

II BNADS

Brazilian National Alcohol and Drugs Survey Cocaine and Crack Use in Brazil

Direction: Ronaldo Laranjeira

Coordination: Clarice Sandi Madruga

Organization: Marcelo Ribeiro

Ilana Pinsky

Raul Caetano

Sandro Sendin Mitsuhiro



Ipsos Public Affairs

The Social Research and Corporate Reputation Specialists



1 – Why is this study relevant?

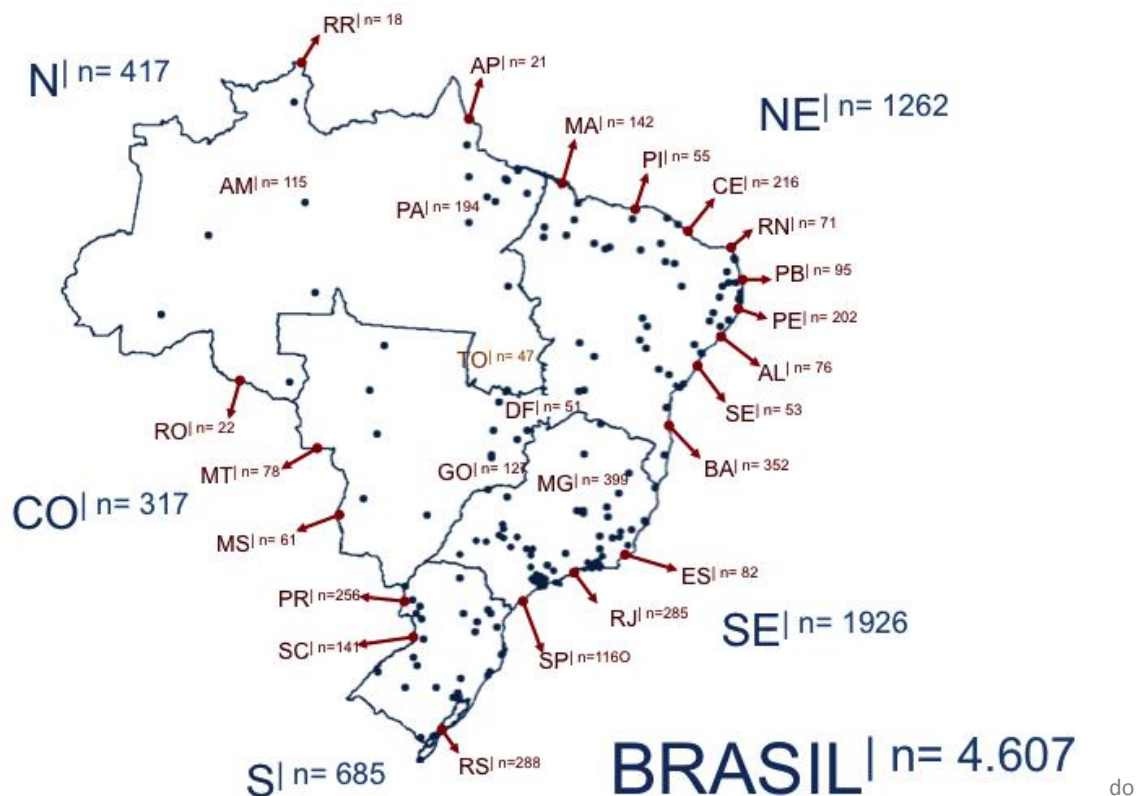
In a recent publication by the World Health Organization (WHO) Brazil was named as one of the emerging nations where the use of stimulants such as cocaine– used either intranasally (“powder”) or smoked (crack, and related forms such as “merla” and “oxi”) – is increasing despite the fact that use in most other countries around the world has been decreasing.

Although Brazilian society is aware of this important public health problem, the knowledge of use prevalence as well as the awareness of the patterns of use and dependency remains weak and fairly superficial.

With the intention of providing comprehensive and relevant information about the use of these substances, the Second **Brazilian National Alcohol and Drugs Survey (BNADS)** investigated the pattern of use and dependency for cocaine used intranasally (“snorted”) and through the **pulmonary** route (“smoked”). This is the first investigation of its kind in a representative sample of the Brazilian population.

2 – What type of sample was used and what can we say about this data?

The Second **BNADS** was conducted by the National Institute of Public Policy for Alcohol and Other Drugs (Instituto Nacional de Políticas Públicas do Álcool e Outras Drogas, INPAD) and The Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP); financed by National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq) and by the São Paulo State Research Support Foundation (FAPESP); and carried out by *Ipsos Public Affairs*. Household interviews were conducted in 149 municipalities nationwide, with 4607 individuals over age 14. The choice of interviewees, as well as residences was random (based on probability sampling), ensuring that the sample of individuals is representative of the entire population.



número de entrevistados (n=4607) pelo II LENAD.

Those interviewed responded confidentially to a standardized questionnaire with more than 800 questions that evaluated the patterns of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug use as well as factors associated with **addiction**, such as depression, social support, physical health, child abuse and domestic violence among others. At this time, we will only present data about use of cocaine used intranasally (“snorted”) and smoked (crack, merla and oxi).

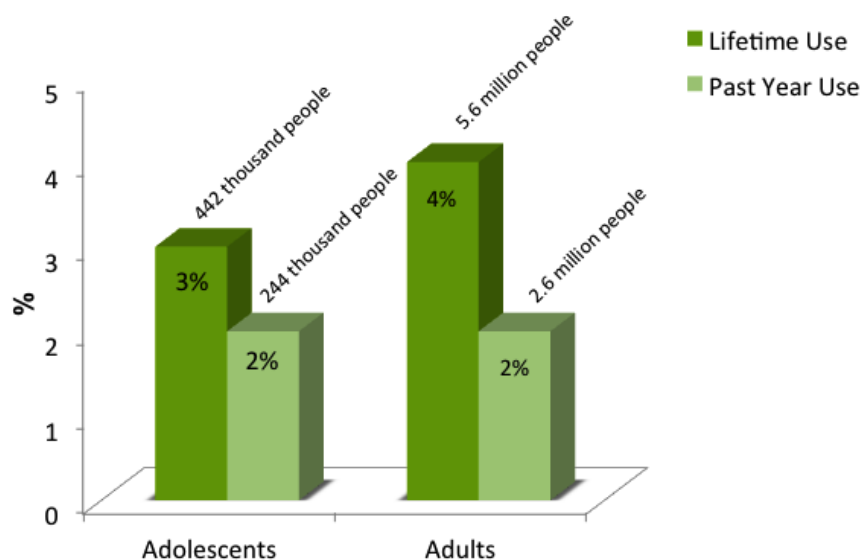
3 – What is the **prevalence** of cocaine use, either intranasally or by smoking?

Due to its water solubility, cocaine can be administered by various routes. Crack, merla and oxi (or basic alkaline paste) are the smokeable forms of cocaine, while the powder form used intranasally can also be injected into the blood stream.

Nearly 6 million Brazilians (4% of the adult population) has already experimented with some form of cocaine in their life. The prevalence of use among adolescents¹ was 3%, representing 442 thousand youth. **The prevalence of use in the last year** among adults approached 2.6 million (2%) and 244 thousands among adolescents (2%).

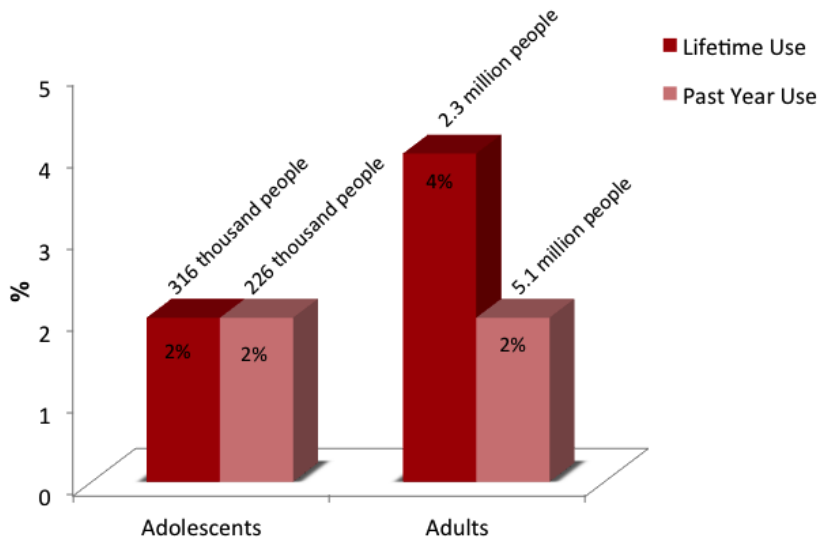
Cocaine use by the intranasal route is the most common, as 4% of adults have experimented with it at least once, 1% of them using it in this form in the last year. Among adolescents, use is less prevalent, with less than 1% reporting use during their lifetime and in the last 12 months, representing 24 thousand users.

Approximately 2 million Brazilians have used cocaine in a smokeable form (crack/merla e oxi) at least once in their life - 1.4% of adults. One out of every 100 adults smoked crack in the last year, representing 1.3 million people. The use of smokeable cocaine among adolescents was much lower, remaining at 0.2% for both lifetime use and for use in the last year, about 24 thousand people.

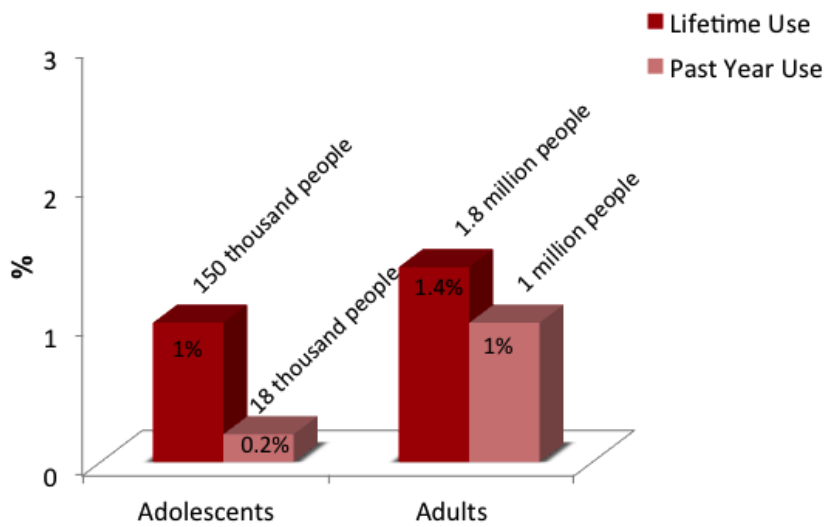


¹Individuals between 14 and 17 years of age are considered adolescents.

Use of Cocaine Intranasally

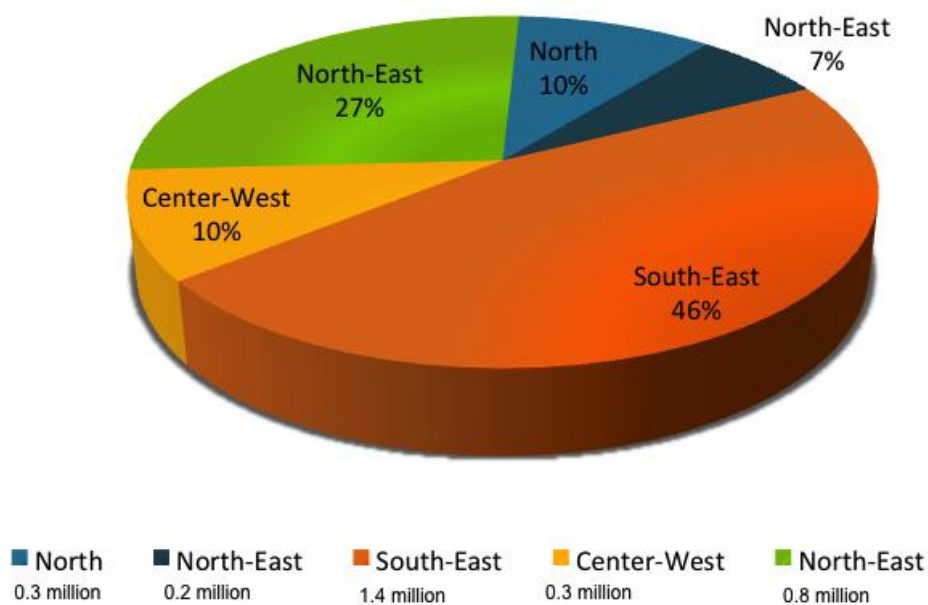


Use of Smoked Cocaine



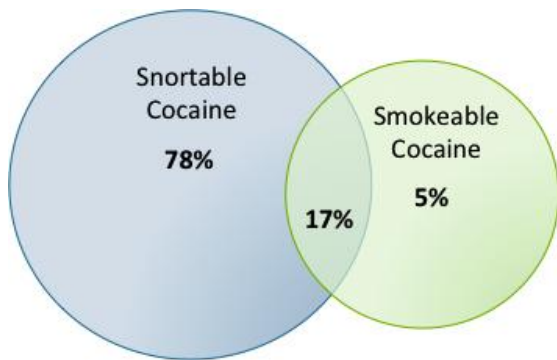
4- Use of cocaine/crack and oxi in the past year, by region

As for the differences between the regions of Brazil, we have seen that the percentage of cocaine users remains constant across regions (North=1.9%; Northeast=2.1%; Southeast=2.2% e Central East =2.6%), with the exception of the South region which represents the lowest rate (0.7%). However, with regard to the absolute numbers of users, nearly half of the users are concentrated in the Southeast with nearly 1.4 millions individuals who have used the drug in the past year.



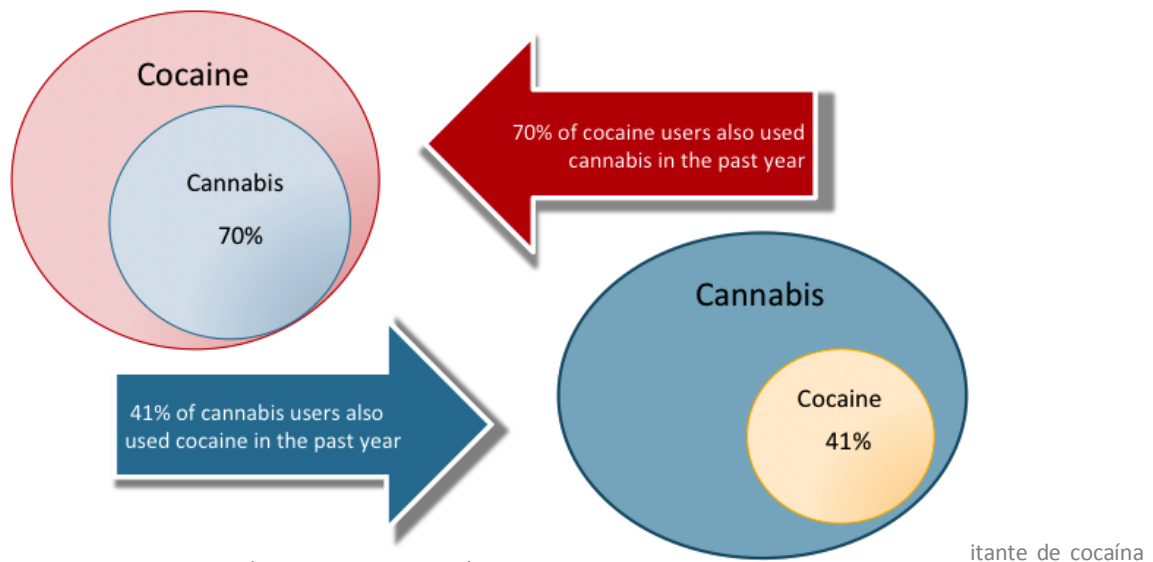
5- Distribution of users, by form of cocaine use

The snortable cocaine is the most chosen form of the drug. Observe that powder cocaine users tend to use more exclusively, as 78% used snortable cocaine **only**. In general, users of smokeable cocaine also have already experimented with other forms of the drug. Observe that 17% of the user population experimented with both forms of cocaine in the last year.



6- How the use of cannabis and cocaine (snorted or smoked) are related

Around 2 million people use cannabis and some form of cocaine concurrently, this represents 1.3% of the population.



e maconha

itante de cocaína

7 – When does experimentation with cocaine first occur?

The age at first experimentation is an important indicator as studies show that there is a relationship between early use and an increased risk for the development of dependency and other psychiatric illnesses. We found that almost half of users (45%) have tried cocaine for the first time by age 18.

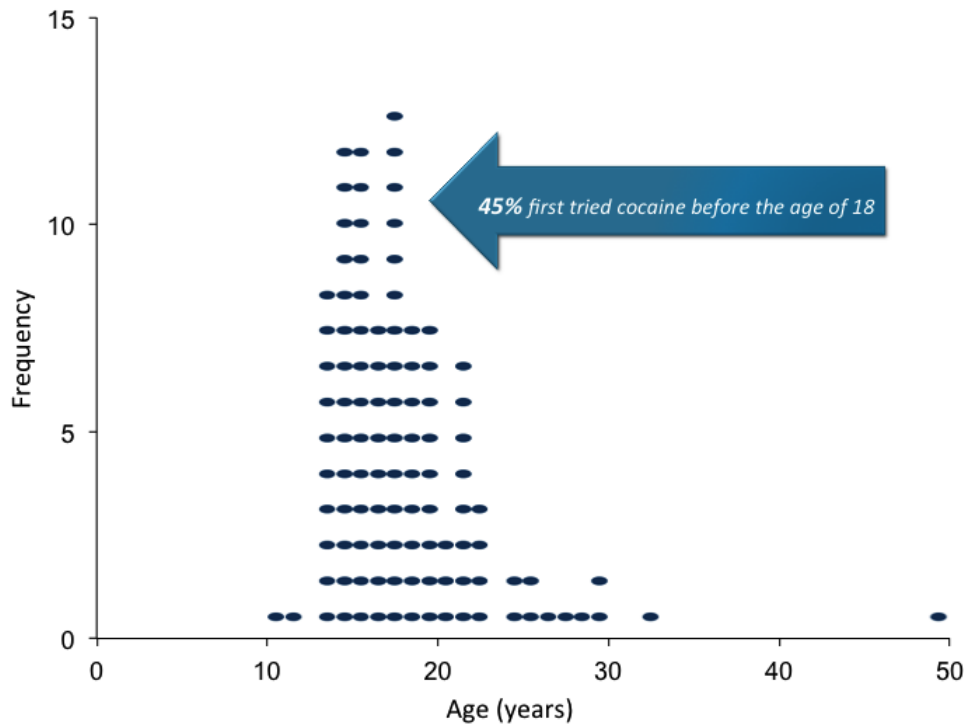


FIGURA 8: Distribuição da idade de experimentação de cocaína

8 – Treatment and recognition of the problem

More than 20% of Brazilians know someone with cocaine use problems. Within the user group, nearly half (48%) were identified as **addicted**; however only 30% reported having intentions to discontinue use. Only 1% of interviewed users had sought treatment for their cocaine use.

9 – Comparing Brazil with other countries

It is known that cocaine use is decreasing in most developed countries. However, the WHO recently stated that this reduction does not occur in emerging nations, where use is showing a rising trend – this appears to be the case in Brazil. Our study showed that Brazil is the second largest cocaine market in the world with regard to the sheer number of users. Brazil represents 20% of world cocaine consumption and is the world’s largest market for crack.

