

2019 NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY ON THE PATTERNS AND TRENDS OF DRUG ABUSE



PADS PHILIPPINE
ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUGS
STRATEGY

CONDUCTED IN
PARTNERSHIP
WITH





Drugs - it has destroyed so many families and it has reached the level of causing a social dysfunction of the majority of our countrymen. You know, when a father goes down because of drugs, the entire family becomes dysfunctional.

What happens now if this contamination will go on and on? What will happen to the next generation? What will happen now if we allow drugs to destroy not only a few but many? Then you have a generation – a fractured generation, and a problem to be solved by the next generation. Think of your grandchild and think of your son or daughter.

I therefore assure you that this administration remains relentless in its war against illegal drugs, criminality, corruption, terrorism and environmental degradation. We will continue to persevere in this aspiration because we are committed in fostering a better and brighter future for the Filipino children.

President RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
During the National Awarding Ceremony of the Presidential Award
for Child-Friendly Municipalities and Cities (PACFMC)
Delivered at Rizal Hall, Malacañan Palace
28 November 2019

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List of Acronyms

4Ps - Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program
BARMM - Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao
BOC - Bureau of Customs
CAPI - Computer-Assisted Personal Interview
CAR - Cordillera Autonomous Region
CHAID - Chi-squared Automatic Interaction Detection
CSO/s - Civil Society Organization/s
DDB - Dangerous Drugs Board
DepEd - Department of Education
DOF - Department of Finance
DILG - Department of the Interior and Local Government
DOH - Department of Health
DSWD - Department of Social Welfare and Development
FDAPP - Family Drug Abuse Prevention Program
LGUs - Local Government Unit/s
MOE - Margin of Error
NCR - National Capital Region
NGO/s - Non-Government Organization/s
NS - Not specified
PADS - Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy
PAPI - Paper and Pen Interview
PO/s - Private Organization/s
PSA - Philippine Statistics Authority
PWUDs - Persons Who Use Drugs
SDEC - Special Drug Education Center
WHO - World Health Organization



Foreword



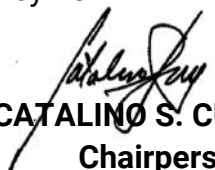
The Dangerous Drugs Board banks on the ideals of objective analysis and thorough research to ensure that policies and strategies remain effective, responsive and relevant.

The **2019 National Household Survey on the Patterns and Trends of Drug Abuse** serves as a benchmark for data-gathering initiatives and lays down data and information that will help us understand the context of the drug problem and enable us to propose and implement necessary actions.

Results of the research tells us that the programs in place under the Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy are working, as drug use prevalence in 2019 went down and public awareness and approval of the government's campaign were recorded at high rates.

The survey also gave light on some risky behaviors that trigger one to use and continue to use drugs. An important information that will lead us to focus on protecting the most vulnerable populations.

We urge all our partners and stakeholders to make the best use of the rich data and information from the 2019 Drug Survey to strengthen anti-drug programs and initiatives towards drug-free communities by 2022.


Secretary CATALINO S. CUY
Chairperson
Dangerous Drugs Board



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY



"Paglilingkod para panatilihin ang publiko na ligtas mula sa epekto ng pinagbabawal na gamot," the battlecry of the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) under the Office of the President. Guided by this belief, DDB continues to formulate policies and programs upholding the development of the national drug abuse prevention and control strategy. One of its strategies is to determine the lifetime and current user prevalence rates, patterns, and trends of drug abuse in the country through the conduct of the 2019 National Household Survey on the Patterns and Trends of Drug Abuse or the 2019 Drug Survey.

As the central statistical authority of the Philippine government on primary data

collection, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) appreciates institutions that value the use of statistics in order to materialize their respective mandates and uphold good governance in the country.

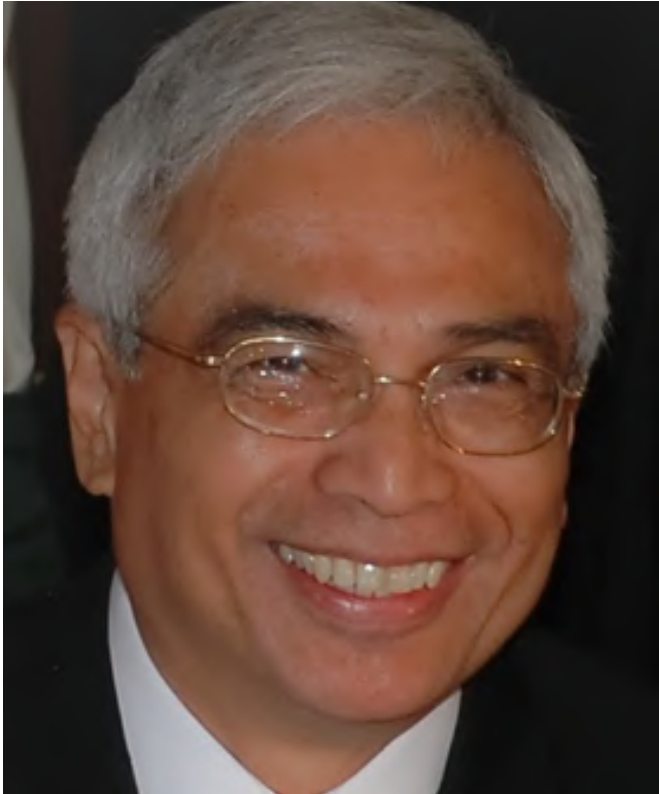
Together with all government agencies and institutions under Executive Order 66, Series of 2018, PSA would like to express our support to the publication of the 2019 Drug Survey released by DDB.

It is eminent that the gathered data in the survey will be put to good use by DDB's stakeholders, especially policy-makers as evidence-based data for decision making and social protection programs.

We share the agency's campaign in fighting against drugs as we take pride in conforming with the set standards in conducting government statistical activities. We believe in DDB and its contribution to the development of citizen-centered policies for Filipinos especially for the government's campaign against drugs.

Undersecretary DENNIS S. MAPA, Ph.D.
National Statistician
and Civil Registrar General
Philippine Statistics Authority





Providing policy makers and decision makers in government and industry with timely and relevant tracking and measurement data has been the thrust of I-Metrics Asia-Pacific Corporation (I-Metrics Asia). We have been providing research and information technology solutions to industry, government, and academic institutions not only in the Philippines but also in Singapore and Indonesia.

With our 20 years of research experience, we have been fortunate to have been commissioned to validate and analyze the data collected through a survey by the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB) in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

The study produced a wealth of survey data with more than 11 million informational inputs which is a formidable data size.

Using established data processing and logistical rules, we were able to generate statistical tables, perform data analytics, and construct the report of the 2019 Drug Survey. Through this survey, we believe that we are able to scientifically generate the prevalence of lifetime and current drug use, determine the patterns and trends of the drug problem, and evaluate the performance of the government in drug prevention and control, as seen from the lens of Filipinos.

As an independent research and technology solutions provider, I-Metrics Asia is honored to be part of the 2019 National Household Survey on the Patterns and Trends of Drug Abuse. As an institution doing business in the country, we are also reassured that the government is on the right track in using statistically and scientifically-based information in the planning and formulation of policies and programs to address our problem on illegal drugs.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of I-Metrics Asia, I would like to thank the DDB for the opportunity to be part of this undertaking. For us, it was a remarkable analytic journey to apply a comprehensive approach to establish empirical and evidence-based data and information on drug abuse in the Philippines. We can put our name on the line and attest to the faithfulness of the survey results to the data collected from the ground.



NICK FONTANILLA, Ph.D.

President and CEO

I-Metrics Asia-Pacific Corporation



The Philippine government, under the leadership of President Rodrigo R. Duterte, has been intensifying its efforts against illegal substance, which is one of the causes hindering the empowerment of Filipinos.

In acknowledging the extent of the country's drug problem, the government has lengthened its strides in building drug-free communities (DFCs) that are comfortable, peaceful, and just through the adoption of the whole-of-nation approach. The 2019 National Household Survey on the Patterns and Trends of Drug Abuse showed the efforts of the government in attaining DFCs and the magnitude of the nationwide drug problem.

The said survey is the result of collaboration and partnership between the Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), Department

of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), and I-Metrics Asia Pacific, Inc.

The DSWD, as the lead agency in social protection and member of the Inter-Agency Committee on Anti-Illegal Drugs, is honored to be part of the 2019 Drug Survey through the engagement of our field workers under the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) in gathering the necessary data for the survey.

The data, information, and analysis of the survey would greatly contribute in maintaining a well-informed society, broaden the public's perception, and enable our government to become adept in addressing the present condition of the drug problem through crafting effective, efficient, and responsive policies, programs and strategies.

On behalf of DSWD, I would like to thank the DDB for this great opportunity and for providing the necessary support in the fulfillment of the data gathering requirements of the survey. I commend the efforts of the 4Ps National Program Management Office for taking the initiative and our field personnel in our Field Offices who carried out the work. You have made a great contribution by helping our *kababayans* understand the context of our nation's drug problem, enabling them to participate in proposing necessary actions and solutions.

Rest assured that DSWD will continue to provide full support to all initiatives of the government in relation to our battle against illegal drugs. We are also committed to continuously fulfill our task of empowering local government units and other stakeholders in the provision of aftercare and support services to transform recovering persons who used drugs.

More than providing data and information, may the results of the survey also ignite actions among our fellow citizens to contribute towards building a nation that is free from the clutches of illegal drugs.

Maraming salamat at patuloy tayong magtulungan upang bawiin ang ating bayan mula sa ilegal na droga.

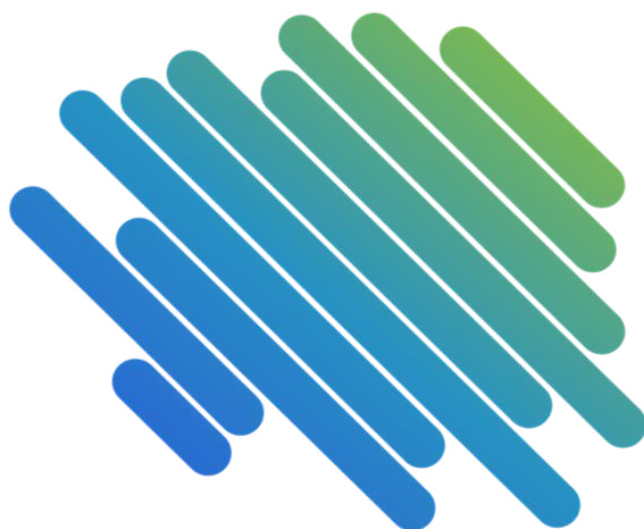

ROLANDO JOSELITO D. BAUTISTA
Secretary

The 2019 National Household Survey on the Patterns and Trends of Drug Abuse was conducted in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), and I-Metrics Asia Pacific, Inc.

Research framework, methodology and instruments were validated and vetted by the PSA. Trained field interviewers of the DSWD were engaged for the data gathering activities. Processing of data and analysis, on the other hand, was done by I-Metrics Asia Pacific, Inc.



Executive Summary



The main objective of the 2019 National Household Survey on the Patterns and Trends of Drug Abuse is to determine the magnitude of the drug problem nationwide and estimate the number of lifetime and current drug users. Specifically, it aims to determine prevalence and number of lifetime and current drug users (local and national levels); define the demographic characteristics of lifetime and current drug users; measure awareness of the respondents to the anti-drug programs and services provided by the government at the barangay level; and provide recommendations to counter the drug problem at the national level.

"DETERMINE THE MAGNITUDE OF THE DRUG PROBLEM NATIONWIDE AND ESTIMATE THE NUMBER OF LIFETIME AND CURRENT DRUG USERS"

The survey employed face-to-face interviews with 9,341 Filipinos, aged 10-69 years, randomly selected in all 17 regions (including BARMM and CAR) in the Philippines. The survey was designed to produce representative estimates for the Philippines as a whole and for each of the 17 administrative regions. At a 95% confidence level and a sample size of 9,341, the margin of error is plus or minus 1.01. This means that if we do the same survey 20 times, we will get the same results 19 out of 20 (95%) plus or minus 1.01 percent.



Lifetime User Prevalence Rate: Two questions were used to estimate and derive lifetime user prevalence rate. Based on this, lifetime user prevalence rate is 5.8% of Filipinos with ages from 10 to 69 years old. This figure suggests that for every 100 Filipinos aged 10-69 years, six (6) have tried dangerous drugs/substances at least once in their lifetime.

Using Philippine Statistics Authority's (PSA) 2019 population projections covering ages 10 to 69 (81,713,276), lifetime user prevalence rate translates to 4.7 million Filipinos (or between 3.9 million to 5.6 million Filipinos), distributed as follows:

Regions	PSA 2019 Population, 10 to 69 years old	Lifetime Users
NCR	10,820,482	738,107
CAR	1,369,881	64,490
Region I	3,968,243	236,376
Region II	2,763,959	116,842
Region III	9,404,797	379,501
Region IV-A	12,246,018	835,348
Region IV-B	2,303,932	121,744
Region V	4,437,113	200,361
Region VI	5,945,918	434,157
Region VII	5,930,384	410,232
Region VIII	3,451,990	185,726
Region IX	2,806,103	204,895
Region X	3,735,047	301,432
Region XI	3,950,955	151,837
Region XII	3,649,776	112,210
CARAGA	2,010,602	125,561
BARMM	2,918,076	120,553
TOTAL PHILIPPINES	81,713,276	4,739,370

6 OUT OF 100 FILIPINOS AGED 10-69 YEARS HAVE TRIED DANGEROUS DRUGS AT LEAST ONCE IN THEIR LIFE

Current User Prevalence Rate: DDB's Project Team selected two variables to estimate current user prevalence rate. Based on this, current user prevalence rate is 2.05% of Filipinos with ages 10 to 69 years old. This translates to around 1.7 million Filipinos in that age range, implying that for every 100 Filipinos aged 10-69 years, two (2) are using dangerous drugs/substances at the time of the interview.

**2 OUT OF 100
FILIPINOS AGED
10-69 YEARS ARE
USING DANGEROUS
DRUGS AT THE
TIME OF THE
INTERVIEW**

Regions	PSA 2019 Population, 10 to 69 years old	Current Users
NCR	10,820,482	221,579
CAR	1,369,881	18,221
Region I	3,968,243	77,843
Region II	2,763,959	26,713
Region III	9,404,797	288,883
Region IV-A	12,246,018	183,976
Region IV-B	2,303,932	63,714
Region V	4,437,113	98,080
Region VI	5,945,918	144,517
Region VII	5,930,384	143,572
Region VIII	3,451,990	91,499
Region IX	2,806,103	51,824
Region X	3,735,047	129,739
Region XI	3,950,955	55,198
Region XII	3,649,776	22,352
CARAGA	2,010,602	45,405
BARMM	2,918,076	12,007
TOTAL PHILIPPINES	81,713,276	1,675,122



Widely Known Dangerous Drugs/

Substances: As to what dangerous drugs/substances come to mind first when asked, 47.9% of the respondents mentioned Shabu and 35%, Marijuana. These are also the top two (2) dangerous drugs and substances prominently mentioned across regions, gender, age group, and educational attainment. Television is the primary source of knowledge of respondents across region, gender, age group, and educational attainment. Other sources include radio, neighbor, friend, internet, and school. It has been noted that the internet is emerging as one of the top sources of awareness.

Marijuana (57%) and Shabu (35%) are the top two (2) dangerous drugs of choice of Filipino lifetime users aged 10-69 years old.

Government's Anti-Drug Campaign:

About 65.8% of respondents (6,149 out of N=9,341) say that they are aware of the government's anti-drug campaign.

Of those who are aware, about 81.6% (5,017 out of n=6,149) either agree (33.6% or 2,066 out of n=6,149) or strongly agree (48.0% or 2,951 out of n=6,149) to the government's anti-drug campaign.

Significantly, those who are aware of the government's anti-drug campaign opine that the current drug situation under the present administration has slightly improved (34.7% or 2,133 out of n=6,149) to greatly improved (45.5% or 2,798 out of n=6,149).



MARIJUANA AND SHABU ARE THE TOP TWO DRUGS OF CHOICE

Profiling Drug Users: Using several feature selection methods, the study shortlisted a few variables that have strong association with drug use and non-drug use. These are region, gender, and age when user started risky behaviors.

Chi-squared Automatic Interaction Detection (CHAID), a decision tree model, created several predictive paradigms with a rule confidence ranging from 70% to 91%. The model validates the gateway principle that a drug user becomes one after starting to smoke at age 17 or younger, follows up with drinking at age 20 or younger. He starts smoking and drinking because of peer influence and curiosity. The model suggests an information and advocacy program that prevents junior high school students from initiating to smoke and alcohol drinking.

Recommendations: The government has been successful in informing the public and making them understand the perils of drug abuse. However, there is a need to address the identified triggers/gateways that lead one to drug experimentation. The progression to drug use continues unless the bud (smoking/alcohol drinking) is deterred at a young age. This is a youth problem that requires a whole-of-nation approach.

The Department of Health should explore healthy alternatives to deter youth from engaging in unhealthy habits and heighten their campaign on the promotion of healthy lifestyles and prevention of the early onset of smoking and other vices.

The Department of Education to continue teaching young students the hazards of smoking and alcohol drinking, imposing certain restrictions to prevent early initiation.

"THE PROGRESSION TO DRUG USE CONTINUE UNLESS THE BUD IS DETERRED AT A YOUNG AGE"

The Department of the Interior and Local Government should issue circulars directing local government units (LGUs) to promote smoke-free/alcohol-free communities particularly for the youth and offer alternative wholesome activities for them.

In turn, LGUs should legislate specific ordinances against smoking/alcohol

drinking by minors, provide interventions to those caught in possession of cigarettes/liquors and promote programs that create psychological barriers towards early smoking/alcohol drinking, among others.

The Department of Finance, through the Bureau of Customs, may implement stricter measures to prevent smuggling of cigarette and liquor.

Other recommended actions are as follows:

- The anti-drug efforts of the government with targeted campaigns against smoking and alcohol drinking among teenagers should maximize online platforms.
- Preventive and intervention programs should best be delivered across social and traditional media.
- As established, reduction in the number of teenagers who venture into smoking and alcohol drinking at certain ages will likely lessen the probability towards drug experimentation/use. The campaign should promote suitable alternatives or messages at ages when these teenagers are most vulnerable.
- In accordance with the whole-of-nation approach, the government should involve the private sector, NGOs, faith-based groups, and other stakeholders in the overall campaign against drugs.
- Monitoring, review, assessment and evaluation of programs and projects to make the anti-drug campaign responsive, relevant, and sustainable.

1 Introduction

Objectives

The main objective of the 2019 National Household Survey on the Patterns and Trends of Drug Abuse is to determine the magnitude of the drug problem nationwide and estimate the number of lifetime and current drug users.



The survey was designed to produce representative estimates for the Philippines as a whole and for each of the 17 administrative regions.

Specific objectives are as follows:



To determine prevalence and number of lifetime and current drug users (local and national levels).



Respondents of the survey are Filipinos 10 to 69 years old, regardless of socio-economic status and state of physical health.



To define the demographic characteristics of lifetime and current drug users.



At a 95% confidence level and a sample size of 9,341, the margin of error is +/- 1.01%.

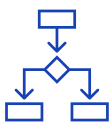


To measure awareness of the respondents of the anti-drug programs and services provided by the government at the barangay level.

Data Gathering Method



Data collection was done face-to-face from December 2019 to February 2020 by trained field interviewers of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) using structured questionnaire, comprehensive survey manual, Computer-Aided Personal Interview (CAPI) programmed tablet and Paper and Pen Interview (PAPI) forms.



To provide recommendations to counter the drug problem at the national level.



Sampling Design



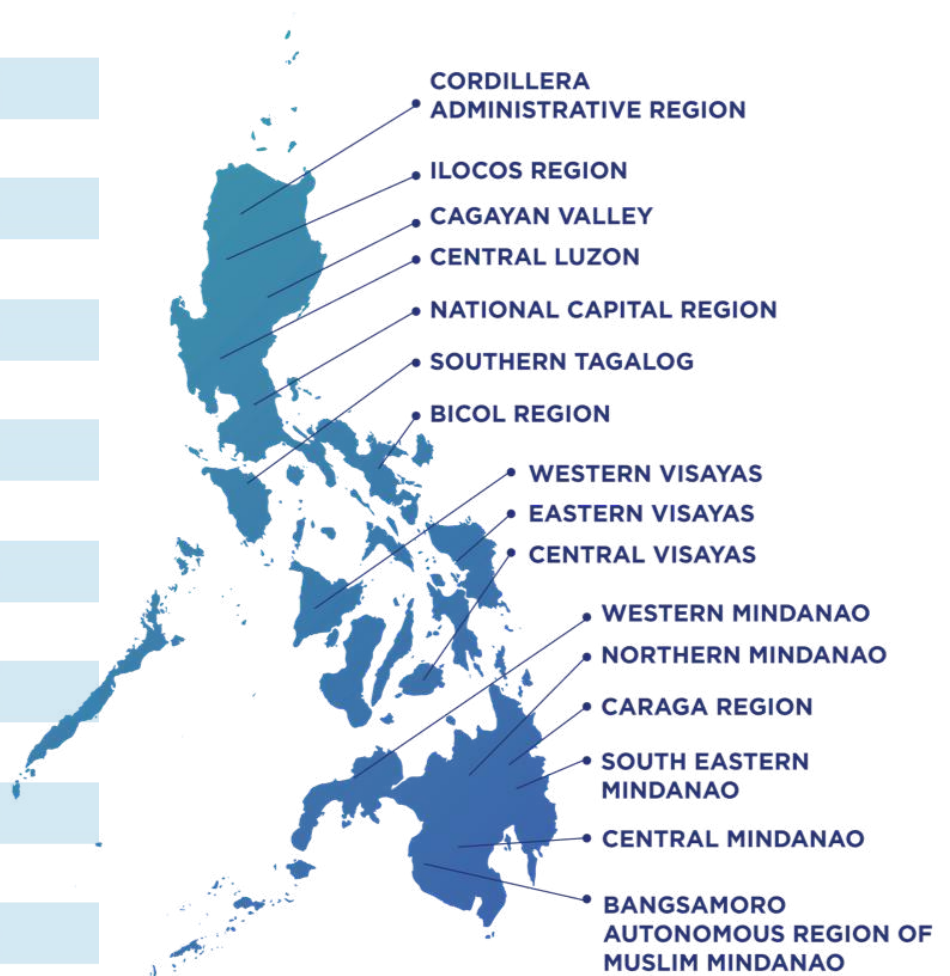
The survey covered 9,341 households randomly selected in all 17 regions (including BARMM and CAR) of the Philippines.



Sample Size by Region

The sample size for each of the 17 region ranged from 529 to 561.

REGION	#
CAR	551
Region 1	561
Region 2	552
Region 3	542
NCR	532
Region 4A	529
Region 4B	551
Region 5	550
Region 6	547
Region 7	561
Region 8	556
Region 9	551
Region 10	555
Region 11	545
Region 12	556
CARAGA	551
BARMM	551
TOTAL	9,341



Delimitations of the Survey

As a sample survey, it is important to note the statistical and practical limitations of the study, among which are as follows:

Sample Survey



The 2019 study is a sample survey of Filipinos who are 10 to 69 years old. It was designed to produce representative estimates for the Philippines as a whole and for each of 17 administrative regions.

External Conditions



There were challenges in the data collection including peace and order conditions in some survey areas, weather conditions at the time of the survey, limited transportation, and distances of households in rural areas.

Margin of Error



As a sample survey, margin of error (MOE) applies. MOE tells us how many percentage points the results may differ from the real population value. For this study, at a 95% confidence level and a sample size of 9,341, the margin of error is +/-1.01%.

Response Errors Due to Perceived Incriminatory Nature of the Questions

The nature of the survey suggests that we need to consider possible response errors. The main question on the use of dangerous drugs is very sensitive and considered by those who may be alluded to by the question as incriminating. Direct questioning did not yield full cooperation from lifetime users which was anticipated. Voluntary response could have been perceived as damaging and potentially affects eligibility to some government programs like 4Ps. The current user prevalence rate intends to measure the number of current users based on certain indicators. For such cases, we utilized proxy responses to substitute for drug use.

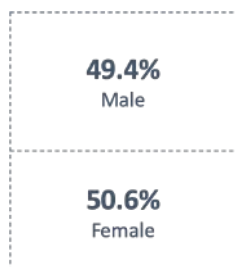


2 Detailed Research Findings

Respondent Profile

Sex (N=9,341)

The study respondents were about equally divided between males and females.



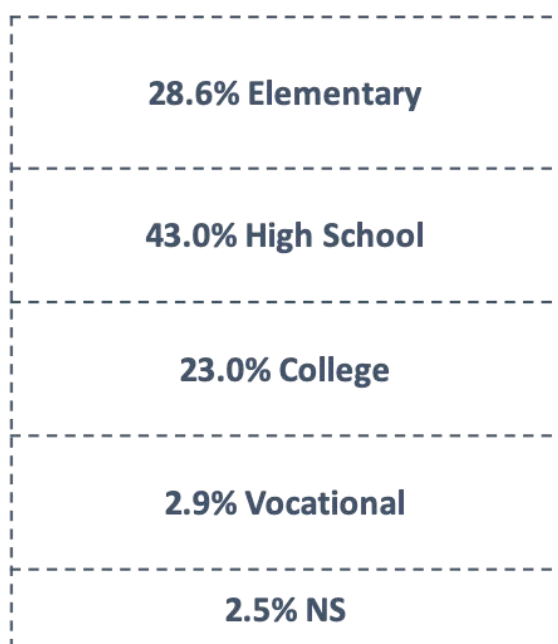
Age (N=9,341)

The study sample consisted mostly of Filipinos aged 18-59 years (69.9%). The 10-17 years old comprised 17.8% and those aged 60-69 years, 12.3%.

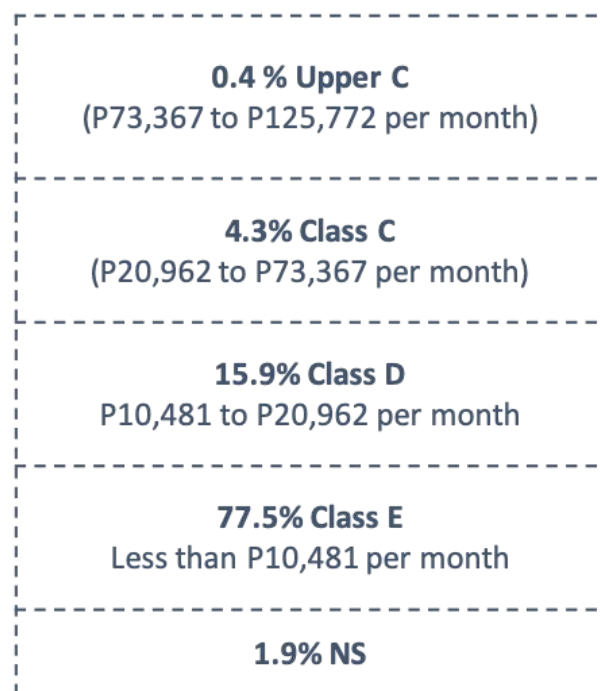


Educational Attainment (N=9,341)

The respondents who have gone up to high school level comprised the biggest group (43.0%). Following a far second are those who have reached elementary level only (28.6%). Those who have attended college occupy the third spot (23.0%). A minority have taken vocational education (2.9%).



Socio Economic Classification (N=9,341)



*Based on DSWD Classification

Lifetime User Prevalence

Lifetime User Prevalence Rate (N=9,341)

5.8%

Lifetime user prevalence rate

MOE = +/-1.01%

(minimum of 4.79% to maximum of 6.81%)

Estimated population of lifetime users:

4,739,370

(minimum of 3.9 million to maximum of 5.6 million)

**ABOUT
4.7 MILLION OR
SIX OUT OF EVERY
100 FILIPINOS
AGED 10-69 YEARS
TRIED DANGEROUS
DRUGS/SUBSTANCES
AT LEAST ONCE
IN THEIR LIFE**

Estimated Number of Lifetime Users by Region

The top five (5) regions perceived to be with the greatest number of lifetime users are: Region 4A, NCR, Regions 6, 7, and 3.

Chart 1. Perceived Regional Estimate of the Number of Lifetime Users (in thousands)



Note: The numbers shown above the bars are population estimates of perceived lifetime users in thousands while the numbers below the region names are the perceived lifetime user prevalence rates in percentages

Average Age When First Tried Using Dangerous Drugs/Substances (n=541)

Most lifetime users were initiated to dangerous drugs/substance use at age 22.



22 YEARS OLD
AGE WHEN MOST
LIFETIME USERS
STARTED TRYING
DANGEROUS DRUGS/
SUBSTANCES

Reasons for Trying Dangerous Drugs/Substances (n=541)

Peer influence and curiosity are the main reasons for trying dangerous drugs/substances.



Other Reasons	% of Triers
Just want to try	4.1
Stressed	1.1
Cope with Problems	0.7
Influenced by household members	0.5
Personal problem	0.5
Work-related problems	0.5

Dangerous Drugs/Substances Ever Tried (n=541)

Marijuana (57%) and Shabu (35%) are the top two (2) dangerous drugs of choice of Filipino lifetime users aged 10-69 years.



57% MARIJUANA
CANNABIS SATIVA



35% SHABU
METHAMPHETAMINE
HYDROCHLORIDE

Lifetime User Prevalence Rate by Sex

About 9.3% or 442 of n=4,730 males aged 10-69 years have tried taking drugs/substances compared to only 2.2% or 99 of n=4,611 females.

Lifetime User Prevalence Rate by Age Group

A total of 6.9% of those 18-59 years old have tried taking dangerous drugs/ substances compared to only 1.4% of those 10-17 years old and 5.8% of those belonging to 60-69 years old.



10-17 years old

1.4% or 24 of n=1,666



18-59 years old

6.9% or 450 of n=6,526



60-69 years old

5.8% or 67 of n=1,149

Lifetime User Prevalence Rate by Educational Attainment

Based on this survey, those with vocational education are more likely to have tried dangerous drugs/substances than those from other education attainment level groups. The same can be said about those with college education when compared to those with either high school or elementary education attainment.



Vocational
10.2% or 28 of n=271



College
7.1% or 152 of n=2,144



High School
5.7% or 227 of n=4,018



Elementary
4.2% or 113 of n=2,675



Not Specified
8.7% or 20 of n=233

Lifetime User Prevalence Rate by Socio-economic Class

<p>7.9% Upper C or 3 of n=38</p>
<p>8.3% Class C or 33 of n=398</p>
<p>7.3% Class D or 109 of n=1,485</p>
<p>5.3% Class E or 386 of n=7,238</p>
<p>5.5% NS or 10 of n=182</p>

*Based on DSWD Classification

Current User Prevalence

Current User Prevalence Rate (N=9,341)

2.05%

Current user prevalence rate

MOE = +/-1.01%

(minimum of 1.04% to maximum of 3.06%)

Estimated population of current users:

1,675,122

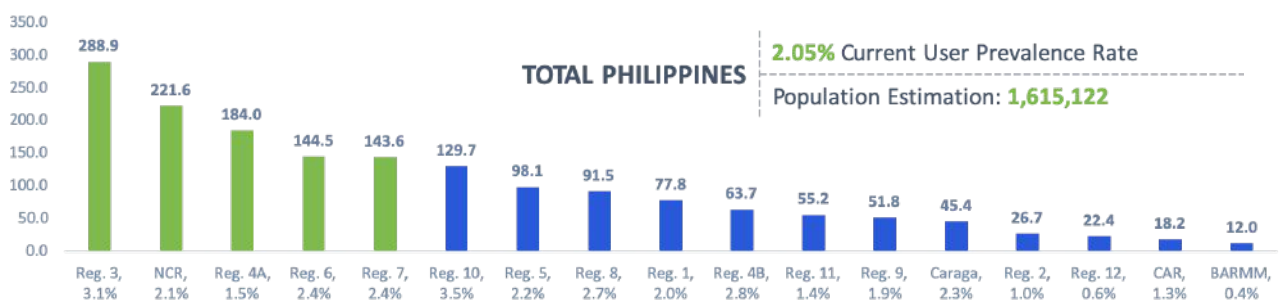
(minimum of 849,818 to maximum of 2,500,426)

ABOUT 1.7 MILLION OR TWO OUT OF EVERY 100 FILIPINOS AGED 10-69 YEARS ARE TAKING DANGEROUS DRUGS/SUBSTANCES AT THE TIME OF THE INTERVIEW

Estimated Number of Current Users by Region

The top five (5) regions perceived to be with the highest number of current users are: Region 3, NCR, Regions 4A, 6, and 7.

Chart 2. Perceived Regional Estimate of the Number of Current Users (in thousands)



Note: The numbers shown above the bars are population estimates of perceived current users in thousands while the numbers below the region names are the perceived current user prevalence rates in percentages.

Current User Prevalence Rate by Sex

About 3.78% or 179 of n=4,730 males aged 10-69 years are current drug users at the time of the interview compared to only 0.28% or 13 of n=4,611 females.

Current User Prevalence Rate by Age Group

Around 2.73% of those belonging to 18-59 years old are current users of dangerous drugs/substances at the time of the interview compared to only 0.07% of those in the 10-17 age bracket and 1.08% of the 60-69 years old.



10-17 years old

0.07% or 1 of n=1,666



18-59 years old

2.73% or 178 of n=6,526



60-69 years old

1.08% or 12 of n=1,149

Current User Prevalence Rate by Educational Attainment

Those with vocational education are more likely to be current users of dangerous drugs/substances at the time of the interview than those from other education attainment level groups. There is not much difference in the current user prevalence rate among those who attained college, high school, and elementary education.



Vocational
5.68% or 15 of n=271



College
2.09% or 45 of n=2,144



High School
2.02% or 81 of n=4,018



Elementary
1.66% or 44 of n=2,675



Not Specified
2.54% or 6 of n=233

Current User Prevalence Rate by Socio-economic Class

0% Upper C
1.76% Class C or 7 of n=398
1.95% Class D or 29 of n=1,485
2.11% Class E or 153 of n=7,238
1.10% NS or 2 of n=182

*Based on DSWD Classification

Awareness of Dangerous Drugs/Substances and Sources of Awareness

Top-of-Mind Recall of Dangerous Drugs/Substances (N=9,341)

When asked as to what dangerous drugs/substances come to mind first, 47.9% of the respondents mentioned Shabu and 35.0%, Marijuana.



47.9% SHABU
METHAMPHETAMINE
HYDROCHLORIDE

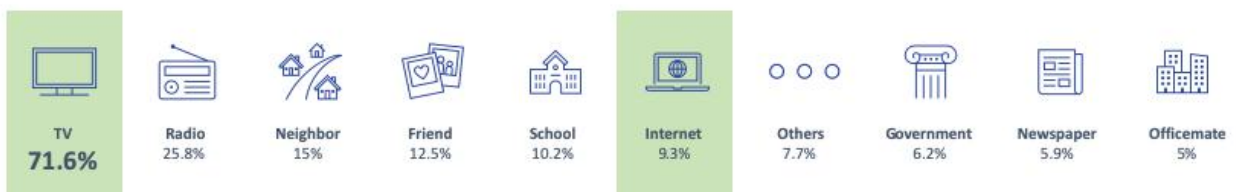


35% MARIJUANA
CANNABIS SATIVA

When asked about other dangerous drugs/substances they may be aware of, 8.9% mentioned cocaine

Top Ten Sources of Awareness (N=9,341)

Respondents get their information on dangerous drugs/substances through TV, radio, neighbors, friends, among others. Take note that the internet is emerging to be one of the top sources of awareness on dangerous drugs and substances.

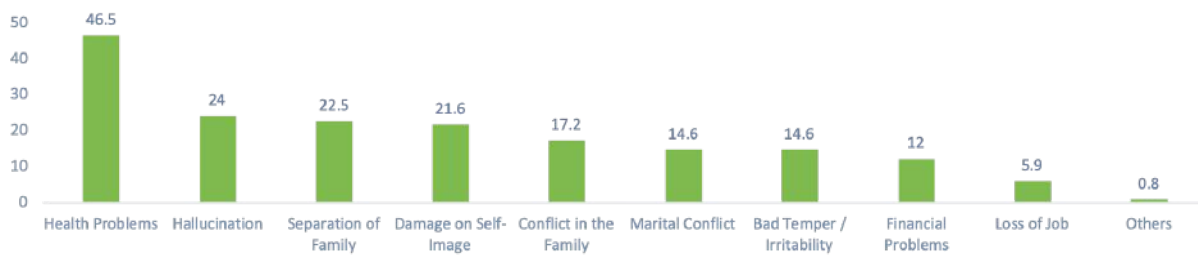


Public Perceptions About Drug Use

Perceived Negative Effects of Drug Use (N=9,341)

Health problems top the list of perceived negative effects of drug use. The other commonly mentioned negative effects are: hallucination, separation of family, and damage on self-image.

Chart 3. Perceived Negative Effects of Drug Use



**multiple responses*

Note: The numbers shown above the bars are in percentages.

Perception on People Who Would be Most Helpful for Those Who Use Dangerous Drugs/Substances (N=9,341)

Institutions or people that respondents consider to be most helpful to drug users who would like to seek interventions are: household/family members, police, and LGU, among others.



42.2%
Household



33.9%
Police



26.1%
LGU



19.6%
Health Centers



13%
Community



10%
Church

Perception on Ways to Avoid Using Dangerous Drugs/Substances (N=9,341)

According to respondents, the top five (5) ways to avoid using dangerous drugs/substances are: looking for productive leisure activities, keeping oneself busy, staying at home, thinking about impact on family, and praying.



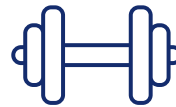
29.2%
**look for productive
leisure activities**



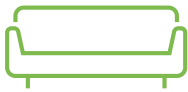
8.9%
study



24.6%
**keep oneself busy
with career/job/
business**



6.6%
exercise



20.9%
stay at home



5%
sleep/ rest



16.5%
**think about impact
on family**



4.2%
eat



13.5%
pray



6.6%
no answer

Risky Behavior: Smoking

Percentage of Filipinos Aged 10-69 Years Who have Tried Smoking (N=9,341)

About 36.2% of Filipinos aged 10-69 years have tried smoking. This translates to about 29 million Filipinos who have tried smoking or a ratio of four (4) out of ten (10) Filipinos aged 10-69 years.

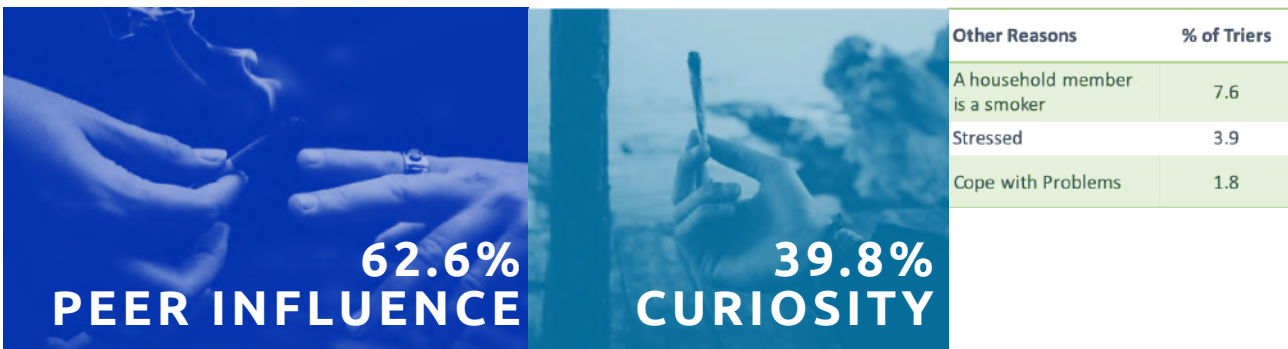
Age When Started Smoking (n=3,385)

Nineteen (19) years old is the starting age for smoking, on the average, among Filipinos aged 10-69 years.

Reasons for Trying to Smoke (n=3,385)

Peer influence and curiosity are the identified reasons for trying to smoke, among others.

**ON THE
AVERAGE,
FILIPINOS
AGED 10-69
YEARS TRIED
SMOKING AT
NINETEEN
YEARS OLD**

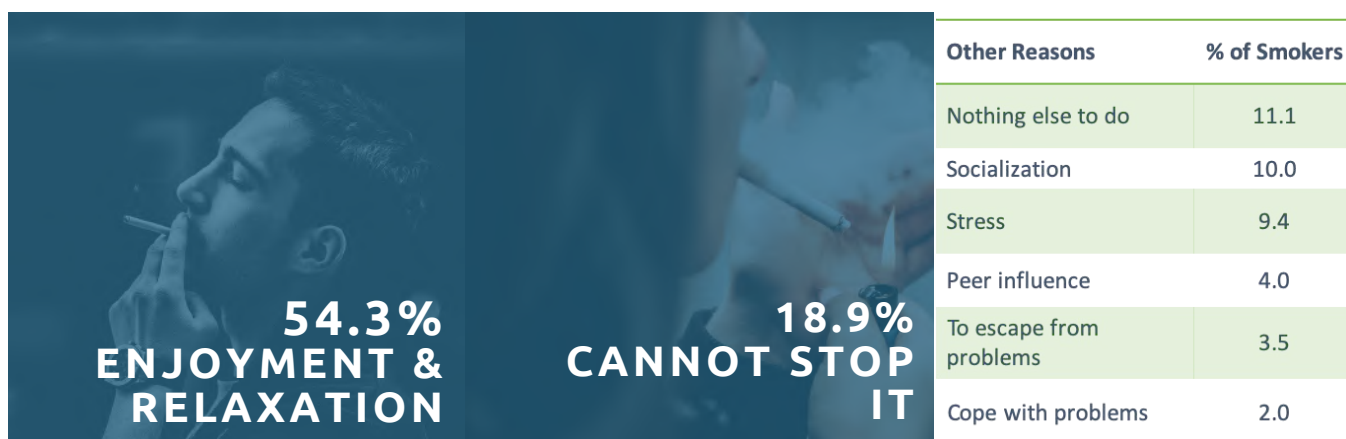


Percentage of Triers Who Continue to Smoke (n=3,385)

Close to half (44.2%) of those who have tried smoking claimed to have continued the habit at the time of the interview.

Reasons for Continuing to Smoke (n=1,496)

At the time of the interview, respondents who have tried smoking cited that the main reasons for continuing to smoke are enjoyment/relaxation and cannot stop it.



Risky Behavior: Alcohol Drinking

Percentage of Filipinos Aged 10-69 Years Who have Tried Alcohol Drinking (N=9,341)

About 56.7% of Filipinos aged 10-69 years have tried alcohol drinking. This translates to about 46 million or a ratio of six (6) out of ten (10) Filipinos aged 10-69 have tried drinking alcohol.

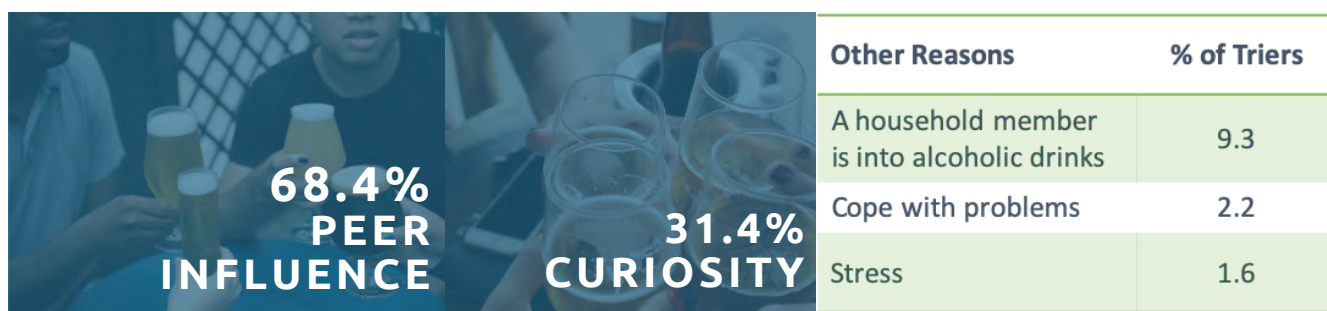
56.7%
**TRIED ALCOHOL
DRINKING**

Age When Started Alcohol Drinking (n=5,299)

Twenty-one (21) years old is the starting age for alcohol drinking, on the average, for Filipinos aged 10-69 years.

Reasons for Trying Alcohol Drinking (n=5,299)

At the time of the interview, respondents who have tried alcohol drinking identified peer influence and curiosity as the main reasons for their initiation to alcohol drinking.



Percentage of Triers Who Continue to Take Alcoholic Drinks (n=5,299)

At the time of the interview, more than half (53.9%) of those who have tried alcohol drinking claimed to have continued the habit.

Reasons for Continuing to Take Alcoholic Drinks (n=2,856)

At the time of the interview, respondents who have tried drinking alcoholic drinks cited that the main reasons for continuing to take alcoholic drinks are socialization and enjoyment/relaxation.



Statistical Tools Used to Look into the Interrelationship of the Three Risky Behaviors

The following are the statistical tools used to determine the link between and among the three (3) risky behaviors:

- Stepwise approach
- Statistical-based feature selection method
- Derived central tendencies
- Descriptive analyses
- Linear structural relationship (Path Model)
- Correspondence analysis (Perceptual Mapping)
- Chi-squared Automatic Interaction Detection (CHAID)

The Link Between and Among Smoking, Alcohol Drinking, and Trying Drugs

Smoking, Drinking and Trying Drugs Link

The pattern of drug taking of 541 respondents who are lifetime users are:



74.5%
(403)
**use drugs,
smoke, and
drink**



12.8%
(69)
**drink and
use drugs**



9.8%
(53)
use drugs only






3%
(16)
**smoke and
use drugs**

- Of the 4.7 million Filipinos aged 10-69 years who are lifetime users, about 3.5 million tried drugs, smoking, and alcohol drinking simultaneously. This translates to four (4) out of 100 Filipinos aged 10-69 years have tried drugs, smoking, and alcohol drinking simultaneously once in their life.
- Of the 4.7 million Filipinos aged 10-69 years who are lifetime users, about 600,000 tried drugs and alcohol drinking simultaneously. This translates to one (1) out of 100 Filipinos aged 10-69 years have tried drugs and alcohol drinking simultaneously once in their life.

- Of the 4.7 million Filipinos aged 10-69 years who are lifetime users, about 142,000 tried drugs and smoking simultaneously. This translates to two (2) out of 1000 Filipinos aged 10-69 years have tried drugs and smoking simultaneously once in their lifet.

Progression of Risky Behavior

	 SMOKING	 DRINKING	 DRUG USE
AVERAGE AGE STARTED	19 YEARS OLD	21 YEARS OLD	22 YEARS OLD
	Age when 36.2% of 9,341 or 3,385 respondents tried smoking	Age when 56.7% of 9,341 or 5,299 respondents tried drinking	Age when 5.8% of 9,341 or 541 respondents tried using drugs
WHAT MADE THEM TRY	Peer Influence (63%) Curiosity (40%)	Peer influence (68%) Curiosity (31%)	Peer influence (57%) Curiosity (24%)
FROM ONSET TO HABIT	44% of 3,385 continue to smoke	54% of 5,299 continue to drink	36% of 541 continue to use drugs
REASONS FOR CONTINUING	Enjoyment and relaxation (54%) Cannot stop (19%)	Socialization (52%) Enjoyment and relaxation (45%)	Helps user to sleep, to forget problems and other reasons (43%)

- 36.2% (of N=9,341) started smoking at age 19, mainly due to peer influence and curiosity. 44% (of n=3,385) continued to smoke for enjoyment and relaxation, or they cannot stop.
- 56.7% (of N=9,341) tried drinking at age 21, mainly due to peer influence and curiosity. 54% (of n=5,299) continued to drink for socialization, enjoyment and relaxation.
- 5.8% (of N=9,341) tried taking drugs at age 22, mainly due to peer influence and curiosity. 36% (of n=541) continued to use drugs because it helps in getting to sleep, forgetting problems, and other reasons.

Survey also revealed that respondents started smoking and/or started drinking alcohol as early as the **age of 7**; tried drugs at the **age of 11**.

Youth Smoking and Drug Use



Non-drug users first tried smoking at 19 years old while those who tried drugs did at age 17. The mean difference is statistically significant.

While most who tried drugs started smoking at 17 years old, **those who started smoking earlier at 15 years old and below have greater chances of becoming drug users** than others.

Youth Drinking and Drug Use



Non-drug users first tried alcoholic drinks at 21 years old while those who tried drugs did at age 18. The mean difference is statistically significant.

Respondents who started drinking at 18 years old and below are more likely to be drug users than others.

Youth Smoking, Drinking, and Drug Use



Most lifetime drug users (74.4%) engage in drug use simultaneously with smoking and alcohol drinking.

They progressed from smoking (starting at age 17) to alcohol drinking (starting at age 18) to trying dangerous drugs and substances (starting at age 22).

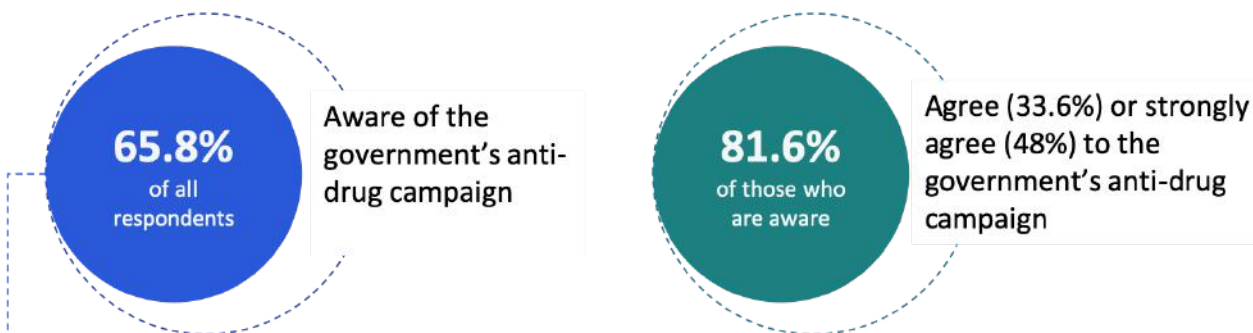
Government's Anti-Drug Campaign

Public Awareness and Reception of the Government's Anti-Drug Campaign

About 65.8% of respondents (6,149 out of N=9,341) say that they are aware of the government's anti-drug campaign.

Of those who are aware, about 81.6% (5,017 out of n=6,149) either agree (33.6% or 2,066 out of n=6,149) or strongly agree (48.0% or 2,951 out of n=6,149) to the government's anti-drug campaign.

Significantly, those who are aware of the government's anti-drug campaign opine that the current drug situation under the present administration has slightly improved (34.7% or 2,133 out of n=6,149) to greatly improved (45.5% or 2,798 out of n=6,149).



Significantly, those who are aware of the government's anti-drug campaign (n=6,149), opine that the current drug situation under the present administration has slightly improved (34.7%) to greatly improved (45.5%).

Awareness of Specific Anti-Drug Programs

The top five anti-drug programs in terms of awareness are: police visibility, drug clearing operations, anti-drug advocacy seminars and trainings, police house visitations, and education and vocational programs.



46%

Police Visibility
(24/7 police surveillance,

24/7 police hotline, etc.)



43%

Drug Clearing Operations



33%

Anti-Drug Abuse Advocacy Seminars and Trainings



31%

Police House Visitation



22%

Education and Vocational Programs

3 Conclusions

- The internet is an emerging medium for awareness on dangerous drugs and substances.
- The earlier the person is initiated to smoking and alcohol drinking, the greater the likelihood for him to try/use dangerous drugs and substances.
- High awareness on the government's anti-drug campaign among the general population is evident.
- The government's anti-drug campaign is well-received by the public.
- The directions and programs that the government has undertaken during the present administration have been proven effective as evidenced by the public's acceptance of the government's anti-drug campaign and the observed drop in the user prevalence rates.
- The high awareness and good reception of the public on the government's anti-drug campaign could be the reason for the decline in the user prevalence rates.
- The government not only succeeded in flattening the user prevalence rate curve but has also seemingly reversed the trend.

**THE GOVERNMENT
NOT ONLY
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TREND**

4 Recommendations

The government has been successful in informing the public and making them understand the perils of drug abuse. However, there is a need to address the identified triggers/gateways that lead one to drug experimentation. The progression to drug use continues unless the bud (smoking/alcohol drinking) is deterred at a young age. This is a youth problem that requires a whole-of-nation approach.

In the light of the foregoing findings, the following are hereby recommended.

For the **Department of Health** to:

- explore healthy alternatives to deter youth from engaging in unhealthy habits and heighten their campaign on the promotion of healthy lifestyles and prevention of the early onset of smoking and other vices.
- step up the campaign to remove stigma against Persons Who Use Drugs (PWUDs) who will undergo treatment and rehabilitation.
- provide technical assistance to various duty bearers through the conduct of relevant trainings that will enable them to provide standard health services for every level of drug use.
- enhance the implementation of the Red Orchid Award, based on the World Health Organization MPOWER Framework, to recognize 100% tobacco-free environment.
(in cooperation with LGUs)

**THERE IS A NEED
TO ADDRESS
THE IDENTIFIED
TRIGGERS/
GATEWAYS THAT
LEAD ONE TO DRUG
EXPERIMENTATION**

For the **Department of Education** to:

- continue teaching young students the hazards of smoking and alcohol drinking, imposing certain restrictions to prevent early initiation.

For the **Department of the Interior and Local Government** to:

- issue circulars directing local government units (LGUs) to promote smoke-free/ alcohol-free communities particularly for the youth and offer alternative wholesome activities for them, and monitor implementation thereof.

For the **Local Government Units** to:

- legislate and implement ordinances against smoking/ alcohol drinking by minors, provide interventions to those caught in possession of cigarettes/ liquors, and promote programs that create psychological barriers towards early smoking/ alcohol drinking, among others. Police/local officials' visibility and vigilance should be assured to guarantee an environment that deters smoking/alcohol drinking by minors.
- strengthen the promotion of community-based drug rehabilitation program and other services for PWUDs. *(in coordination with DOH)*
- regularly monitor and inspect establishments offering cigarettes and alcoholic beverages to deter selling to minors. *(with other appropriate agencies)*

For the **Department of Finance**, through the **Bureau of Customs** to:

- implement stricter measures to prevent smuggling of cigarettes and liquor.

For the **Congress** to:

- come up with legislation regarding the minimum/legal age requirement of individuals allowed to buy alcoholic drinks and cigarettes/nicotine products and other forms of smoking.

Other Recommendations

- The anti-drug efforts of the government with targeted campaigns against smoking and alcohol drinking among teenagers should maximize online platforms, among others.
- Preventive and intervention programs should best be delivered across social and traditional media.
- As established, reduction in the number of teenagers who venture into smoking and alcohol drinking at certain ages will likely lessen the probability towards drug experimentation/use. The campaign should promote suitable alternatives or messages at ages when these teenagers are most vulnerable.
- The concerned national government agencies and LGUs to implement and strengthen the Family Drug Abuse Prevention Program, Special Drug Education Centers, and other children and youth-based programs.
- The law enforcement to continue the conduct of anti-drug operations based on a comprehensive approach anchored on the rule of law and adheres to principles of human rights.

- In accordance with the whole-of-nation approach, the government should involve the private sector, non-government organizations, faith-based groups, and other stakeholders in the overall campaign against drugs.
- Monitoring, review, assessment, and evaluation of programs and projects regularly, in line with the PADS targets and deliverables, to make the anti-drug campaign responsive, relevant, and sustainable. Sharing and adaptation of good and best practices should be encouraged.
- Allocation of more resources, programs, and services to perceived high risk areas for drug use. At the same time, a study of conditions and best practices in less vulnerable areas should be undertaken to determine factors that lead to a lower affliction rate, for possible application and replication in problem areas.

2019 NATIONAL HOUSEHOLD SURVEY ON THE PATTERNS AND TRENDS OF DRUG ABUSE

The 2019 National Household Survey on the Patterns and Trends of Drug Abuse (2019 Drug Survey) is conducted in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and I-Metrics Asia Pacific Corporation.

For more information on the 2019 Drug Survey or on the Philippine Anti-Illegal Drugs Strategy (PADS), please send an email to info@ddb.gov.ph or call us at (02) 8929-1753 or 89294544.



PADS PHILIPPINE
ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUGS
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