9.6-13.9	8.5	6.4-11.2	0.909	14.8	11.6-18.8	0.863
Prince Edward Island	10.7	8.7-13.0	6.0	4.2-8.7	0.703	15.7	12.3-19.7	0.992
Nova Scotia	14.4	12.2-17.0	9.5	7.2-12.4	1.074	19.8	16.1-24.2	1.322*
New Brunswick	11.1	9.1-13.3	6.3	4.5-8.8	0.606*	16.1	12.8-20.0	0.839
Quebec	15.8	13.6-18.2	12.2	9.7-15.2	1.417*	19.6	16.1-23.7	1.164
Ontario	12.4	10.4-14.6	8.7	6.6-11.4	0.949	16.3	13.0-20.2	0.872
Manitoba	13.4	11.7-15.3	10.1	8.2-12.5	1.223	17.0	14.2-20.1	0.956
Saskatchewan	11.4	9.6-13.5	8.4	6.4-11.0	0.914	14.5	11.6-18.0	0.774
Alberta	15.4	13.9-17.0	10.4	8.8-12.2	1.082	20.4	18.0-23.1	1.029
British Columbia	16.8	15.5-18.3	12.7	11.2-14.4	1.480**	21.2	19.0-23.6	1.361**
Marital Status	**		**		**	**		*
Married/partnered (C)	8.9	7.8-10.1	4.9	4.0-6.1	---	12.7	10.8-14.9	---
Divorced/separated/widowed	7.7	6.1-9.6	6.1	4.5-8.3	2.746**	10.9	7.8-15.0	1.294
Single/never married	28.5	26.0-31.1	24.9	21.6-28.5	2.827**	31.6	28.1-35.4	1.541**
Education	**		NS		NS	*		**
Less than secondary (C)	14.8	12.5-17.4	11.0	8.4-14.2	---	19.1	15.4-23.4	---
Secondary	14.2	12.3-16.2	9.2	7.2-11.6	0.650	19.4	16.3-22.8	0.652
Some post-secondary	16.5	14.6-18.7	11.7	9.7-14.1	0.849	21.8	18.5-25.6	0.740
University degree	10.9	9.1-12.9	9.1	7.0-11.7	0.783	12.6	10.0-15.8	0.428**
Income Adequacy	*		**		*	NS		*
Lowest (C)	17.0	13.9-20.6	15.5	12.0-19.7	---	19.6	14.2-26.4	---
Middle	13.7	12.2-15.4	10.6	8.9-12.7	0.808	16.9	14.6-19.6	1.055
Highest	15.9	13.8-18.4	10.0	7.7-12.9	0.860	20.4	17.1-24.2	1.626
Not stated	11.8	10.0-13.7	7.7	6.0-9.9	0.538**	17.0	13.9-20.7	1.019
Location of Household	**		**		*	**		*
Rural (C)	9.8	8.0-11.9	6.2	4.5-8.4	---	13.1	10.1-16.7	---
Non-rural	14.9	13.8-16.1	10.9	9.7-12.3	1.615*	19.2	17.4-21.2	0.138**

Note: OR - Adjusted Odds Ratio; Adjusted for all variables in the table

CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

(C) - denotes comparison group, unless otherwise specified by parentheses

s - estimate suppressed due to unacceptably high sampling variability (or cell size less than 30)

* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; NS - not statistically significant

Prevalence estimates in **bold** show where differences among women and men were significant by the conservative method of non-overlapping confidence intervals. The bolded estimates reflect the higher rate.

Table 4.3 Frequency of cannabis use during the past three months among total sample and past-year users, by sex, Canada, aged 15+, 2004.

Cannabis use in the past three months	Total Sample (N = 13909)				Past-year Users (N = 1851)			
	Women (N = 8188)		Men (N = 5721)		Women (N = 762)		Men (N = 1089)	
	%	CI	%	CI	%	CI	%	CI
Never in the past three months	92.8**	91.7-93.8	84.6	82.9-86.1	29.8**	24.5-35.6	15.4	12.0-19.2
Once or twice	2.7**	2.2-3.5	4.3	3.4-5.3	26.9 ^{NS}	21.8-32.5	23.7	19.3-28.3
Monthly	1.5**	1.1-2.1	3.0	2.3-3.8	15.2 ^{NS}	11.3-20.1	16.5	13.0-20.4
Weekly	1.6**	1.2-2.2	4.2	3.4-5.2	15.4*	11.4-20.4	23.2	18.9-27.7
Daily	1.3**	0.9-1.8	3.8	3.1-4.7	12.7**	9.2-17.2	21.3	17.4-25.4

Note: CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; NS - not statistically significant, women compared to men

Table 4.4 Percentage of cannabis-related harm as assessed by ASSIST among past-three month cannabis users, by sex, Canada, aged 15+, 2004.

ASSIST (Alcohol, Smoking, and Substance Involvement Screening Test)	Used Cannabis in the Past Three Months (N = 1466)			
	Women (N = 556)		Men (N = 910)	
	%	CI	%	CI
Strong desire to use (past three months) ^{NS}	38.7	31.9-46.0	41.6	36.2-47.2
Health, social, legal problems (past three months) ^{NS}	6.7	3.8-11.6	6.0	4.0-8.9
Failed expectations (past three months) ^{NS}	10.7	6.9-16.4	7.9	5.7-10.8
Friends concern (lifetime) ^{NS}	15.9	11.4-21.6	21.2	17.4-25.6
Attempts to cut down (lifetime)*	36.5	29.9-43.7	46.5	40.8-51.8

Note: CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; NS - not statistically significant, women compared to men

Table 4.5 Percentage who agree that “People should be permitted to use marijuana as it is not a dangerous drug” by sex, Panel C, Canada, aged 15+, 2004.

	Total Population		Women			Men		
	%	CI	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR
	37.9	35.3-40.5	32.2	29.0-35.5		43.8	39.8-48.0	
Age (previous age group)	**		**		*	**		NS
15-17	49.8	37.5-62.2	51.9	32.3-70.9	---	48.0	33.4-62.9	---
18-19	62.4	48.4-74.7	56.7	39.1-72.7	1.200	69.3	45.4-86.0	2.218
20-24	56.0	46.9-64.7	49.9	38.0-61.9	0.837	63.7	50.0-75.5	0.780
25-34	43.0	36.9-49.2	40.2	32.2-48.7	0.789	45.5	36.7-54.6	0.496*
35-44	38.3	32.7-44.3	30.5	24.3-37.5	0.747	46.0	36.9-55.5	1.100
45-54	33.4	27.6-39.8	24.7	18.6-32.1	0.700	41.1	31.9-50.9	0.776
55-64	32.5	25.9-39.8	28.1	20.2-37.5	1.339	36.7	26.7-48.0	0.895
65-74	24.4	17.1-33.7	18.7	11.3-29.3	0.612	30.6	18.5-46.0	0.754
75+	19.4	12.1-29.6	s	s	s	28.2	14.3-48.0	0.914
Province (Canada)	**		*		**	NS		**
Newfoundland and Labrador	32.9	27.7-38.5	23.9	18.3-30.6	0.721	42.6	34.0-51.6	1.066
Prince Edward Island	32.1	26.9-37.8	27.3	21.0-34.6	0.885	37.0	38.9-45.9	0.883
Nova Scotia	34.9	29.4-40.8	30.8	23.9-38.6	1.039	39.3	30.9-48.3	1.008
New Brunswick	29.2	24.4-34.7	22.7	17.2-29.5	0.787	35.5	27.9-43.9	0.730
Quebec	31.3	26.2-36.8	26.6	20.7-33.4	0.837	36.4	28.3-45.3	0.823
Ontario	41.5	36.1-47.1	35.5	28.9-42.8	1.374*	47.5	39.2-55.9	1.211
Manitoba	39.5	35.1-44.0	30.2	24.9-35.9	1.121	49.1	42.3-55.9	1.427*
Saskatchewan	29.2	24.4-34.6	26.9	20.8-34.1	0.910	31.6	24.3-39.9	0.663*
Alberta	37.3	33.8-41.0	28.2	23.9-32.9	0.937	47.0	41.5-52.6	1.085
British Columbia	44.0	40.7-47.3	40.3	36.1-44.7	1.744**	47.8	42.8-52.8	1.370**
Marital Status	**		**		*	*		NS
Married/partnered (C)	34.4	31.1-37.9	28.4	24.4-32.7	----	40.1	34.9-45.5	---
Divorced/separated/widowed	28.0	22.4-34.4	22.8	17.0-29.8	0.850	38.0	26.9-50.5	0.993
Single/never married	51.1	46.0-56.2	48.5	41.4-55.6	1.718*	53.4	46.0-60.6	1.249
Education	NS		NS		NS	NS		NS
Less than secondary (C)	34.4	28.2-41.1	29.3	21.6-38.3	---	43.3	29.7-58.0	---
Secondary	38.3	33.5-43.4	33.9	27.6-40.7	1.159	44.1	37.8-50.5	0.912
Some post-secondary	38.8	34.2-43.6	30.6	25.5-36.2	0.828	47.5	40.0-55.1	1.113
University degree	38.6	33.4-44.0	35.2	28.8-42.1	1.128	38.0	29.9-46.8	0.840
Income Adequacy	*		NS		NS	NS		NS
Lowest (C)	36.9	29.2-45.3	33.1	24.5-43.1	---	43.3	29.7-58.0	---
Middle	38.3	34.3-42.6	32.6	27.5-38.1	0.969	44.1	37.8-50.5	1.217
Highest	43.2	37.8-48.8	36.6	29.4-44.5	1.103	47.5	40.0-55.1	1.346
Not stated	32.2	27.6-37.3	28.4	23.0-34.5	0.804	38.0	29.9-46.8	0.822
Location of Household	NS		NS		NS	NS		NS
Rural (C)	34.3	28.6-40.6	30.0	23.0-38.2	---	38.0	29.4-47.5	---
Non-rural	38.5	35.6-41.4	32.5	29.0-36.2	0.890	44.9	40.4-49.5	1.309

Note: OR - Adjusted Odds Ratio; Adjusted for all variables in the table

CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

(C) - denotes comparison group, unless otherwise specified by parentheses

s - estimate suppressed due to unacceptably high sampling variability (or cell size less than 30)

* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; NS - not statistically significant

Prevalence estimates in **bold** show where differences among women and men were significant by the conservative method of non-overlapping confidence intervals. The bolded estimates reflect the higher rate.

Table 4.6 Median (Mean) age of first drug use and percentage of lifetime and past-12-month use, by illicit drug and sex, Canada, aged 15+, 2004.

Illicit Drug Use	Women (N = 8188)			Men (N = 5708)		
	Age of First Use	Lifetime % [CI]	Past 12 Months % [CI]	Age of First Use	Lifetime % [CI]	Past 12 Months % [CI]
Cannabis	17 (18.7)	39.2** [37.3-41.1]	10.2** [9.1-11.5]	17 (18.8)	50.1 [47.8-52.5]	18.2 [16.6-20.0]
Hallucinogens	17 (19)	7.1** [6.2-8.1]	s	18 (20)	16.0 [14.4-17.8]	1.0 [0.7-1.5]
Cocaine	20 (22)	7.3** [6.4-8.3]	1.1** [0.8-1.6]	20 (24)	14.1 [12.6-15.8]	2.7 [2.1-3.5]
Speed	19 (23)	4.1** [3.5-5.0]	0.7 [0.4-1.1]	19 (22)	8.7 [7.4-10.2]	1.0 [0.7-1.6]
Ecstasy	19 (22)	3.0** [2.4-3.7]	0.7** [0.4-1.1]	21 (22)	5.2 [4.3-6.3]	1.5 [1.1-2.2]
Inhalants	14 (15)	0.7** 0.5-1.0]	s	14 (15)	1.9 [1.4-2.5]	s
Heroin	18 (22)	0.5** [0.3-0.7]	s	20 (22)	1.3 [0.9-1.9]	s
Steroids	s	s	s	21 (26)	1.0 [0.7-1.5]	s

Note: CI - Confidence Interval (95%)
s - estimate suppressed due to unacceptably high sampling variability (or cell size less than 30)
* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01, women compared to men

Table 4.7 Percentage of lifetime illicit drug use, by age and sex, Canada, aged 15+, 2004

Illicit Drug	Overall % [CI]	Age				
		15-19 % [CI]	20-24 % [CI]	25-34 % [CI]	35-44 % [CI]	45+ % [CI]
Hallucinogens	11.4 [10.5-12.4]	13.2 [9.9-17.5]	19.2 [15.7-23.3]	17.8 [15.3-20.6]	13.4 [11.2-16.0]	6.8 [5.7-8.0]
Women	7.1** [6.2-8.1]	9.3 [5.7-14.9]	14.8 [10.5-20.5]	11.9 [9.3-15.0]	7.3** [5.6-9.6]	4.0** [3.1-5.2]
Men	16.0 [14.4-17.8]	16.9 [11.8-23.8]	23.4 [18.1-29.7]	23.8 [19.7-28.4]	19.6 [15.6-24.3]	9.9** [8.0-12.2]
Cocaine	10.6 [9.7-11.6]	9.8 [6.8-14.0]	15.0 [12.0-18.5]	15.0 [12.7-17.5]	16.5 [14.1-19.3]	6.0 [5.0-7.2]
Women	7.3** [6.4-8.3]	9.4 [5.6-15.2]	11.8 [8.2-16.5]	10.6 [8.2-13.6]	11.7 [9.4-14.6]	3.6* [2.7-4.8]
Men	14.1 [12.6-15.8]	10.3 [6.0-16.9]	18.0 [13.5-23.7]	19.4 [15.7-23.7]	21.4 [17.2-26.2]	8.7** [6.9-10.8]
Speed	6.4 [5.6-7.2]	8.3 [5.7-11.5]	11.2 [8.4-14.6]	8.0 [6.3-10.2]	6.9 [5.1-9.1]	4.5 [3.6-5.6]
Women	4.1** [3.5-5.0]	9.0 [5.4-14.7]	7.6 [4.7-12.2]	4.2 [2.9-6.2]	4.7 [3.3-6.8]	2.5** [1.8-3.5]
Men	8.7 [7.4-10.2]	7.6 [4.5-12.6]	14.6* [10.3-20.2]	11.9 [8.8-15.8]	9.0 [6.0-13.2]	6.7 [5.0-8.8]
Ecstasy	4.1 [3.6-4.8]	10.1 [7.3-13.9]	13.4 [10.4-17.2]	8.7 [6.8-11.0]	2.3 [1.5-3.6]	0.6Q [0.4-1.0]
Women	3.0** [2.4-3.7]	11.3 [7.3-17.0]	9.9** [6.7-14.4]	4.7* [3.2-6.7]	s	s
Men	5.2 [4.3-6.3]	9.0 [5.4-14.6]	16.9* [12.1-23.0]	12.7 [9.4-16.9]	2.7Q** [1.4-4.9]	s
Any of five illicit drugs^a	16.7 [15.6-17.8]	19.8 [15.7-24.6]	28.1 [23.9-32.8]	24.6 [21.7-27.6]	21.0 [18.4-24.0]	9.2 [8.0-10.6]
Women	12.2** [11.0-13.4]	18.8 [13.5-25.6]	22.5 [17.4-28.6]	17.6 [14.4-21.3]	15.9 [13.1-19.1]	6.3** [5.1-7.7]
Men	21.1 [19.3-23.0]	20.7 [14.9-28.0]	33.5* [27.0-40.7]	31.6 [27.1-36.6]	26.2 [21.8-31.2]	12.4** [10.3-14.9]
Any of six illicit drugs^b	45.6 [44.1-47.1]	54.0 [48.6-59.4]	69.3 [64.2-74.0]	57.7 [54.2-61.2]	55.6 [52.1-59.0]	30.9 [28.8-33.0]
Women	39.9** [38.0-41.8]	47.3 [39.7-55.0]	69.0** [62.1-75.1]	52.9** [48.1-57.6]	53.2 [49.0-57.4]	24.8** [22.4-27.3]
Men	50.6 [48.2-52.9]	60.4 [53.0-67.5]	69.7 [62.0-76.4]	62.7 [57.5-67.6]	58.0 [52.3-63.4]	37.6** [34.2-41.2]
Any of eight illicit drugs^c	45.8 [44.3-47.3]	54.1 [48.6-59.4]	69.5 [64.4-74.2]	57.8 [54.3-61.3]	56.1 [52.6-59.5]	30.9 [28.9-33.1]
Women	39.9** [38.0-41.8]	47.4 [39.7-55.1]	69.1** [62.2-75.2]	52.9* [48.1-57.6]	53.2 [49.0-57.4]	24.8** [22.5-27.3]
Men	50.9 [48.6-53.3]	60.5 [53.0-67.5]	69.9 [62.2-76.7]	62.9 [57.7-67.8]	58.9 [53.3-64.4]	37.7** [34.3-41.3]

Note: CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

s - estimate suppressed due to unacceptably high sampling variability (or cell size less than 30)

Q - qualified release due to high sampling variability

* $p < 0.05$ ** $p < 0.01$, statistically significant compared to men when under the "overall" column; otherwise statistically significant from the estimate from the previous age category

^a Any of five illicit drugs includes cocaine, speed, ecstasy, hallucinogens, and heroin.

^b Any of six illicit drugs includes cannabis, cocaine, speed, ecstasy, hallucinogens, and heroin.

^c Any of eight drugs includes cannabis, cocaine, speed, ecstasy, hallucinogens, inhalants, steroids, and heroin.

Table 4.8 Percentage of lifetime drug use of any of five illicit drugs (cocaine, speed, ecstasy, hallucinogens, heroin), by sex, Canada, aged 15+, 2004.

	Total Population		Women			Men		
	%	CI	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR
		16.5	15.4-17.6	12.2	11.0-13.4		21.1	19.3-23.0
Age (previous age group)	**		**		**	**		NS
15-19	19.8	15.7-24.6	18.8	13.5-25.6	-----	20.7	14.9-28.0	-----
20-24	28.1	23.9-32.8	22.5	17.4-28.6	1.245	33.5	27.0-40.7	1.972*
25-44	22.6	20.6-24.7	16.6	14.5-19.0	0.888	28.6	25.3-32.1	0.943
45+	9.2	8.0-10.6	6.3	5.1-7.7	0.349**	12.4	10.3-14.9	0.363**
Province (Canada)	**		**		**	**		**
Newfoundland and Labrador	8.3	6.6-10.3	s	s	s	12.4	9.4-16.1	0.614**
Prince Edward Island	11.9	10.0-14.3	7.1	5.2-9.6	0.679*	17.1	13.7-21.2	0.904
Nova Scotia	13.4	11.2-15.8	7.8	5.8-10.4	0.741	19.5	15.8-23.8	1.142
New Brunswick	10.8	8.9-13.0	6.5	4.7-9.1	0.598**	15.4	12.2-19.2	0.774
Quebec	18.1	15.8-20.8	12.7	10.2-15.8	1.332*	23.9	20.0-28.3	1.370**
Ontario	14.0	11.8-16.4	9.6	7.4-12.3	0.964	18.7	15.1-22.9	0.981
Manitoba	14.8	13.1-16.8	11.2	9.2-13.6	1.218	18.7	15.8-22.0	1.013
Saskatchewan	14.2	12.1-16.5	12.9	10.3-16.0	1.400**	15.5	12.4-19.2	0.814
Alberta	18.7	17.1-20.4	15.6	13.7-17.7	1.663**	21.8	19.3-24.5	1.081
British Columbia	23.0	21.4-24.6	19.4	17.6-21.4	2.266**	26.7	24.3-29.3	1.698**
Marital Status	**		**		**	**		NS
Married/partnered (C)	13.7	12.4-15.2	9.0	7.7-10.5	-----	18.3	16.1-20.8	-----
Divorced/separated/widowed	13.5	11.1-16.2	10.3	8.0-13.1	1.684**	19.6	14.8-25.6	1.270
Single/never married	24.0	21.7-26.4	20.5	17.6-23.8	2.079**	27.1	23.7-30.8	1.414*
Education	**		**		**	**		**
Less than secondary (C)	14.3	12.0-16.9	10.7	8.2-13.8	-----	18.4	14.6-22.8	-----
Secondary	15.9	14.0-18.1	9.3	7.5-11.4	0.778	22.8	19.5-26.6	1.073
Some post-secondary	21.1	18.9-23.5	16.2	13.9-18.8	1.373	26.5	22.8-30.6	1.160
University degree	13.4	11.5-15.5	11.6	9.4-14.3	0.906	15.3	12.3-18.7	0.596*
Income Adequacy	**		**		*	*		*
Lowest (C)	17.9	14.8-21.6	15.4	12.1-19.4	-----	22.2	16.2-29.6	-----
Middle	17.4	15.7-19.2	13.3	11.4-15.5	0.905	21.6	18.8-24.6	1.055
Highest	19.4	17.1-22.0	13.4	10.8-16.4	1.040	23.9	20.4-27.8	1.382
Not stated	11.8	10.0-13.9	8.4	6.6-10.6	0.643*	16.3	13.0-20.1	0.789
Location of Household	NS		NS		NS	NS		NS
Rural (C)	15.1	12.7-17.9	10.3	7.9-13.3	-----	19.6	15.7-24.2	-----
Non-rural	16.7	15.5-18.0	12.5	11.2-13.9	1.024	21.3	19.4-23.5	1.020

Note: OR - Adjusted Odds Ratio; Adjusted for all variables in the table

CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

(C) - denotes comparison group, unless otherwise specified by parentheses

s - estimate suppressed due to unacceptably high sampling variability (or cell size less than 30)

*p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; NS - not statistically significant

Prevalence estimates in **bold** show where differences among women and men were significant by the conservative method of non-overlapping confidence intervals. The bolded estimates reflect the higher rate.

Chapter 5 - Harms of the Use of Alcohol and Drugs

Highlights

- One in every five women (18.4%) and almost one third of men (30.2%) reported that they experienced harm from their own alcohol use. It was reported by 7.1% of women and 10.5% of men that their own alcohol use in the 12 months prior to the survey had harmed them.
- According to the AUDIT, the highest rates of hazardous drinking behaviors are among women and men aged 18 to 19 years (34.7% and 52.9% respectively).
- For women and men, the most common types of harm experienced among those who consumed illicit drugs were to one's physical health and to one's friendships and social life.
- Among past-year drinkers who reported that they had been hit or physically assaulted by a person who was drinking, one third of women reported their spouse or partner (33.9%) as the aggressor, whereas three quarters of men reported a stranger (74.2%).

Results

Hazardous Drinking

Table 5.1 provides the demographic characteristics of past-year drinkers who scored 8 or more on the AUDIT³, reflecting a hazardous pattern of drinking. Among Canadian women, a score of 8 or more on the AUDIT varied with age, marital status, and location of household; for men, it varied with age, province, marital status and education.

Women aged 18 to 19 years were the most likely to drink hazardously (34.7%), almost three times more likely than women aged 15 to 17. The rate of hazardous drinking declined with age among women, with a significant decline at age 25 to 34. In comparison, the proportion of men who drank hazardously was almost three times higher than that of women (25.1% vs. 8.9%). As they did with women, AUDIT scores of 8 or more also declined with age among men. However, males aged 18 to 19 were not significantly more likely to drink hazardously than those aged 15 to 17. In addition, a significant decrease in hazardous drinking occurred later among men aged 35 to 44.

Men from Newfoundland and Labrador were 1.5 times more likely to drink hazardously, in comparison to men in the rest of Canada, whereas men from Quebec and Saskatchewan were significantly less likely (22.4% and 23.0%). The province of residence did not predict hazardous drinking for women.

Drinking hazardously was three times more likely for women who were single or never married and almost two times more likely for those who were divorced, separated or widowed, compared to married women. Among men, the impact of marital status was not as strong, but the findings are similar. Men who were single or never married and those who were divorced, separated or widowed were more likely than married or partnered men to drink hazardously.

³ The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) was designed to examine hazardous patterns of alcohol use, dependency and harmful consequences of alcohol intake (Babor et al., 2001). The AUDIT consists of a 10-item questionnaire (i.e. frequency of drinking, quantity of drinking, frequency of heavy drinking, lack of control over one's drinking, failure to meet expectations, drinking in the morning, feelings of guilt, black-outs, injuries resulting from drinking, having someone express concern about the person's drinking). An AUDIT score of 8 or higher indicates harmful use or possibly alcohol dependence.

Hazardous drinking became less likely for men as their education level increased: 33.8% of men who had less than a secondary education reported drinking hazardously, compared to 29.7% of those with a secondary education, 24.9% of those with some post-secondary education and only 16.8% of those with a university degree.

Women living in non-rural locations were four times more likely to drink hazardously than those living in rural locations.

Key Differences and Similarities: Overall, the proportion of men who drank hazardously was almost three times greater than that of women. Although with increasing age, hazardous drinking decreased for both women and men, the first significant decrease in the rate of hazardous drinking occurred at a younger age for women than for men. Among men, the rate of hazardous drinking varied significantly with province and education, but this was not observed for women. The odds of hazardous drinking were highest among women and men who were not married or partnered. As education increased, the rate of hazardous drinking for men decreased. Women from non-rural households were more likely to drink hazardously than women from rural households. For men, however, household location was not associated with hazardous drinking.

Harm from One's Own Drinking

Women were less likely than men to report harm in their lifetime as a result of their own drinking. Almost one in every five women reported that they had experienced harm from their own alcohol use in their lifetime, compared to 30.2% of men (Table 5.2). Among women, the two most commonly cited lifetime harms were to physical health (11.3%) and friends and social life (10.1%). This was also reflected in reports of past-year harms by women, with 3.9% reporting physical harm and 2.1% harm to friendships and social life. Among men, harm to physical health and harm to friendships and social life were also the most commonly identified lifetime (18.3% and 18.4%) and past year (6.8% and 3.9%) harms. In each of the areas identified, males reported significantly more harms than did females.

Table 5.3 presents the demographic characteristics of Canadians who experienced harm from their own drinking in the 12 months prior to the survey. This table provides the adjusted odds ratios from two separate logistic regressions for both males and females. The first regression includes all the demographic characteristics, and the second regression also takes into account the respondents' pattern of drinking.

On average, 7.1% of women and 10.5% of men reported having experienced harm in the past year. When controlling for demographic characteristics only, past-year harm was associated with age and marital status for women and with age and income adequacy for men. When drinking pattern was controlled for, age and marital status were still significant predictors among women, and age and income adequacy remained significant for men.

The rate of harm experienced by women and men during the past year decreased with age. There was a significant decrease in the rate of reported harm at ages 25 to 34 for women. The odds of having experienced harm were 2.4 times more likely for males aged 18 to 19 than for those aged 15 to 17, and the first significant decrease in reported harm was apparent among males 20 to 24 years of age, and then reported harm decreased steadily with increasing age. When drinking pattern was controlled for, the effects of

age remained the same among women. For men, when controlling for drinking pattern, 18- to 19-year-olds were no longer more likely than 15- to 17-year-olds to report experiencing harm when the pattern was the same. However, 20- to 24-year-olds remained significantly less likely than 18- to 19-year-olds to report at least one harm.

The odds of women reporting past-year harm from their drinking were 2.5 times greater among those who were formerly married and 1.7 times higher among those who were single in comparison to women who were married. When controlling for pattern of drinking, however, there was no difference between single women and married women in terms of their reported harm. However, even when drinking similarly, formerly married women still had increased odds of reporting harm in comparison to married women. Marital status did not predict reported harms due to drinking among men.

For men, income adequacy was associated with reported harm, and although no significant effects were noted between the groups, it appears that, as income adequacy increased for men, their odds of reporting harms due to drinking decreased.

For both women and men, the odds of reporting harm during the past year increased significantly as quantity and frequency of consumption increased. Those who drank lightly and infrequently were significantly less likely to report having experienced harm than those who drank lightly and frequently, heavily and infrequently or heavily and frequently.

Key Differences and Similarities: Women who were formerly married or single were more likely than married women to report harm from their alcohol use. However, marital status did not predict the likelihood of harm for men. For women there was a significant decrease in reported harm at ages 25 to 34, but this significant shift occurs earlier for men, at age 20 to 24. For both gender groups, as age increased the prevalence of reported harm decreased, and as drinking frequency and quantity increased, the prevalence of reported harm also increased.

Harm from the Drinking of Others

Table 5.4 shows the type of harm experienced in the prior year resulting from the drinking of others. Approximately one third of women (32.5%) and one third of men (32.9%) had experienced harm from the drinking of others. Having been insulted and humiliated was the most commonly reported harm among women (21.9%), followed by having serious arguments or quarrels (16.1%), verbal abuse (14.5%) and family or marriage problems (13.1%). Having been pushed or shoved and hit or physically assaulted were the least-reported harms (8.3% and 2.0% respectively).

Among men, the rate of reported harm is similar to that of women, with having been insulted or humiliated the most common (22.3%), followed by having experienced verbal abuse (17.2%), serious arguments and quarrels (14.8%) and having been pushed or shoved (13.3%). In comparison to women, men reported fewer family or marriage problems resulting from others' drinking (7.7%). However, men reported significantly higher rates of aggressive harms, including being pushed or shoved, verbally abused or being hit or physically assaulted.

Among those who reported having been hit or physically assaulted in the past year as a result of others' drinking, differences exist between males and females as to the relationship between the aggressor and the victim (Table 5.5). Approximately one third of women (33.9%) reported that their aggressor was a spouse or partner. The number of such reports among men, however, was so low as to be non-reportable. The majority of men (74.2%), compared to 34.2% of women, reported that their aggressor was another person.

About one in five women (20.8%) who had been assaulted reported it had been by a friend. More than one in 10 women (11.2%) reported that a family member other than their spouse or partners, such as parent, child or relative, had assaulted them. Among men who reported being hit or physically assaulted by someone who had been drinking, 13.0% reported that the aggressor was a friend, while the number reporting the aggressor being another family member was non-reportable.

Table 5.6 presents the demographic characteristics of Canadian women and men who experienced at least one type of harm from the drinking of others during the year prior to the survey. When adjusted for drinking patterns and other demographics, incidence of harm varied with age, province, marital status, location of household and drinking pattern among women, and with age, province, marital status, education, and drinking pattern among men.

Younger women and men were most vulnerable to experiencing harm from other people's drinking. Among 20- to 24-year-olds, 58.2% of women and 58.5% of men reported experiencing at least one harm. There was a significant decrease in reported harm with increasing age for both women and men.

Women from British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba were more likely to have experienced alcohol-related harm from others' drinking, when compared to those in the rest of Canada (35.9%, 37.7%, and 36.3% respectively), whereas those from Newfoundland and Labrador were the least likely to report having experienced such harm (28.0%). When controlling for drinking pattern, men from Alberta were more likely to have experienced alcohol-related harm from the drinking of others, when compared to the rest of Canada (39.9%), and those from Ontario were least likely (31.2%).

Formerly married women and single or never-married women were more likely than married or partnered women to have experienced harm. This pattern is also observed in men.

Education overall predicted harm from others' drinking among men when controlling for drinking pattern, but there were no significant differences between each level of education and the comparison group of less than secondary schooling.

Women from non-rural locations were less likely (31.9%) to report harm, compared to women residing in rural locations (36.2%). Household location did not predict harm from others' drinking for men.

The incidence of reported harms as a result of another person's drinking increased notably with more frequent and heavy drinking patterns. Women who drank heavily and frequently reported experiencing significantly more alcohol-related harm from the drinking of others in the 12 months prior to the survey than was reported by abstainers (68.8% vs. 19.4%). Although drinking patterns overall were significant predictors of harm from others' drinking for men, significant differences among each of the patterns were not observed.

Key Differences and Similarities: In terms of reported harm from the drinking of others, an equal proportion of women and men reported having experienced harm from others' drinking. For both women and men, having been insulted or humiliated was the most commonly reported harm, and having been hit or physically assaulted was the least common. Among those who had been hit or physically assaulted, however, there were differences between men and women in terms of their relation to their aggressor. For women, one third were victimized by a spouse or partner, while the rate of victimization in such a relationship was so low among men as to be non-reportable. Instead the majority of men were victimized by some other person. As age increased, the proportion of women and men reporting harm from others' drinking decreased. Marital status and drinking pattern predicted harm from the drinking of others for both women and men. However, women who drank heavily and frequently were four times more likely to have experienced harm than those who abstained from drinking.

Harms Resulting from One's Own Illicit Drug Use

Table 5.7 presents the types of harms experienced as a result of one's own use of illicit drugs for women and men. One in every five women (19.8%) who have ever used any of eight illicit drugs (cannabis, cocaine, speed, hallucinogens, ecstasy, inhalants, heroin, and steroids) reported that they had experienced harm from their drug use. The proportion of men reporting such harm was significantly greater at 27.2%. Among women, harm to physical health (13.5%) was the most commonly cited, followed by friendships and social life (7.7%), home life or marriage (6.5%) and work, studies or employment opportunities (6.4%). Among men, harm to physical health was also the most commonly cited (16.4%), followed by friendships and social life (13.2%), and work, studies and employment opportunities (11.6%).

Among women who had used any of five illicit drugs (cocaine, speed, hallucinogens, ecstasy and heroin), 40.4% reported that they had experienced at least one harm from their drug use. Among men who had used any of those five illicit drugs, almost half (48.9%), reported experiencing harm. The most commonly cited harms among both women and men were harm to physical health (27.9% and 31.8%) and harm to friendships and social life (16.9% and 25.5%). Harms to home life or marriage, work, studies or employment, and harm to financial position were similar among women and men; approximately 15% of women and 20% of men reported harm in each category.

Table 5.8 presents the demographic characteristics of Canadian women and men who experienced at least one type of harm from their own illicit drug use. Women who had used any of eight illicit drugs were less likely to have experienced harm from their own drug use than were men (19.8% vs. 27.2%). Among women, reported harm varied with age and income adequacy. For men it varied with age, region, and education.

Among women and men, those in the younger age categories reported more harm as a result of their illicit drug use, and the rate decreased steadily with increasing age.

Women in the highest income-adequacy group were significantly less likely than those in the lowest to report having experienced harm from their illicit drug use (14.0% vs. 32.6%). Income adequacy was not associated with harm from illicit drug use for men.

Among men, those from British Columbia were more likely to experience harm (29.6%) than those from the rest of Canada. However, there was no association between region and illicit drug related harm for women.

Men with higher education were at a lower risk for experiencing harm as a result of their illicit drug use, but this was not demonstrated for women.

Key Differences and Similarities: Younger women and men reported a greater proportion of harm than those in the older age groups. Women in the highest income-adequacy group were less likely to experience harm than those in the lowest income group, while there was no association between income adequacy and harm for men. Males from British Columbia were more likely to experience harm than males from other regions of Canada, but such regional differences do not exist for women. As education level increased, men were less likely to experience harm from their own drug use, but there was no relation between education and harm for women.

Summary and Discussion

In general, the proportion of men reporting drinking hazardously in the past year was almost three times that of women. Men were also significantly more likely to report experiencing at least one harm in the past year from their own drinking, and significantly more likely to report experiencing one or more types of harm from their own use of illicit drugs. For both sexes, young adults were the most likely to drink hazardously, and the odds were highest among women and men who were not married or partnered.

For both women and men, the most commonly reported harms experienced as a result of their own use of alcohol or illicit drugs were similar. For both women and men, the prevalence of reported harm due to their use of alcohol decreased with increasing age. For women, however, having been formerly married resulted in an increased likelihood of alcohol related harm, while marital status was not associated with reported harm for men.

In terms of harms due to their illicit drug use, men reported significantly higher rates of harm in each of the eight areas examined, with the exception of physical health and learning. As with alcohol, for both women and men, the likelihood of reported harm as a result of one's own drug use decreased with increasing age. Women in the highest income adequacy group were significantly less likely to report harm from their own use of illicit drugs than those in the lowest, and for men, increased education was associated with a lower likelihood of illicit drug related harm.

In terms of reported harm due to the drinking of others, women and men reported similar rates of harm overall, and the most commonly cited harm was the same for both: having been insulted or humiliated. Women were more likely than men to report family or marriage problems resulting from the drinking of others, whereas men were more likely than women to report having been pushed or shoved or verbally abused. Differences in the relationship to the perpetrator of physical violence were found, with the perpetrator of violence toward women most often being a partner, while the perpetrator of violence toward men was most often a stranger.

The 2004 CAS questionnaire did not inquire about the types of harms experienced from other people's illicit drug use. This and other questions identified in this section will need to be investigated in future surveys, to support our understanding of and action on gender-specific strategies to prevent harms associated with substance use.

Table 5.1 Percentage of hazardous drinking (AUDIT 8+) during the past year among current drinkers, by sex, Canada, aged 15+, 2004.

	Total Population		Women			Men		
	%	CI	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR
	17.0	15.8-18.4	8.9	7.8-10.3		25.1	23.0-27.5	
Age (previous age group)	**		**			**	**	
15-17	30.9	23.7-31.1	18.1	10.9-28.4	---	46.5	35.2-58.1	---
18-19	44.6	35.8-53.7	34.7	23.8-47.6	2.813*	52.9	40.4-65.1	1.972
20-24	34.2	29.1-39.5	26.7	20.5-34.1	0.778	40.7	33.3-48.7	0.803
25-34	21.1	18.2-24.4	9.7	7.2-12.9	0.427**	32.0	27.1-37.3	0.832
35-44	14.2	11.7-17.1	7.3	5.2-10.2	0.842	21.0	16.6-26.2	0.534**
45-54	14.0	11.1-17.1	5.1	3.2-8.1	0.736	22.8	17.7-28.8	1.072
55-64	10.8	7.9-14.6	s	s	s	17.6	12.6-24.0	0.680
65+	4.1	2.3-7.2	s	s	s	s	s	s
Province (Canada)	*		NS			NS	NS	
Newfoundland and Labrador	22.9	19.8-26.4	9.9	7.3-13.3	0.815	35.3	30.0-41.1	1.499**
Prince Edward Island	21.4	17.9-24.7	11.7	8.5-15.8	0.992	31.2	25.9-37.1	1.152
Nova Scotia	20.8	17.7-24.2	11.3	8.4-15.2	1.137	30.0	25.0-35.5	1.236
New Brunswick	18.7	15.9-22.0	10.0	7.2-13.6	1.067	27.6	22.8-33.1	0.960
Quebec	14.4	12.0-17.1	6.6Q	4.6-9.3	0.611**	22.4	18.3-27.2	0.750*
Ontario	17.4	14.7-20.5	8.6	6.2-11.8	0.944	26.4	21.7-31.6	1.022
Manitoba	18.9	16.6-21.5	10.3	8.0-13.2	1.045	27.7	23.8-32.0	1.055
Saskatchewan	17.3	14.8-20.2	11.5	8.7-15.0	1.148	23.0	18.9-27.6	0.754*
Alberta	19.1	17.3-21.1	11.4	9.5-13.6	1.239	26.4	23.4-29.6	0.926
British Columbia	17.0	15.4-18.6	10.9	9.3-12.8	1.189	22.9	20.4-25.6	0.865
Marital Status	**		**			**	**	
Married/partnered (C)	12.1	10.6-13.7	4.5	3.5-5.8	---	19.0	16.4-21.9	---
Divorced/separated/widowed	12.1	9.4-15.5	4.6	3.0-7.1	1.886*	25.5	19.0-33.4	1.787*
Single/never married	29.6	26.8-32.6	21.3	17.9-25.2	3.176**	36.8	32.5-41.2	1.449*
Education	**		*			NS	**	
Less than secondary (C)	21.8	18.2-25.8	10.3	7.4-14.2	---	33.8	27.7-40.6	---
Secondary	19.2	16.7-21.9	8.6	6.4-11.3	0.642	29.7	25.4-34.2	0.574**
Some post-secondary	17.8	15.6-20.3	11.0	8.8-13.7	0.865	24.9	21.1-29.1	0.432**
University degree	11.5	9.5-14.0	6.1	4.3-8.6	0.560	16.8	13.2-21.0	0.303**
Income Adequacy	*		**			NS	NS	
Lowest (C)	22.6	18.3-27.5	17.0	12.6-22.6	---	32.5	24.2-42.2	---
Middle	16.8	14.8-19.1	8.1	6.4-10.2	0.631	25.6	22.1-29.4	1.028
Highest	17.5	15.1-20.2	8.7	6.4-11.7	0.824	23.8	20.1-27.9	1.140
Not stated	14.8	12.5-17.5	7.1	5.2-9.6	0.513*	24.2	19.9-29.3	0.934
Location of Household	NS		NS			*	NS	
Rural (C)	18.7	15.7-22.1	10.6	7.7-14.4	---	25.9	21.0-31.3	---
Non-rural	16.7	15.3-18.2	8.7	7.4-10.1	4.505*	25.0	22.6-27.6	1.032

Note: OR - Adjusted Odds Ratio; Adjusted for all variables in the table
 CI - Confidence Interval (95%)
 (C) - denotes comparison group, unless otherwise specified by parentheses
 s - estimate suppressed due to unacceptably high sampling variability (or cell size less than 30)
 Q - qualified release due to high sampling variability
 * p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; NS - not statistically significant
 Prevalence estimates in **bold** show where differences among women and men were significant by the conservative method of non-overlapping confidence intervals. The bolded estimates reflect the higher rate.

Table 5.2 Percentage of lifetime and past-year harms from one's own alcohol use among lifetime and past-year drinkers, by sex, Canada, aged 15+, 2004.

Types of Harm	Lifetime Harm ^a			Past-year Harm ^b		
	Alcohol use had a harmful effect on your...	χ^2	Women % Yes [CI]	Men % Yes [CI]	χ^2	Women % Yes [CI]
Friendships and social life	**	10.1 [9.0-11.4]	18.4 [16.7-20.2]	**	2.1 [1.6-2.9]	3.9 [3.1-5.1]
Physical health	**	11.3 [10.2-12.7]	18.3 [16.5-20.1]	**	3.9 [3.2-4.9]	6.8 [5.6-8.3]
Home life or marriage	**	4.7 [4.0-5.4]	11.6 [10.2-13.2]	**	0.8 [0.6-1.2]	2.8 [2.1-3.9]
Work, studies or employment opportunities	**	4.4 [3.7-5.3]	9.3 [8.0-10.8]	*	1.1 [0.8-1.7]	2.2 [1.6-3.2]
Financial position	**	4.3 [3.6-5.1]	9.6 [8.4-11.1]	*	2.1 [1.5-2.0]	3.3 [2.5-4.3]
Legal Problems	**	1.1 [0.8-1.6]	6.7 [5.6-7.9]	**	s	1.1 [0.6-1.8]
Housing problems	**	0.5 [0.3-0.7]	1.8 [1.3-2.5]	NS	s	s
Learning	**	1.6 [1.2-2.2]	2.9 [2.2-3.9]	NS	0.4 [0.2-0.7]	0.7 [0.3-1.3]
One or more types of harm	**	18.4 [16.9-20.0]	30.2 [28.1-32.3]	**	7.1 [6.0-8.4]	10.5 [9.1-12.2]

Note: CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

s - estimate suppressed due to unacceptably high sampling variability (or cell size less than 30)

a Lifetime harm: percentages include current and former drinkers.

b Past-year harm: percentages based on current drinkers only.

* $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; NS - not statistically significant, women compared to men

Table 5.3 Percentage experiencing at least one harm during the past year resulting from one's own drinking among past-year drinkers, by sex, Canada, aged 15+, 2004.

	Total Population		Women				Men			
	%	CI	%	CI	OR	OR +	%	CI	OR	OR +
	8.8	7.9-9.9	7.1	6.0-8.4			10.5	9.1-12.2		
Age (previous age group)	**		**		**	**	**		**	**
15-17	20.5	14.7-27.9	20.0	12.1-31.2	---	---	21.2	13.6-31.4	---	---
18-19	29.1	21.6-37.9	25.7	16.3-38.1	1.038	0.561	32.0	21.4-44.9	2.400*	1.842
20-24	19.1	15.1-23.9	19.3	13.7-26.5	0.728	0.740	19.0	13.7-25.8	0.499*	0.384*
25-34	8.6	6.8-10.9	5.1	3.5-7.5	0.262**	0.342**	11.9	8.8-15.8	0.599	0.660
35-44	7.1	5.3-9.4	6.4	4.4-9.4	1.285	1.124	7.7	5.1-11.5	0.624	0.728
45-64	5.9	4.5-7.7	4.3	2.8-6.5	0.636	0.630	7.4	5.2-10.5	0.916	0.873
65+	2.8	1.4-5.7	s	s	s	s	4.9	2.1-11.1	0.576	0.749
Region (Canada)	NS		NS		NS	NS	NS		NS	NS
Atlantic regions	7.9	6.8-9.2	5.2	4.1-6.7	0.717**	0.694**	10.6	8.8-12.7	0.958	0.841
Quebec	8.4	6.6-10.6	6.7	4.7-9.4	0.966	0.995	10.2	7.4-13.9	0.917	1.027
Ontario	9.1	7.1-11.5	7.8	5.6-10.8	1.340	1.373	10.3	7.4-14.3	1.014	1.029
Prairies	9.0	8.1-10.0	6.8	5.7-8.1	1.021	1.011	11.1	9.6-12.8	1.011	1.026
British Columbia	9.1	7.9-10.4	7.0	5.7-8.6	1.055	1.044	11.1	9.3-13.2	1.111	1.097
Marital Status	**		**		**	*	**		NS	NS
Married/partnered (C)	6.0	4.9-7.3	4.0	2.9-5.4	---	---	7.8	6.1-10.0	---	---
Divorced/separated/widowed	7.1	5.1-9.8	5.8	3.8-8.6	2.581**	2.280**	9.4	5.6-15.6	1.415	1.093
Single/never married	15.4	13.3-17.8	14.6	11.6-18.1	1.759*	1.642	16.2	13.3-19.6	1.151	1.023
Education	*		NS		NS	NS	*		NS	NS
Less than secondary (C)	11.1	8.6-14.3	6.7	4.5-9.9	---	---	15.9	11.5-21.7	---	---
Secondary	9.7	7.9-11.8	7.9	5.7-10.8	1.434	1.571	11.5	8.9-14.7	0.567*	0.653
Some post-secondary	8.7	7.1-10.5	7.5	5.7-9.9	1.531	1.695	9.8	7.5-12.8	0.526*	0.613
University degree	7.0	5.3-9.2	6.1	4.2-8.9	1.591	1.562	7.9	5.4-11.5	0.505*	0.705
Income Adequacy	*		*		NS	NS	NS		*	*
Lowest (C)	13.2	10.0-17.2	12.1	8.2-17.4	---	---	15.2	10.1-22.1	---	---
Middle	9.4	7.9-11.1	6.5	4.9-8.6	0.621	0.618	12.2	9.7-15.2	1.114	0.972
Highest	7.9	6.2-10.1	5.9	4.1-8.6	0.626	0.548	9.3	6.8-12.7	0.935	0.699
Not stated	7.5	5.9-9.4	6.9	4.9-9.6	0.679	0.716	8.1	5.9-11.1	0.595	0.495*
Location of Household	NS		NS		NS	NS	NS		NS	NS
Rural (C)	8.4	6.5-10.8	6.9	4.6-10.1	---	---	9.7	6.9-13.6	---	---
Non-rural	8.9	7.9-10.1	7.1	5.9-8.6	0.826	0.913	10.7	9.1-12.6	1.095	1.144
Drinking Pattern	**					**				**
Light-infrequent (C)	3.5	2.8-4.5	3.5	2.6-4.7		---	3.6	2.4-5.2		---
Light-frequent	9.1	7.4-11.2	9.6	7.2-12.8		4.111**	8.7	6.5-11.6		3.161**
Heavy-infrequent	16.0	12.2-20.8	14.1	9.1-21.2		2.668**	17.1	12.1-23.6		4.117**
Heavy-frequent	31.5	26.3-37.2	37.9	27.3-49.8		10.443**	29.8	24.0-36.3		10.551**

Note: OR - Adjusted Odds Ratio; Adjusted for all demographic variables in the table
OR + - Adjusted Odds Ratio; Adjusted for all demographic variables + drinking pattern
CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

(C) - denotes comparison group, unless otherwise specified by parentheses

s - estimate suppressed due to unacceptably high sampling variability (or cell size less than 30)

* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; NS - not statistically significant

Prevalence estimates in **bold** show where differences among women and men were significant by the conservative method of non-overlapping confidence intervals. The bolded estimates reflect the higher rate.

Table 5.4 Percentage of past-year harms resulting from the drinking of others, by sex, Canada, aged 18+, 2004.

Types of Harm from Drinking by Others	Past-year Harm		
	χ^2	Women % Yes [CI]	Men % Yes [CI]
Insulted or humiliated	NS	21.9 [20.3-23.6]	22.3 [20.4-24.3]
Family or marriage problems	**	13.1 [11.8-14.4]	7.7 [6.5-9.1]
Pushed or shoved	**	8.3 [7.3-9.5]	13.3 [11.8-14.9]
Serious arguments or quarrels	NS	16.1 [14.7-17.6]	14.8 [13.3-16.5]
Verbal abuse	*	14.5 [13.2-15.9]	17.2 [15.5-19.1]
Hit or physically assaulted	**	2.0 [1.6-2.6]	4.5 [3.7-5.4]
One or more types of harm	NS	32.6 [30.7-34.5]	32.9 [30.7-35.2]

Note: CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

* $p < 0.05$; ** $p < 0.01$; NS - not statistically significant, women compared to men

Table 5.5 Relationship between aggressor and victim among those reporting past-year physical harm or assault resulting from the drinking of others, by sex, Canada, aged 18+, 2004.

Aggressor	Percentage Reporting Physical Harm	
	Women (N = 239) % [CI]	Men (N = 353) % [CI]
Spouse or partner	33.9 [23.3-46.3]	s
Other family ^a	11.2 [5.8-20.6]	s
Friend	20.8 [11.7-34.2]	13.0 [8.5-19.4]
Another person	34.2 [24.2-45.8]	74.2 [66.5-80.7]

Note: CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

s - estimate suppressed due to unacceptably high sampling variability (or cell size less than 30)

a Other family includes parents, children, or relatives.

Table 5.6 Percentage of one or more harms resulting from the drinking of others in the past year, by sex, Canada, aged 18+, 2004.

	Total Population		Women				Men			
	%	CI	%	CI	OR	OR +	%	CI	OR	OR +
	32.7	31.3-34.2	32.6	30.7-34.5			32.9	30.7-35.2		
Age (previous age group)	**		**		**	**	**		**	**
18-19	62.6	54.3-70.2	57.2	45.4-68.2	---	---	67.4	55.8-77.2	---	---
20-24	58.3	53.0-63.4	58.2	50.9-65.1	1.032	1.138	58.5	50.7-65.8	0.657	0.610
25-34	41.9	38.5-45.4	42.5	37.9-47.2	0.573**	0.599**	41.3	36.3-46.4	0.567**	0.589**
35-44	32.7	29.6-35.9	34.2	30.3-38.2	0.695**	0.695**	31.1	26.5-36.2	0.650**	0.651**
45-54	30.4	27.2-33.8	30.5	26.5-34.7	0.854	0.866	30.4	25.5-35.8	0.969	0.922
55-64	24.8	21.5-28.3	27.9	23.6-32.7	0.843	0.854	21.6	17.0-27.0	0.653*	0.699
65-74	14.9	11.5-19.0	13.0	9.4-17.7	0.365**	0.365**	17.0	11.6-24.4	0.725	0.727
75+	5.4	3.4-8.5	6.8	3.8-11.7	0.451*	0.472*	3.1	1.7-5.7	0.146**	0.144**
Province (Canada)	**				**	**	NS		NS	*
Newfoundland and Labrador	29.7	26.7-32.9	28.0	24.4-31.9	0.720**	0.703**	31.5	26.8-36.6	0.934	0.892
Prince Edward Island	33.6	30.6-36.9	33.0	29.1-37.1	0.944	0.939	34.3	29.6-39.4	1.128	1.121
Nova Scotia	32.1	28.9-35.4	29.5	25.6-33.8	0.854	0.858	34.9	30.1-40.1	1.156	1.169
New Brunswick	31.4	28.4-34.6	31.9	28.0-36.1	1.022	1.035	30.9	26.3-35.8	0.842	0.822
Quebec	30.2	27.3-33.3	29.3	25.7-33.3	0.849	0.842	31.2	26.7-36.0	0.836	0.857
Ontario	31.8	28.8-35.0	32.4	28.5-36.5	1.016	1.043	31.2	26.6-36.1	0.818	0.802*
Manitoba	36.2	33.7-38.8	36.3	33.0-39.7	1.212*	1.214*	36.2	32.3-40.2	1.115	1.107
Saskatchewan	35.7	32.7-38.9	37.7	33.2-41.5	1.234*	1.219*	34.1	29.5-38.9	1.019	1.075
Alberta	38.0	35.9-40.1	36.1	33.4-38.9	1.107	1.108	39.9	36.7-43.2	1.184*	1.205*
British Columbia	35.4	33.6-37.3	35.9	33.5-38.3	1.183**	1.185**	34.9	32.2-37.8	1.060	1.056
Marital Status	**		**		**	**			**	**
Married/partnered (C)	28.2	26.5-30.0	30.1	27.7-32.5	---	---	26.4	23.9-29.2	---	---
Divorced/separated/widowed	27.9	24.6-31.5	25.9	22.3-29.8	1.562**	1.534**	31.8	25.3-39.2	1.725**	1.716**
Single/never married	46.8	43.7-50.0	45.9	41.6-50.2	1.304*	1.270	47.6	43.2-52.1	1.408*	1.375*
Education	**		**		NS	NS	**		NS	*
Less than secondary (C)	25.6	22.4-29.2	24.6	20.5-29.3	---	---	26.7	21.8-32.4	---	---
Secondary	31.9	29.2-34.6	30.8	27.3-34.4	0.948	0.934	33.0	29.1-37.3	0.890	1.009
Some post-secondary	38.6	36.0-41.4	37.7	34.4-41.1	1.155	1.118	39.6	35.4-44.0	1.193	1.378
University degree	30.8	28.1-33.7	33.3	29.6-37.2	1.022	0.993	28.4	24.4-32.8	0.838	0.958
Income Adequacy	*		**		NS	NS	**		NS	NS
Lowest (C)	37.9	33.4-42.5	34.6	29.7-39.6	---	---	43.3	35.0-51.9	---	---
Middle	33.4	31.1-35.7	34.9	31.9-38.0	0.948	0.925	31.8	28.5-35.3	0.681	0.697
Highest	34.1	31.2-37.0	34.7	30.8-38.9	1.155	0.873	33.6	29.6-37.8	0.797	0.766
Not stated	28.1	25.3-31.1	26.5	23.2-30.1	1.022	0.779	30.2	25.6-35.2	0.624*	0.639
Location of Household	NS		NS		**	**	NS		NS	NS
Rural (C)	32.2	29.0-35.6	36.2	31.9-40.7	---	---	28.5	23.9-33.5	---	---
Non-rural	32.8	31.3-34.5	31.9	29.9-34.0	0.718**	0.724**	33.8	31.3-36.4	1.183	1.246
Drinking Pattern			**			**	**			**
Abstainer (C)	23.9	18.9-29.8	19.4	14.4-25.6		---	31.4	21.4-43.4		---
Former	30.1	26.5-33.9	28.6	24.4-33.2		1.520	31.9	26.0-38.4		1.064
Light-infrequent	30.8	28.7-33.1	33.1	30.4-35.9		1.552*	27.1	23.5-31.0		0.623
Light-frequent	31.1	28.3-34.0	31.8	27.9-36.0		1.614*	30.6	26.8-34.7		0.889
Heavy-infrequent	46.8	40.6-53.1	47.6	38.4-56.8		1.721	46.4	38.2-54.7		0.978
Heavy-frequent	52.3	46.3-58.2	68.6	57.1-78.1		4.007**	48.0	41.3-54.7		1.197

Note: OR - Adjusted Odds Ratio; Adjusted for all demographic variables in the table
OR + - Adjusted Odds Ratio; Adjusted for all demographic variables + drinking pattern
CI - Confidence Interval (95%)
(C) - denotes comparison group, unless otherwise specified by parentheses
* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; NS - not statistically significant

Prevalence estimates in **bold** show where differences among women and men were significant by the conservative method of non-overlapping confidence intervals. The bolded estimates reflect the higher rate.

Table 5.7 Percentage of lifetime harms resulting from one's own drug use, by sex, Canada, aged 15+, 2004.

Types of Harm	Any of Eight Illicit Drugs Including Cannabis ^a			Any of Five Illicit Drugs Other than Cannabis ^b		
	X ²	Women % Yes [CI]	Men % Yes [CI]	X ²	Women % Yes [CI]	Men % Yes [CI]
Friendships and social life	**	7.7 [6.2-9.4]	13.2 [11.2-15.4]	**	16.9 [13.4-21.2]	25.5 [21.5-30.1]
Physical health	NS	13.5 [11.6-15.6]	16.4 [14.3-18.8]	NS	27.9 [23.4- 32.9]	31.8 [27.4-36.5]
Home life or marriage	**	6.5 [5.2-8.1]	10.6 [8.8-12.7]	*	15.3 [11.9-19.5]	21.2 [17.4-25.5]
Work, studies or employment opportunities	**	6.4 [5.0-7.9]	11.6 [9.7-13.8]	*	15.2 [11.8-19.2]	21.3 [17.5-25.6]
Financial position	**	5.6 [4.3-7.1]	10.8 [9.1-12.8]	**	15.0 [11.6-19.1]	22.4 [18.7-26.7]
Legal problems	**	1.7 [1.1-2.5]	6.3 [4.9-8.1]	**	4.3 [2.8-6.7]	13.4 [10.3-17.3]
Housing problems	*	1.2 [0.8-1.8]	2.5 [1.6-3.8]	NS	3.0Q [1.8-5.0]	5.3 [3.3-8.2]
Learning	NS	5.0 [3.9-6.4]	7.0 [5.5-8.8]	NS	11.0 [8.1-14.7]	12.6 [9.7-16.3]
One or more types of harm	**	19.8 [17.6-22.3]	27.2 [24.5-30.1]	*	40.4 [35.3-45.7]	48.9 [44.0-53.9]

Note: CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

Q – qualified release due to high sampling variability

* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; NS - not statistically significant, women compared to men

a Respondents reporting harm from their own use of any of the following eight drugs: cannabis, cocaine, speed, hallucinogens, ecstasy, inhalants, heroin, and steroids.

b Respondents reporting harm from their own use of any of the following five illicit drugs: cocaine, speed, hallucinogens, ecstasy, and heroin.

Table 5.8 Percentage of one or more harms resulting from one's own lifetime drug use, by sex, Canada, aged 15+, 2004.

	Total Population		Women			Men		
	%	CI	%	CI	OR	%	CI	OR
	23.8	22.0-25.8	19.8	17.6-22.3		27.2	24.5-30.1	
Age (previous age group)	**		**		*	**		**
15-17	37.6	28.1-48.1	40.4	25.6-57.2	---	35.2	24.0-48.3	---
18-19	43.6	33.6-54.1	42.8	29.1-57.7	1.273	44.2	30.7-58.6	2.104
20-24	29.9	24.7-35.7	25.3	18.5-33.5	0.463	34.3	26.7-42.8	0.817
25-34	25.4	21.7-29.5	20.3	15.8-25.8	0.920	28.9	23.6-34.9	0.909
35-44	22.4	18.9-26.4	16.8	13.0-21.3	0.784	27.8	22.2-34.2	0.922
45-64	18.3	15.2-21.8	13.7	10.4-18.0	0.829	20.8	16.3-26.2	0.726
65+	5.2	2.3-11.5	s	s	s	2.7	0.9-7.7	0.120**
Region (Canada)	NS		NS		NS	NS		**
Atlantic regions	19.5	17.3-21.9	17.7	14.7-21.2	0.859	20.9	17.9-24.3	0.706
Quebec	24.5	20.7-28.8	19.2	14.6-24.9	0.891	28.8	23.2-35.2	1.015
Ontario	22.4	18.4-26.9	18.2	13.5-24.2	0.977	25.0	19.1-32.0	1.026
Prairies	26.1	24.2-28.0	23.5	21.0-26.1	1.238*	28.2	25.4-31.1	1.067
British Columbia	25.7	23.5-28.0	20.6	17.8-23.6	1.080	29.6	26.3-33.1	1.275**
Marital Status	**		**		NS	**		NS
Married/partnered (C)	18.8	16.5-21.3	13.8	11.4-16.8	---	22.4	18.9-26.4	---
Divorced/separated/widowed	22.9	18.2-28.4	20.1	14.7-26.8	1.481	27.1	19.2-36.9	1.422
Single/never married	31.5	28.1-35.1	28.3	23.7-33.4	1.408	33.1	28.5-38.1	1.322
Education	**		**		NS	**		**
Less than secondary (C)	35.5	30.1-41.3	29.9	22.7-38.3	---	39.5	32.1-47.5	---
Secondary	26.8	23.1-30.9	21.2	16.5-26.7	0.769	30.5	25.3-36.3	0.626*
Some post-secondary	22.3	19.4-25.5	20.5	16.8-24.8	0.798	23.4	19.2-28.2	0.465**
University degree	17.1	13.9-20.8	13.3	9.9-17.6	0.587	20.4	15.3-26.6	0.456**
Income Adequacy	NS		**		*	**		NS
Lowest (C)	36.3	30.0-43.0	32.6	25.2-40.9	---	41.1	30.7-52.5	---
Middle	25.0	22.1-28.1	19.9	16.4-24.0	0.661	28.8	24.5-33.4	0.712
Highest	17.8	14.9-21.1	14.0	10.5-18.3	0.488*	20.4	16.3-25.2	0.514*
Not stated	24.9	20.8-29.5	19.4	14.6-25.3	0.520*	28.8	22.6-35.8	0.708
Location of Household	NS		NS		NS	NS		NS
Rural (C)	21.3	14.1-31.0	16.4	11.9-22.1	---	25.3	19.3-32.4	---
Non-rural	17.0	14.2-20.2	20.2	17.7-23.0	1.306	27.2	24.2-30.4	1.174

Note: OR - Adjusted Odds Ratio; Adjusted for all variables in the table

CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

(C) - denotes comparison group, unless otherwise specified by parentheses

s - estimate suppressed due to unacceptably high sampling variability (or cell size less than 30)

* p < 0.05; ** p < 0.01; NS - not statistically significant

Prevalence estimates in **bold** show where differences among women and men were significant by the conservative method of non-overlapping confidence intervals. The bolded estimates reflect the higher rate.

Chapter 6 - Changes in the Use of Alcohol, Cannabis and Other Illicit Drugs Over Time

Highlights

- Overall, the prevalence of past-year drinking was higher in 2004 than in 1994 for both women and men.
- In 2004, compared to 1994, the proportion of past-year drinking had increased among women from New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, and Alberta. Also, past-year drinking rates among older women and men had increased. There was generally no difference in prevalence between the sexes by age group.
- The proportion of heavy drinking (five or more drinks) also increased from 1994 to 2004. Among women, heavy drinking increased in Alberta (6.0% to 12.5%), and among men in British Columbia (15.2% to 24.2%), Manitoba (19.2% to 28.8%) and Ontario (14.6% to 22.7%).
- In 2004, compared to 1994, more women were drinking moderately and less often (light infrequent), whereas more men reported drinking heavily and infrequently and heavily and frequently.
- Lifetime use of most illicit drugs by both women and men has doubled or more than doubled over the 10 years from 1994 to 2004.

This chapter compares the results from the Canadian Addiction Survey (CAS) with the National Alcohol and Other Drugs Survey (NADS) of 1989, and the Canada's Alcohol and Other Drugs Survey (CADS) of 1994. The following measures are discussed for both women and men:

- Changes in the percentage of past-year drinkers by province and age
- Changes in the percentage of heavy drinkers (five or more drinks) by province
- Changes in drinking patterns
- Changes in the frequency of drinking
- Changes in past-year cannabis use by province and age
- Changes in lifetime use of selected illicit drugs

Key features of the three national addiction surveys are presented below (Table 6.1).

Table 6.1 Key features of the three national alcohol and other drug use surveys⁴

	NADS 1989	CADS 1994	CAS 2004
Fieldwork	March, 1989	Sept. 7- Nov. 5, 1994	Dec 16-Dec 23, 2003; Jan 9-April 21, 2004
Design	Random-digit dialling sample of telephone households; Stratified two-stage selection	Random-digit dialling sample of telephone households; Stratified two-stage selection	Random-digit dialling sample of telephone households; Stratified two-stage selection
Provincial allocation	Unequal 10 provinces	Unequal 10 provinces	Equal (optional buy-in) 10 provinces
Interview mode	CATI telephone	CATI telephone	CATI telephone
Target population	Ages 15+	Ages 15+	Ages 15+
Completions	11634	12155	13909
Response rate	79%	76%	47%
Survey organization	Statistics Canada	Statistics Canada	Jolicoeur et associes

Reproduced from: *Canadian Addiction Survey (CAS): A National Survey of Canadians' Use of Alcohol and Other Drugs: Prevalence of use and related harms: Detailed Report* (Adlaf, Begin and Sawka, 2005).

⁴ In this chapter, changes in the prevalence of alcohol or illicit drug use were determined by confidence interval overlap, a crude but conservative method. If there is no overlap between the confidence intervals for two estimates, then these estimates are considered to be significantly different. Only those differences that are statistically significant are reported.

Results

Alcohol

Overall, the rate of past-year drinking was higher in 1989 than 1994 and then increased again in 2004 (Table 6.2). This pattern was evident among both women (71.8%, 66.7%, 76.8%) and men (83.8%, 78.1%, 82.0%). Increases in past-year drinking between 1994 and 2004 were significant among women from Quebec (68.2% and 80.8%), New Brunswick (57.7% and 71.5%), Ontario (63.2% and 76.0%) and Alberta (69.9% and 76.7%). Among men, there was a significant difference in past-year drinking for those from Ontario between 1989 (83.6%) and 1994 (75.8%). However, there were no significant changes in prevalence from 1994 to 2004 for any of the provinces.

Table 6.3 presents the changes in past-year alcohol use by age among Canadian women and men. From 1989 to 1994, women between the ages of 35 and 44 showed a decline in past-year drinking from 82.0% to 73.0% followed by an increase to 80.6% in 2004. For women of other ages, the prevalence of use remained the same in this time period. From 1994 to 2004, past-year drinking rates were shown to increase for all women aged 20 years or older as follows: women aged 20 to 24 (76.8% and 87.3%), 25 to 34 (75.5% and 82.4%), 35 to 44 (73.0% and 80.6%), 45 to 54 (66.9% and 79.9%), 55 to 64 (58.6% and 71.4%) and 65 years or older (45.0% and 64.5%). The most dramatic increases in the prevalence of past-year drinking were observed among women aged 55 to 64 and among women 65 years or older. The rates remained the same for those aged 15 to 19.

From 1989 to 1994, past-year drinking was shown to decline among men aged 25 to 34 (91.9% to 84.3%) and those aged 35 to 44 (87.6% to 82.4%), while prevalence remained the same for men of other ages. From 1994 to 2004, rates of past-year drinking increased only among men aged 55 to 64 (70.2% to 82.1%) and 65 or older (61.2% to 72.2%).

Table 6.4 presents the changes in the prevalence of heavy drinking (five or more drinks) among Canadian women and men. From 1989 to 1994, there was no change in the prevalence of heavy drinking for both women and men. However, the rate of heavy drinking increased significantly from

the CADS (1994) to the CAS (2004) for both women and men. In terms of provincial changes, the prevalence of heavy drinking increased for women from Alberta, from 6.0% (1994) to 12.5% (2004), and for men from Ontario (14.6% to 22.7%), Manitoba (19.2% to 28.8%) and British Columbia (15.2% to 24.2%).

Table 6.5 presents changes in the frequency of past-year alcohol consumption among Canadian women and men. There were no changes in the frequency of past-year drinking among Canadian women and men from the NADS (1989) to the CADS (1994). The frequency of drinking among women decreased from the CADS (1994) to the CAS (2004): The proportion of women who reported drinking one to three times a week dropped from 31.0% (1994) to 26.9% (2004), while the proportion who reported drinking one to three times a month increased from 28.5% (1994) to 35.9% (2004). Among men, drinking frequency increased slightly: The proportion reporting drinking one to three times a month increased from 23.5% (1994) to 30.8% (2004), while the proportion drinking less than once a month decreased from 17.3% (CADS) to 14.1% (CAS).

Overall, the proportion of abstainers has decreased from the CADS to the CAS (12.8% to 7.3%), whereas the proportions of light infrequent, heavy infrequent and heavy frequent drinkers have increased (33.6% to 38.7%; 3.3% to 5.6% and 5.4% to 7.1%, respectively) (Table 6.6). Among women, the percentage of abstainers increased from 1989 (9.4%) to 1994 (16.7%), but dropped again in 2004 (8.5%). The largest change in drinking patterns was observed in the proportions of women reporting light infrequent drinking, which increased from 39.8% in 1994 to 47.4% in 2004. The proportion of women who reported heavy infrequent drinking patterns increased from 2.2% in 1994 to 3.9% in 2004. Among men, the percentage of abstainers increased from 3.7% in 1989 to 8.9% in 1994 and then dropped to 6.0% in 2004. The percentage of men reporting light infrequent drinking remained the same from 1989 to 1994 to 2004, as did the proportion of light frequent drinkers. The proportion of men drinking heavily infrequently and heavily frequently increased from 1994 to 2004 (4.5% to 7.4% and 9.1% to 11.6%, respectively).

Cannabis Use

The rate of cannabis use overall has almost doubled from 1994 to 2004 (7.4% vs. 14.1%), and this increase is reflected in the prevalence rates for both women (4.9% vs. 10.2%) and men (10.0% vs. 18.2%) (Table 6.7). Increases were observed among women from most provinces: Newfoundland and Labrador (1.9% to 8.5%), Quebec (5.8% to 12.2%), Ontario (3.3% to 8.7%), British Columbia (8.3% to 12.7%), Alberta (5.3% to 10.4%) and Saskatchewan (3.4% to 8.4%). As of 2004, cannabis use was highest among women from British Columbia, Quebec, Alberta and Manitoba, with more than 1 in 10 women reporting that they had used cannabis in the past 12 months.

In 2004, British Columbia, Alberta, Nova Scotia and Quebec reported the highest rates of past-year cannabis use among men (21.2%, 20.4%, 19.8%, and 19.6% respectively). With the exception of British Columbia's, these rates have nearly doubled since 1994 (15.0%, 11.5%, 11.1%, and 11.4%, respectively). Significant increases from 1994 to 2004 were also observed among men from Ontario (6.9% to 16.3%) and Newfoundland and Labrador (5.6% to 14.8%).

Table 6.8 presents the changes in past-year cannabis use by age among Canadian women and men. Past-year cannabis use has steadily increased over the past 15 years for women and men between the ages of 15 and 19 years (from 10.3% to 21.8% and 34.1% for women; from 14.3% to 27.2% and 40.8% for men). In the last 10 years, past-year cannabis use by women has more than doubled among 20- to 24-year-olds (13.0% to 30.7%) and 25- to 34-year-olds (6.0% to 12.7%), and almost tripled among women aged 35 to 44 (2.9% to 8.9%). Among men, it has increased significantly among those aged 20 to 24 (25.7% to 42.0%), and more than doubled among 25- to 34-year-olds (13.1% to 28.2%) and 35- to 44-year-olds (8.7% to 17.6%).

Other Illicit Drug Use

Table 6.9 presents the changes in illicit drug use among Canadian women and men. This table has been reproduced from the detailed report (Adlaf, Begin and Sawka, 2005). Due to the relatively low prevalence estimates among women, only lifetime illicit drug use is compared. Among women, self-reported lifetime use rates of cocaine or crack, LSD, speed, and heroin have all increased from the 1994 CADS to the 2004 CAS. Only 2.7% of women reported that they had tried cocaine or crack in 1994, as compared to 7.3% who reported that they had tried this drug in 2004. Lifetime use of hallucinogens or LSD among women increased from 3.3% to 7.1%; and lifetime use of speed increased from 1.2% to 4.1% between 1994 and 2004. Similar increases in illicit drug use were also observed among men for cocaine/crack (4.9% vs. 14.1%), LSD/hallucinogens (7.2% vs. 16.0%), and speed (3.1% vs. 8.7%).

Summary and Discussion

Since 1994, the proportion of women and men who reported drinking in the 12 months prior to the survey has increased, as has the proportion who reported drinking heavily. In terms of drinking frequency, there has been an increase in moderate drinking (one to three times a month) and a decrease in patterns of more frequent use (one to three times a week) for women. For men, there has been a decrease in light drinking (less than once a month) and an increase in patterns of moderate use (one to three times a month). For both women and men, lifetime illicit drug use, especially use of cannabis, was higher in 2004 than 10 years previously. More specifically, the prevalence of lifetime use of most illicit drugs has doubled or more than doubled since the CADS survey in 1994.

The reasons for these changes are beyond the scope of this report and warrant greater investigation. It must be pointed out that 10 years is a long time, and the patterns and rates of use at different points within this time span have not been examined by the current report. That is, we have compared the prevalence in 2004 with that found in 1994, but the current report does not examine whether or not identified changes were continuous during this time or if there were different patterns of change throughout.

Table 6.2 Changes in past-year alcohol use by province among Canadian women and men.

	1989 NADS		1994 CADS		2004 CAS	
	%	CI	%	CI	%	CI
Canada	77.7	76.6-78.8	72.3*	71.2-73.4	79.3*	78.1-80.5
Women	71.8	70.2-73.3	66.7*	65.2-68.1	76.8*	75.1-78.4
Men	83.8	82.3-85.1	78.1*	76.7-79.5	82.0*	80.1-83.8
Newfoundland and Labrador	67.6	64.2-71.0	71.4	67.4-75.4	73.9	70.9-76.7
Women	57.7	52.8-62.3	60.9	55.5-66.1	69.7	65.7-73.3
Men	77.9	73.1-82.0	81.9	76.3-86.4	78.5	73.6-82.6
Prince Edward Island	63.7	59.9-67.5	67.2	61.9-72.5	70.2	67.2-73.1
Women	57.1	51.6-62.5	63.0	54.8-70.5	70.0	66.1-73.7
Men	70.6	65.4-75.3	71.6	62.6-79.2	70.4	65.6-74.8
Nova Scotia	71.2	68.1-74.3	72.1	68.8-75.4	76.0	73.1-78.1
Women	65.2	61.0-69.2	68.4	63.6-72.9	71.7	67.6-75.4
Men	77.5	73.4-81.2	76.0	71.2-80.2	80.7	76.5-84.4
New Brunswick	68.0	64.1-71.8	67.8	64.0-71.6	73.8	70.8-76.6
Women	59.3	53.9-64.5	57.7	52.4-62.8	71.5*	67.6-75.1
Men	77.2	71.9-81.8	78.2	73.0-82.5	76.3	71.6-80.4
Quebec	76.4	74.1-78.6	73.9	71.8-75.9	82.3*	79.7-84.6
Women	69.0	65.6-72.1	68.2	65.2-71.1	80.8*	77.4-83.8
Men	84.2	81.2-86.9	79.8	77.0-82.4	83.9	79.8-87.3
Ontario	77.6	75.4-79.8	69.4*	67.3-71.5	78.7*	76.0-81.3
Women	72.0	68.7-75.0	63.2*	60.4-65.8	76.0*	72.2-79.4
Men	83.6	80.6-86.2	75.8*	73.0-78.4	81.7	77.4-85.3
Manitoba	79.3	76.3-82.3	73.6	70.3-76.8	76.5	74.3-78.6
Women	73.6	68.9-77.7	70.4	65.7-74.7	74.2	71.2-77.1
Men	85.3	81.1-88.7	77.0	72.1-81.2	78.9	75.5-85.7
Saskatchewan	78.4	75.3-81.4	73.0	69.5-76.4	78.2	75.5-80.7
Women	73.9	69.4-77.9	67.4	62.6-71.8	74.3	70.5-77.7
Men	83.1	78.7-86.7	78.8	73.8-85.9	82.2	78.2-85.7
Alberta	81.9	79.3-84.5	76.4*	73.8-79.0	79.5	77.7-81.2
Women	76.5	72.1-80.5	69.9	65.9-73.7	76.7*	74.1-79.1
Men	87.3	83.5-90.3	82.9	79.4-85.9	82.4	79.8-84.7
British Columbia	82.9	80.3-85.5	75.6*	73.1-78.1	79.3	77.7-80.7
Women	80.6	76.7-83.9	72.8*	69.4-76.0	76.4	74.3-78.4
Men	85.4	81.6-88.5	78.5	74.9-81.8	82.3	80.0-84.3

Note: CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

* statistically different from previous survey via non-overlapping confidence intervals

Table 6.3 Changes in past-year alcohol use by age among Canadian women and men.

	1989 NADS		1994 CADS		2004 CAS	
	%	CI	%	CI	%	CI
15-19	74.3	69.9-78.2	70.3	66.3-74.0	75.5	70.4-80.0
Women	72.4	66.2-77.9	69.6	63.7-74.9	76.6	69.1-82.8
Men	76.0	69.6-81.4	71.0	65.4-76.1	74.4	67.1-80.5
20-24	87.9	84.6-90.6	83.9	80.8-86.8	89.5	85.6-94.2
Women	82.6	77.4-86.8	76.8	71.7-81.1	87.3*	81.6-91.4
Men	93.1	88.6-95.9	90.9	87.2-93.6	91.5	85.8-95.1
25-34	86.4	83.8-88.6	79.9*	78.0-81.7	85.2*	82.5-87.6
Women	80.5	76.1-84.1	75.5	72.6-78.1	82.4*	78.5-85.8
Men	91.9	89.1-94.1	84.3*	81.7-86.6	88.0	84.1-91.1
35-44	84.7	83.0-86.3	77.7*	75.6-79.6	81.8	79.0-84.4
Women	82.0	79.5-84.2	73.0*	69.9-75.9	80.6*	76.9-83.7
Men	87.6	85.2-89.6	82.4*	79.7-84.8	83.1	78.5-86.9
45-54	76.5	73.1-79.5	73.0	70.4-75.5	80.8*	77.8-83.4
Women	68.0	62.8-72.9	66.9	63.0-70.6	79.9*	76.1-83.2
Men	84.9	81.0-88.1	79.1	75.5-82.3	81.7	76.9-85.7
55-64	72.1	68.7-75.3	64.3*	61.0-67.5	76.7*	73.1-79.9
Women	64.9	59.8-69.7	58.6	54.4-62.6	71.4*	66.3-74.6
Men	79.7	75.0-83.6	70.2	64.9-75.0	82.1*	77.0-86.2
65+	54.3	51.0-57.6	52.0	49.0-54.9	79.5*	78.3-80.7
Women	45.7	41.6-49.8	45.0	41.3-48.8	64.5*	59.7-69.1
Men	65.9	60.5-70.9	61.2	56.5-65.7	72.2*	65.9-77.8

Note: CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

* statistically different from previous survey via non-overlapping confidence intervals

Table 6.4 Changes in heavy drinking (five or more drinks per occasion) by province among Canadian women and men.

	1989 NADS		1994 CADS		2004 CAS	
	%	CI	%	CI	%	CI
Canada	13.4	12.4-14.4	12.2	11.4-13.1	16.0*	14.9-17.3
Women	7.2	6.2-8.3	6.2	5.5-7.1	8.8*	7.7-10.0
Men	18.9	17.3-20.5	17.5	16.2-18.9	23.2*	21.1-25.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	25.5	21.8-29.6	25.0	20.7-30.0	30.8	27.4-34.5
Women	8.4	5.3-13.0	10.5	6.8-16.0	17.4	14.0-21.4
Men	38.6	32.9-44.6	35.7	29.0-43.0	43.6	38.0-49.4
Prince Edward Island	22.0	18.3-26.2	15.6	10.9-22.0	25.5*	22.2-29.2
Women	10.4	6.6-15.8	6.9	3.3-13.9	15.2	11.7-19.4
Men	31.8	26.2-38.0	23.7	15.7-34.2	36.6	31.0-42.6
Nova Scotia	21.0	18.0-24.4	19.9	16.5-23.7	22.8	19.7-26.3
Women	9.6	6.7-13.6	11.3	7.8-16.1	14.5	11.2-18.6
Men	31.3	26.4-36.5	27.7	22.4-33.7	31.0	26.0-36.5
New Brunswick	22.5	18.5-26.9	23.9	19.7-28.6	24.0	20.8-27.5
Women	6.8	4.1-11.2	11.2	7.3-16.8	13.1	9.9-17.1
Men	35.1	28.9-41.8	33.7	27.3-40.6	34.9	29.7-40.5
Quebec	10.2	8.4-12.3	11.2	9.6-13.1	11.3	9.3-13.8
Women	4.2	2.8-6.1	4.5	3.2-6.3	5.0Q	3.3-7.3
Men	15.4	12.3-19.0	17.2	14.5-20.3	17.9	14.1-22.3
Ontario	12.3	10.5-14.3	10.4	8.9-12.0	15.8*	13.3-18.7
Women	7.2	5.4-9.6	5.4	4.1-7.1	8.8	6.5-11.9
Men	16.9	14.1-20.1	14.6	12.3-17.4	22.7*	18.4-27.6
Manitoba	21.0	17.9-24.5	16.2*	13.0-16.3	19.7*	17.3-22.2
Women	14.4	11.0-18.7	12.9	9.2-17.8	10.5	8.1-13.3
Men	27.0	22.1-32.6	19.2	14.7-24.6	28.8*	24.9-33.0
Saskatchewan	16.7	13.7-20.1	13.0	10.3-16.3	18.8	16.2-21.8
Women	9.7	6.7-13.7	7.3	4.6-8.7	11.0	8.3-14.5
Men	23.0	18.3-28.4	18.0	13.6-23.3	26.2	21.9-31.0
Alberta	14.9	12.3-17.9	13.3	11.1-15.8	19.4*	17.6-21.4
Women	9.0	6.3-12.6	6.0	4.0-8.7	12.5*	10.5-14.8
Men	20.1	16.0-24.8	19.4	15.8-23.4	25.9	22.9-29.0
British Columbia	12.8	10.4-15.6	11.2	9.3-13.4	16.8*	15.3-18.5
Women	8.0	5.3-11.9	7.0	4.9-9.8	9.3	7.8-11.0
Men	17.3	13.8-21.6	15.2	12.3-18.8	24.2*	21.7-27.0

Note: CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

Q - qualified release due to high sampling variability

* statistically different from previous survey via non-overlapping confidence intervals

Table 6.5 Changes in the frequency of drinking among past-year drinkers, Canadian women and men.

	1989 NADS		1994 CADS		2004 CAS	
	%	CI	%	CI	%	CI
Less than once a month	26.0	24.8-27.3	25.5	24.4-26.6	22.7*	21.3-24.1
Women	36.3	34.3-38.2	34.7	33.0-36.4	31.4	29.3-33.5
Men	16.9	15.4-18.5	17.3	16.0-18.8	14.1*	12.5-15.8
One to three times a month	24.7	23.5-26.0	25.8	24.7-27.0	33.3*	31.7-34.9
Women	28.0	26.2-29.8	28.5	26.9-30.2	35.9*	33.7-38.0
Men	21.8	20.1-23.6	23.5	22.0-25.1	30.8*	28.4-33.2
One to three times a week	38.5	37.1-40.0	38.5	37.3-39.8	34.1*	32.5-35.8
Women	29.9	28.1-31.8	31.0	29.3-32.7	26.9*	24.9-28.9
Men	46.2	44.1-48.3	45.2	43.4-47.0	41.3	38.8-43.9
Four or more times a week	10.8	9.9-11.7	9.8	9.0-10.6	9.9	8.8-11.1
Women	5.8	4.9-6.9	5.4	4.7-6.3	5.9	4.9-7.2
Men	15.1	13.7-16.7	13.6	12.4-14.9	13.9	12.0-15.9

Note: CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

* statistically different from previous survey via non-overlapping confidence intervals

Table 6.6 Changes in the drinking patterns among Canadian women and men.

	1989 NADS		1994 CADS		2004 CAS	
	%	CI	%	CI	%	CI
Abstainer	6.6	6.0-7.2	12.8*	12.0-13.6	7.3*	6-5-8.1
Women	9.4	8.5-10.5	16.7*	15.5-17.9	8.5*	7.4-9.7
Men	3.7	3.1-4.5	8.9*	8.0-10.0	6.0*	4.9-7.3
Former drinker	15.7	14.8-16.6	13.5*	12.6-14.4	13.4	12.7-14.7
Women	18.8	17.4-22.2	15.6*	14.6-16.7	15.0	13.7-16.5
Men	12.5	11.3-13.8	11.2	10.3-12.3	12.2	10.8-13.8
Light infrequent	35.5	34.2-36.7	33.6	32.4-34.8	38.7*	37.2-40.2
Women	42.9	41.2-44.7	39.8	38.3-41.2	47.4*	45.4-49.4
Men	27.6	26.0-29.4	27.3	25.9-28.8	29.4	27.3-31.6
Light frequent	31.3	30.1-32.5	29.2	28.0-30.4	27.7	26.3-29.2
Women	23.2	21.7-24.7	22.2	20.9-23.4	22.3	20.7-24.1
Men	39.8	37.9-41.6	36.4	34.9-38.0	33.4	31.2-35.7
Heavy infrequent	3.6	3.1-4.1	3.3	2.8-3.8	5.6*	5.0-6.3
Women	2.8	2.3-3.4	2.2	1.8-2.6	3.9*	3.3-4.6
Men	4.5	3.8-5.2	4.5	3.9-5.1	7.4*	6.3-8.6
Heavy frequent	6.7	6.0-7.3	5.4	4.8-6.0	7.1*	6.3-7.9
Women	2.3	1.9-2.9	1.9	1.6-2.4	2.8	2.3-3.6
Men	11.2	10.1-12.5	9.1*	8.2-10.0	11.6*	10.2-13.1

Note: CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

* statistically different from previous survey via non-overlapping confidence intervals

"Not stated" category is not included in the table, therefore estimates do not add up to 100%

Table 6.7 Changes in past-year cannabis use by province among Canadian women and men.

	1989 NADS		1994 CADS		2004 CAS	
	%	CI	%	CI	%	CI
Canada	6.5	5.8-7.1	7.4	6.7-8.1	14.1*	13.1-15.1
Women	4.1	3.4-4.8	4.9	4.1-5.7	10.2*	9.1-11.5
Men	8.9	7.8-10.0	10.0	8.9-11.1	18.2*	16.6-20.0
Newfoundland and Labrador	4.5	3.3-6.2	3.8	2.5-5.7	11.6*	9.6-13.9
Women	2.3	1.3-4.2	1.9	0.9-4.0	8.5*	6.4-11.2
Men	6.8	4.6-9.9	5.6	3.5-9.1	14.8*	11.6-18.8
Prince Edward Island	4.7	3.4-6.5	5.6	2.7-11.0	10.7	8.7-13.0
Women	2.3	1.1-4.4	2.7	1.0-7.3	6.0	4.2-8.7
Men	7.2	5.0-10.4	8.6	3.6-19.0	15.7	12.3-19.7
Nova Scotia	7.4	5.8-9.2	8.0	6.2-10.4	14.4*	12.2-17.0
Women	5.1	3.4-7.5	5.0	3.1-8.0	9.5	7.2-12.4
Men	9.8	7.4-12.9	11.1	8.1-15.1	19.8*	16.1-24.2
New Brunswick	5.7	4.1-7.8	6.2	4.4-8.6	11.1*	9.1-13.3
Women	3.9	2.2-6.7	2.4	1.2-4.9	6.3	4.5-8.8
Men	7.6	5.1-11.1	10.0	6.8-14.6	16.1	12.8-20.0
Quebec	6.5	5.3-7.9	8.6	7.4-9.9	15.8*	13.6-18.2
Women	3.8	2.7-5.4	5.8	4.5-7.5	12.2*	9.7-12.4
Men	9.3	7.2-11.9	11.4	9.5-13.7	19.6*	16.1-23.7
Ontario	6.0	4.9-7.2	5.1	4.2-6.1	12.4*	10.4-14.6
Women	3.8	2.7-5.3	3.3	2.4-4.3	8.7*	6.6-11.4
Men	8.2	6.4-10.5	6.9	5.5-8.7	16.3*	13.0-20.2
Manitoba	4.8	3.5-6.4	9.1*	7.1-11.6	13.4*	11.7-15.3
Women	2.5	1.6-4.1	7.0*	4.6-10.5	10.1	8.2-12.5
Men	7.1	4.9-10.1	11.2	8.2-15.2	17.0	14.2-20.1
Saskatchewan	4.7	3.3-6.7	6.6	4.7-9.2	11.4*	9.6-13.5
Women	2.0	1.2-3.5	3.4	2.0-5.8	8.4*	6.4-11.0
Men	7.5	5.0-11.2	9.8	6.5-14.6	14.5	11.6-18.0
Alberta	6.5	5.1-8.4	8.4	7.0-10.1	15.4*	13.9-17.0
Women	3.3	2.0-5.1	5.3	3.9-7.3	10.4*	8.8-12.2
Men	9.8	7.3-13.1	11.5	9.1-14.3	20.4*	18.0-23.1
British Columbia	9.6	7.8-11.8	11.6	9.9-13.5	16.8*	15.5-18.3
Women	7.8	5.6-10.8	8.3	6.3-10.8	12.7*	11.2-14.4
Men	11.5	8.9-14.8	15.0	12.4-18.0	21.2*	19.0-23.6

Note: CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

* statistically different from previous survey via non-overlapping confidence intervals

Table 6.8 Changes in past-year cannabis use by age among Canadian women and men.

	1989 NADS		1994 CADS		2004 CAS	
	%	CI	%	CI	%	CI
15-19	12.3	9.7-15.5	24.5*	21.2-28.2	37.5*	32.4-42.9
Women	10.3	7.0-14.8	21.8*	17.4-26.9	34.1*	27.2-41.8
Men	14.3	10.6-19.1	27.2*	22.3-32.7	40.8*	33.6-48.4
20-24	18.4	15.2-22.0	19.3	16.4-22.6	36.5*	31.6-41.6
Women	13.0	9.5-17.4	13.0	9.6-16.6	30.7*	24.4-37.9
Men	23.7	18.7-29.5	25.7	21.1-30.9	42.0*	34.8-49.5
25-34	13.2	10.9-15.9	9.6	8.4-10.9	20.4*	17.8-23.4
Women	7.9	5.8-10.6	6.0	4.8-7.4	12.7*	10.1-15.9
Men	18.3	14.5-22.8	13.1	11.2-15.3	28.2*	23.8-33.2
35-44	7.5	5.9-9.5	5.8	4.9-6.8	13.2*	11.1-15.7
Women	3.2	2.4-4.4	2.9	2.1-3.9	8.9*	6.8-11.5
Men	8.0	6.5-9.7	8.7	7.1-10.6	17.6*	14.1-21.9
45-44	6.2	4.6-8.2	1.4*	1.0-2.1	8.4*	6.7-10.5
Women	s	s	s	s	5.9	4.1-8.3
Men	s	s	s	s	11.0	8.1-14.7
55-64	s	s	s	s	4.4	2.9-6.6
Women	s	s	s	s	s	s
Men	s	s	s	s	5.6	3.2-9.6
65+	s	s	s	s	s	s
Women	s	s	s	s	s	s
Men	s	s	s	s	s	s

Note: CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

s - estimate suppressed due to high sampling variability

* statistically different from previous survey via non-overlapping confidence intervals

Table 6.9 Changes in lifetime illicit drug use among Canadian women and men.

	1989 NADS		1994 CADS		2004 CAS	
	%	CI	%	CI	%	CI
Cannabis	23.2*	22.1-24.2	28.2*	27.0-29.3	44.5	43.0-46.0
Women	17.7*	16.4-19.0	23.1*	21.6-24.6	39.2	37.3-41.1
Men	28.9*	27.2-30.6	33.5*	31.8-35.2	50.1	47.8-52.5
Cocaine/crack	3.5*	3.0-4.0	3.8*	3.3-4.3	10.6	9.7-11.6
Women	2.7*	2.1-3.3	2.7*	2.1-3.3	7.3	6.4-8.3
Men	4.5*	3.7-5.3	4.9*	4.1-5.7	14.1	12.6-15.8
LSD/hallucinogens^a	b	b	5.2*	4.6-5.8	11.4	10.5-12.4
Women	b	b	3.3*	2.6-3.9	7.1	6.2-8.1
Men	b	b	7.2*	6.3-8.1	16.0	14.4-17.8
Speed	b	b	2.1*	1.7-2.5	6.4	5.6-7.2
Women	b	b	1.2*	0.8-1.6	4.1	3.5-4.9
Men	b	b	3.1*	2.5-3.7	8.7	7.4-10.2
Heroin	b	b	0.5	0.3-0.7	0.9	0.6-1.2
Women	b	b	s	s	0.5	0.3-0.7
Men	b	b	0.8	0.5-1.1	1.3	0.9-1.9
LSD/speed/heroin	4.1*	3.6-4.6	5.9*	5.3-6.5	13.2	12.2-14.2
Women	3.1*	2.5-3.7	3.6*	2.9-4.3	9.0	8.0-10.1
Men	5.1*	4.2-5.9	8.1*	7.1-9.1	17.7	16.0-19.5

Reproduced from: *Canadian Addiction Survey (CAS): A National Survey of Canadians' Use of Alcohol and Other Drugs: Prevalence of use and related harms: Detailed Report* (Adlaf, Begin and Sawka, 2005).

CI - Confidence Interval (95%)

s - estimate suppressed due to high sampling variability

* Significantly different from CAS

^a In CADS and NADS the question asked about use of LSD, but in CAS the question asked about use of hallucinogens, PCP or LSD.

b The NADS presented data for LSD/speed/heroin in an aggregate category.

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