

Appendix 1 (as supplied by the authors)

Description of survey methods

Statistics Canada conducted the Canadian Tobacco Use Monitoring Survey (CTUMS) and the Canadian Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs Survey (CTADS). The Canadian Alcohol and Drug Use Monitoring Survey (CADUMS) was conducted by the Controlled Substances and Tobacco Directorate, Health Canada using comparable methodology. The CTUMS was conducted on an annual basis in two cycles (February to June and July to December) to monitor changes in tobacco use in the Canadian population,¹ with questions on cannabis consumption included beginning in 2004. CTADS is an ongoing biennial survey that monitors the use of tobacco, alcohol and drugs across the Canadian population. In 2013, CTUMS and the CADUMS were merged to create the CTADS for more efficient data collection. These surveys use a cross-sectional design with a two-phase stratified random sample procedure and collected data via random digit dialling telephone interviews with computer-assisted technology. The sampling frame covers all persons in Canada aged 15 years and above residing in the ten Provinces. However, it excludes residents of the Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, those living in long-term care institutions or Canadian Forces bases, or residents without a telephone. The two-phase design was implemented to increase the number of respondents aged 15-19 years and 20-24 years. The median sample size across CTUMS and CTADS was 20,198 respondents (minimum/maximum: 14,565/21,976). The individual response rates for the CTUMS and CTADS averaged 85% and 77%.

To examine the prevalence of cannabis use in pregnancy, we use data from the CADUMS, conducted between 2008-2012.²⁻⁴ These are the most recent surveys that include questions about whether respondents were pregnant in the past year (or 5 years in 2011 and

2012), along with past 12-month cannabis use. The CADUMS was designed to provide continuous information on alcohol and drug use habits across 10 Canadian provinces. The survey is a two-stage random sampling survey conducted using randomized digit dialling via computer-assisted telephone interviewing. Within the selected households, the individual (over 15 years of age) celebrating his/her birthday next would be chosen to complete the interview.

Institutionalized individuals and full-time members of the Canadian Forces were excluded from the sample population. The median sample size for CADUMS was 13,082 respondents (minimum/maximum: 10,076/16,674). The average response rate for the CADUMS was 43%.

All surveys were offered in English and in French.

References

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2. Health Canada. Canadian Alcohol and Drug Use Monitoring Survey, 2008. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; 2008.
3. Health Canada. Canadian Alcohol and Drug Use Monitoring Survey, 2009. Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; 2009.
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