



II BNADS

***Brazilian National Alcohol and Drugs Survey
Cannabis use in Brazil***



Ipsos Public Affairs
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Cannabis use in Brazil

For the first time the rates of cannabis dependence are revealed in a nationally representative sample in Brazil. The Second Brazilian National Alcohol and Drugs Survey (BNADS) developed by the National Institute of Policies on Alcohol and Drugs (INPAD) and the Federal University of Sao Paulo (UNIFESP) investigated the consumption of all psychotropic drugs and several risk factors for addiction. Dependence was assessed among cannabis and cocaine users. The survey interviewed 4607 participants aged 14 and older from 149 cities across the country.



Key Results:

- 7% (representing 8 million individuals) of the adult population (19 to 59 years old) have already tried cannabis at least once in their lives and 3% used it last year (3 million people)
- Cannabis use is 3 times more common in men
- Almost 600.000 adolescents (4% of the adolescents' population) have ever used cannabis and 3% (nearly 500 thousand adolescents) used it last year.
- Over 60% of the users tried cannabis for the first time before the age of 18.
- More than half of all cannabis users (1.5 million people) consume the drug daily.
- Over one third (37%) of the users are cannabis dependents according to the Severity of Dependence Scale.
- Even though cannabis consumption rates in Brazil are lower than in most countries the dependence rates are high.

Brazil is undergoing a broad public debate as its drugs constitution is about to be reviewed. A law project to allow individuals to carry any psychotropic drug (up to an amount correspondent to 5 days of use) is due to be voted soon. The survey also investigated public opinion regarding legalization and found that 75% if the population was against cannabis legalization.

