



17th St. & Constitution Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
United States of America

Organization of American States

P. 202.458.3000  
[www.oas.org](http://www.oas.org)

**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE  
CONTROL COMMISSION  
CICAD**

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

**FIFTY-EIGHTH REGULAR SESSION  
November 11 - 13, 2015  
Trujillo, Perú**

**OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.58  
CICAD/doc.2228/15  
11 November 2015  
Original: English**

**COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF DRUG USE AMONG SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN 13 CARIBBEAN  
COUNTRIES**



# **Comparative Analysis of Drug use Among Secondary School Students in 13 Caribbean Countries**

*Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica,  
Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis,  
St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines,  
Trinidad and Tobago*

**Presentation to the  
Fifty-Eight Regular Session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse  
Control Commission**

**Dr Ken-Garfield Douglas, Consultant Epidemiologist**



# Summary

- Introduction
- Main Results with comparison between 2010 report and 2013 survey
- Analysis of Results
- Policy Implications



# Introduction

- Drug use, as well as the social context in which that use occurs, are etiological factors in a wide range of other social phenomena
- Drug use is known to be causally related to a variety of physical and mental health problems, crime, poor school performance, family disruption, among others
- Previous research has also consistently found strong connections between drugs and violence.



# Methodology

- The SIDUC survey of secondary school students applies a uniform methodology
- The main objective of the uniformity of the approach is to allow the direct comparison of data between surveys that have been undertaken in different countries
- As a result, the sampling procedures, data collection, and data entry methods are all the same, or comparably similar



# Questionnaire

The questionnaire consists of a standard set of questions:

- Basic socio-demographic information
- Beliefs about future academic performance
- Discipline and academic problems
- Perceptions of harm associated with the consumption of drugs
- Prevalence of substance use and patterns of consumption
- Incidence of substance use
- Frequency of use



# Objectives

- General Objectives
  - To estimate the magnitude of illicit and licit drug use among secondary school students in the Caribbean and its distribution according to select demographic variables
  - To determine the perceived risk of drug use, access to drugs, availability of drugs, and frequency of use
  - To examine risk and protective factors for drug use by school students.

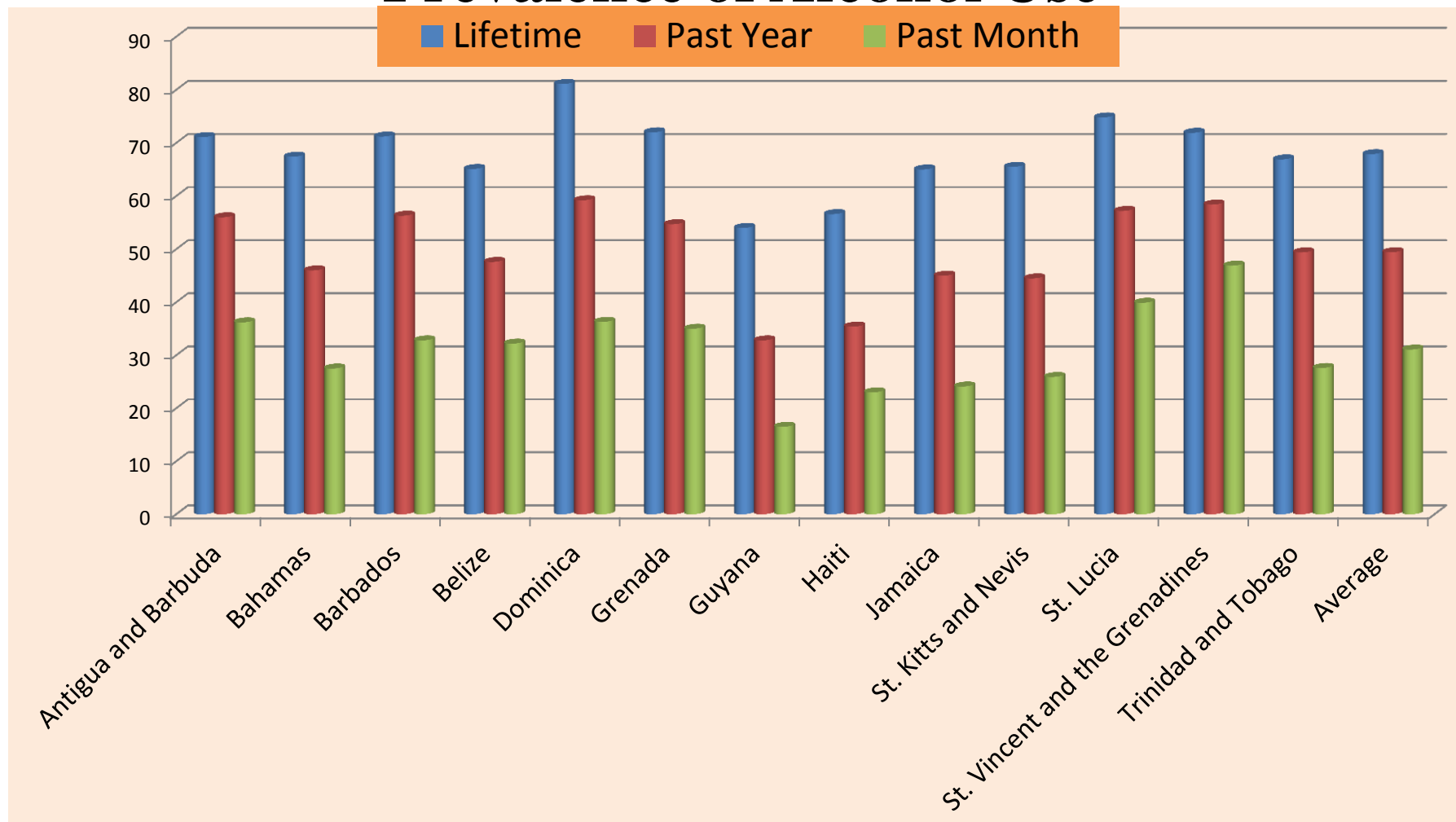


# MAIN RESULTS





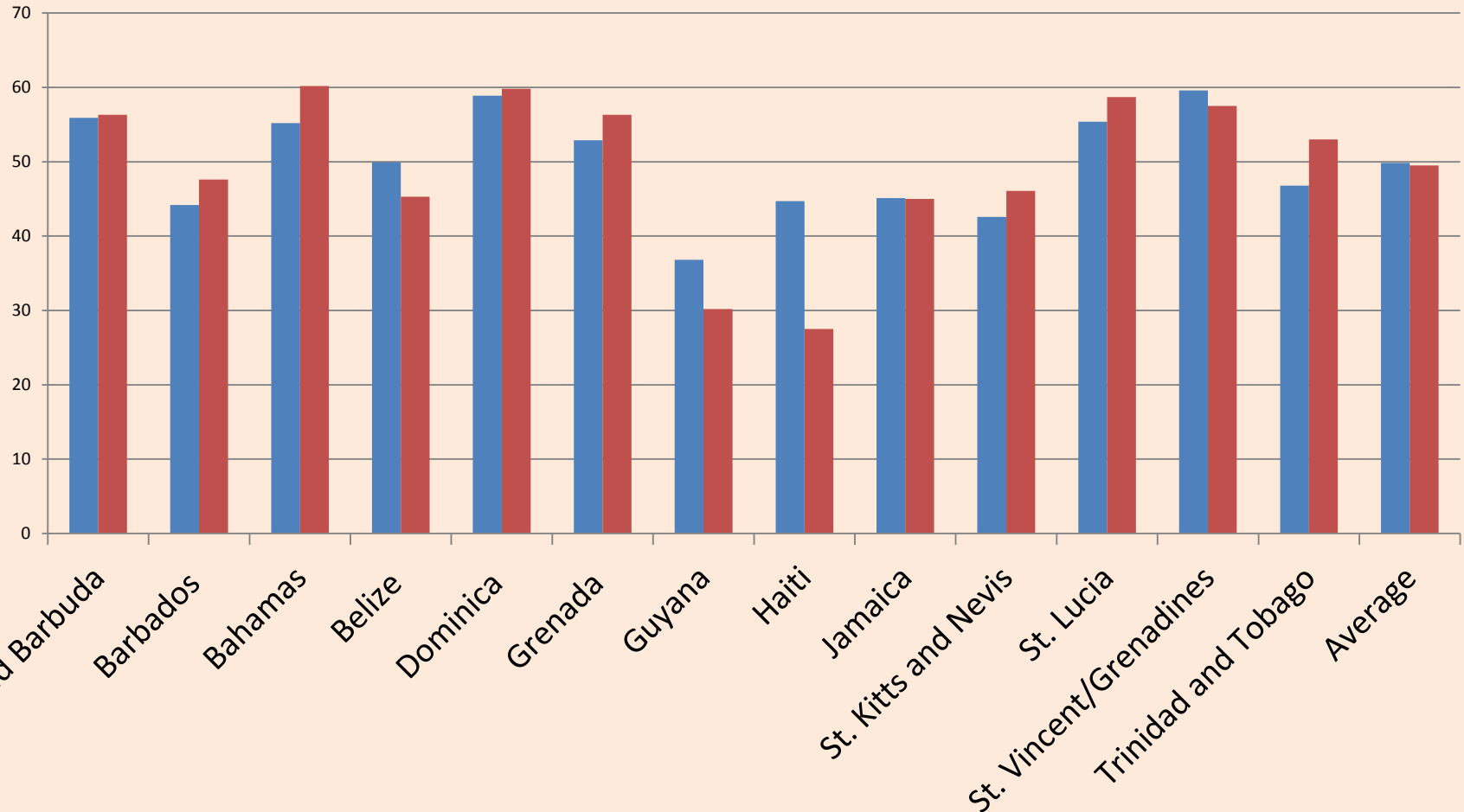
# Lifetime, Past Year and Past Month Prevalence of Alcohol Use





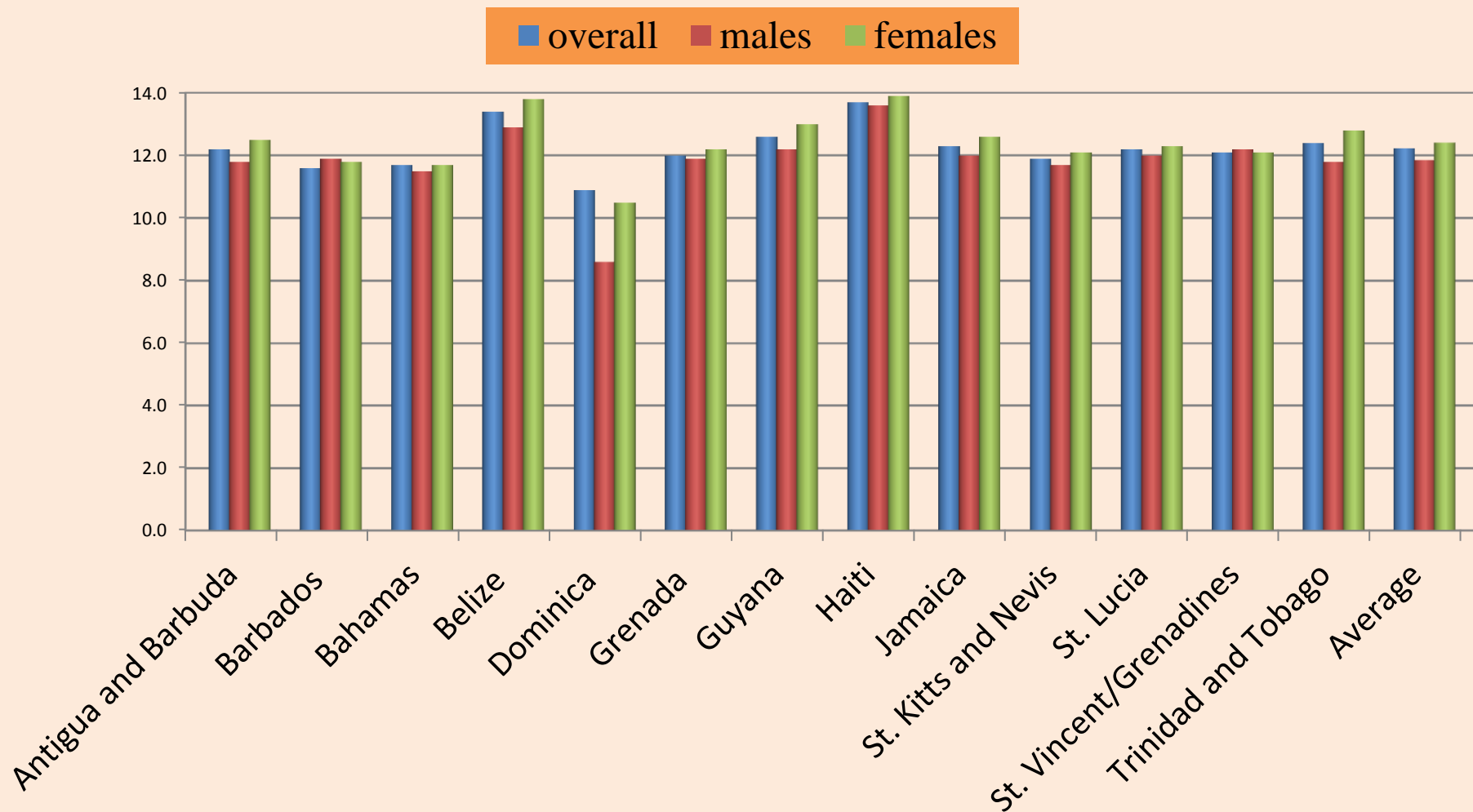
# Past Year Prevalence by Gender

■ males ■ females





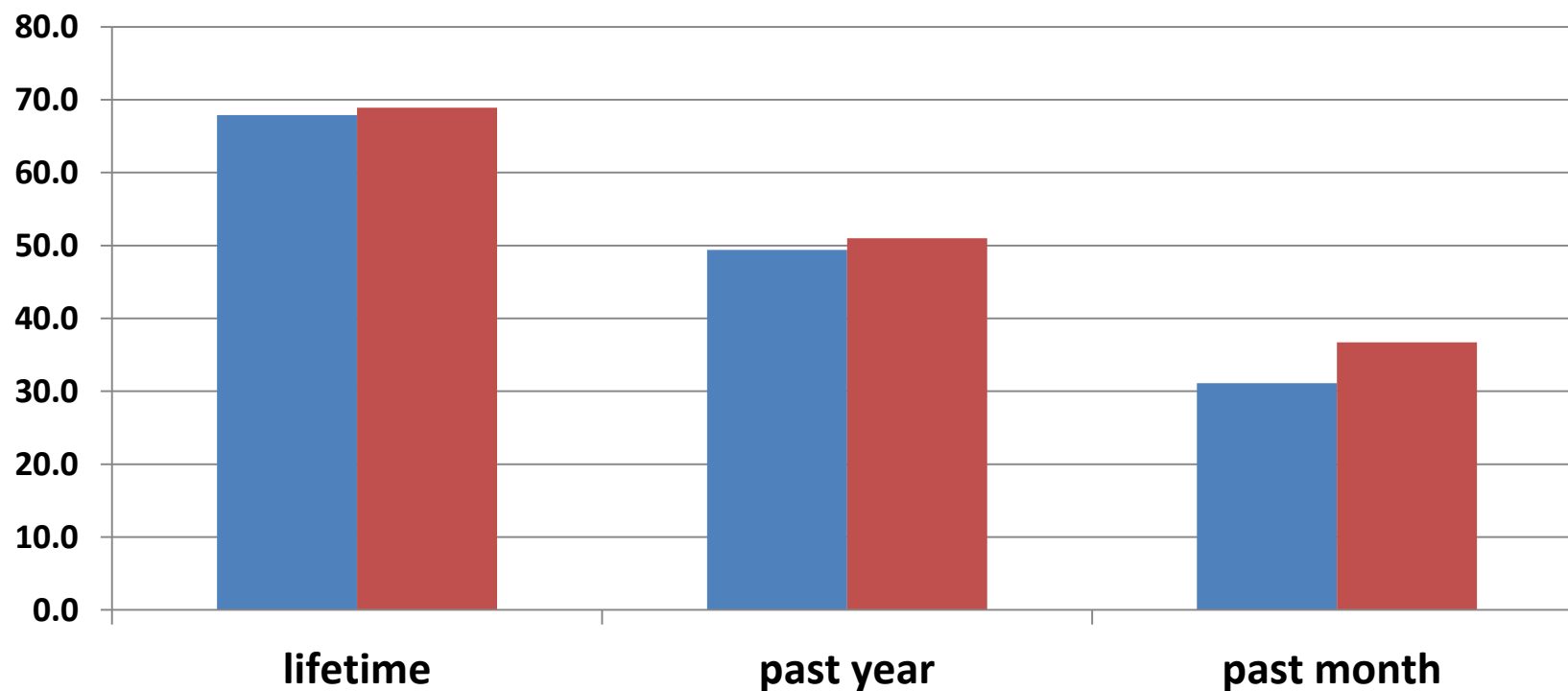
# Age of First Use of Alcohol





## Comparison of Alcohol Use - Overall Prevalence

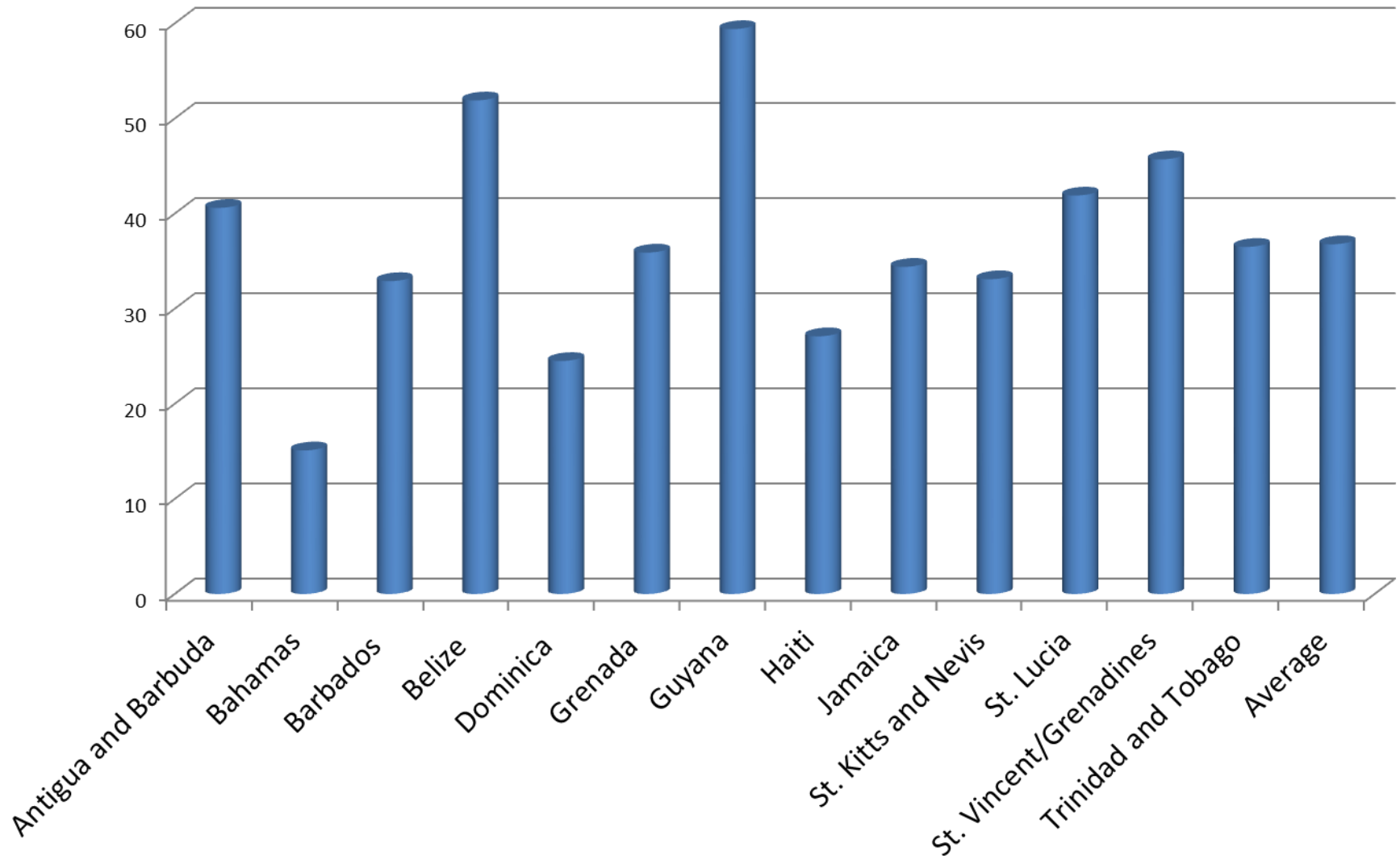
■ 2013 survey ■ 2010 report



# Binge Drinking



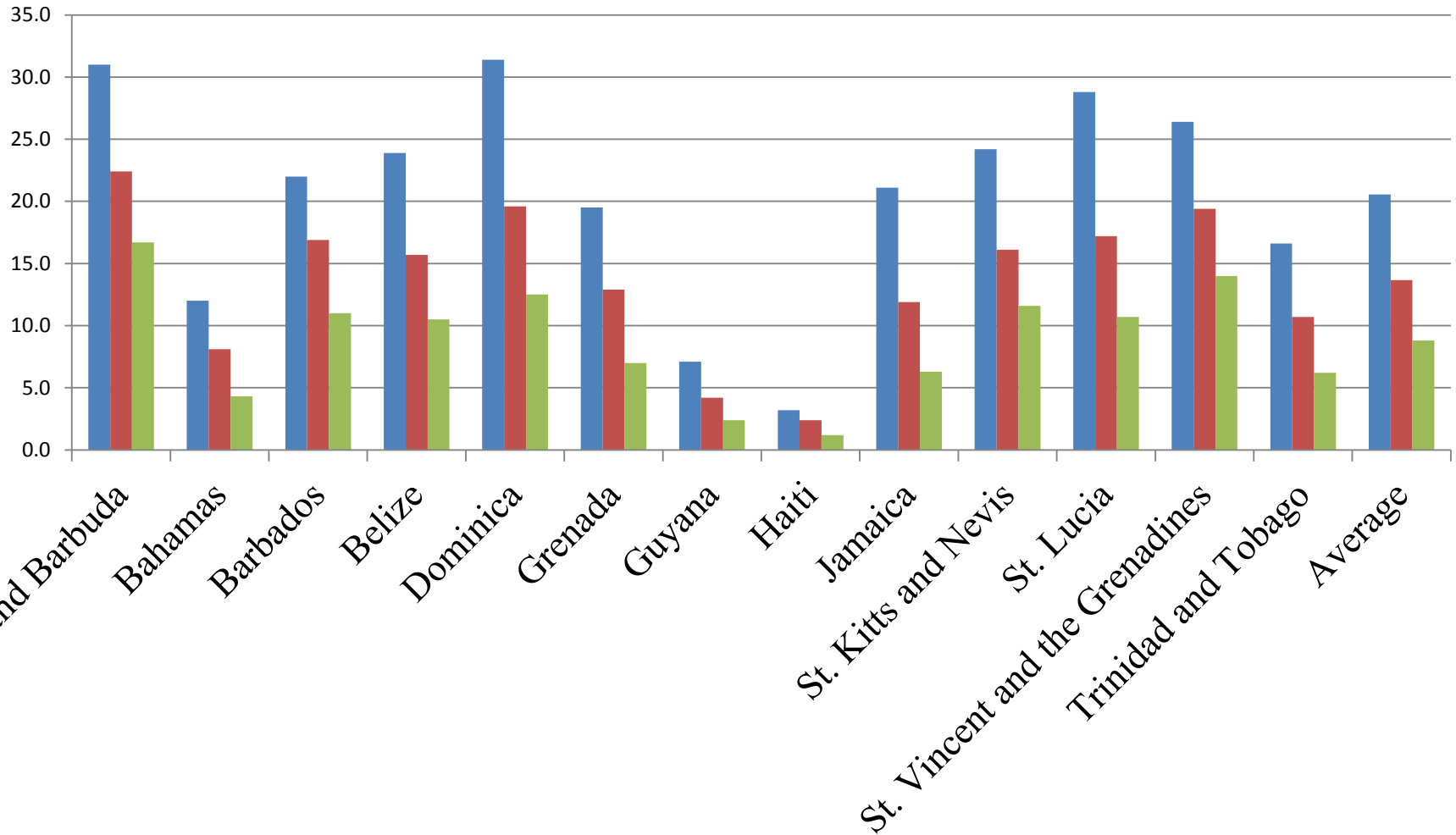
Organization of  
American States





# Marijuana Prevalence

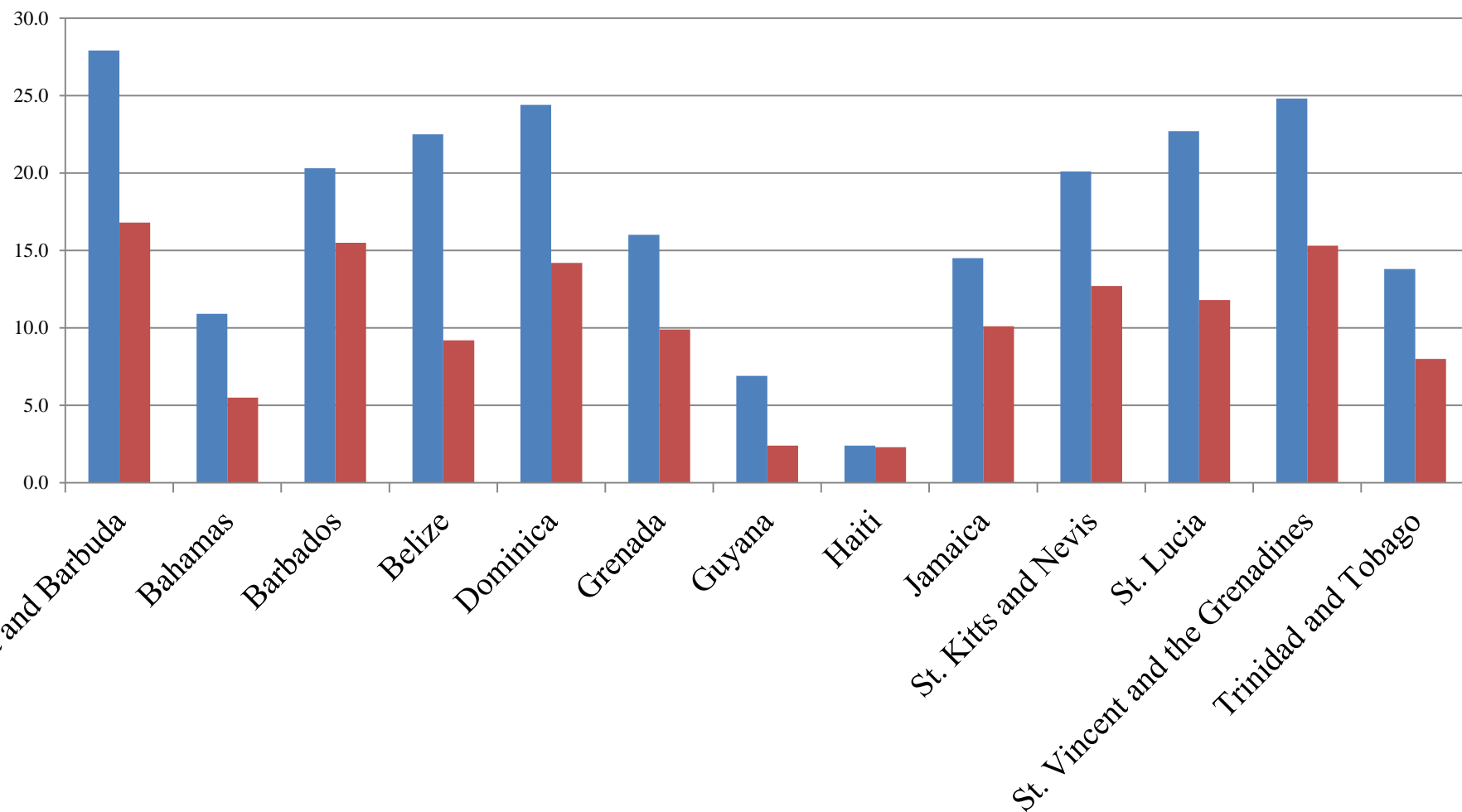
■ Lifetime   ■ Past Year   ■ Past Month





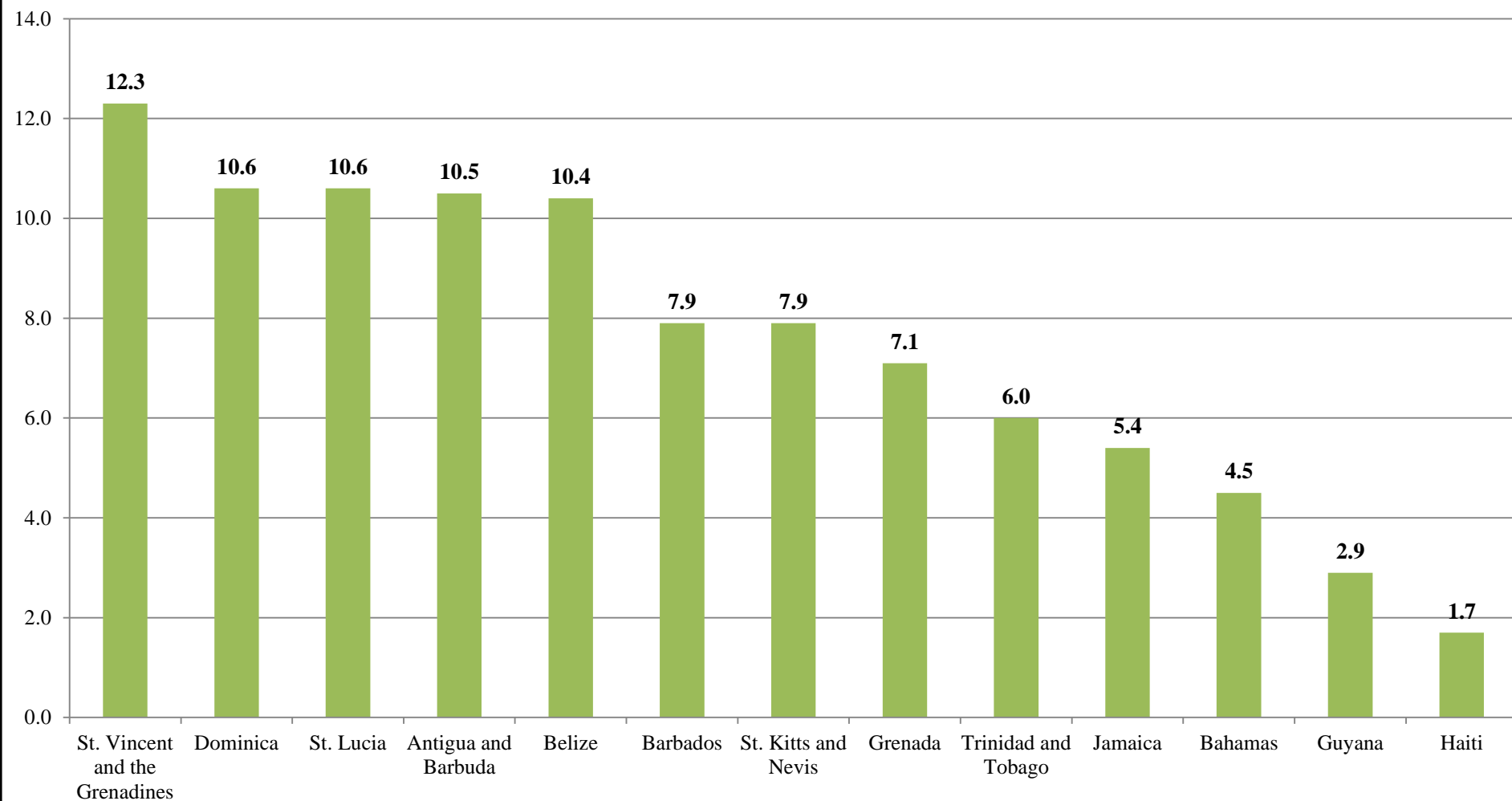
# Past Year Marijuana Use by Gender

■ males ■ females





# Past Year Marijuana Prevalence for Students 14 Years or Younger

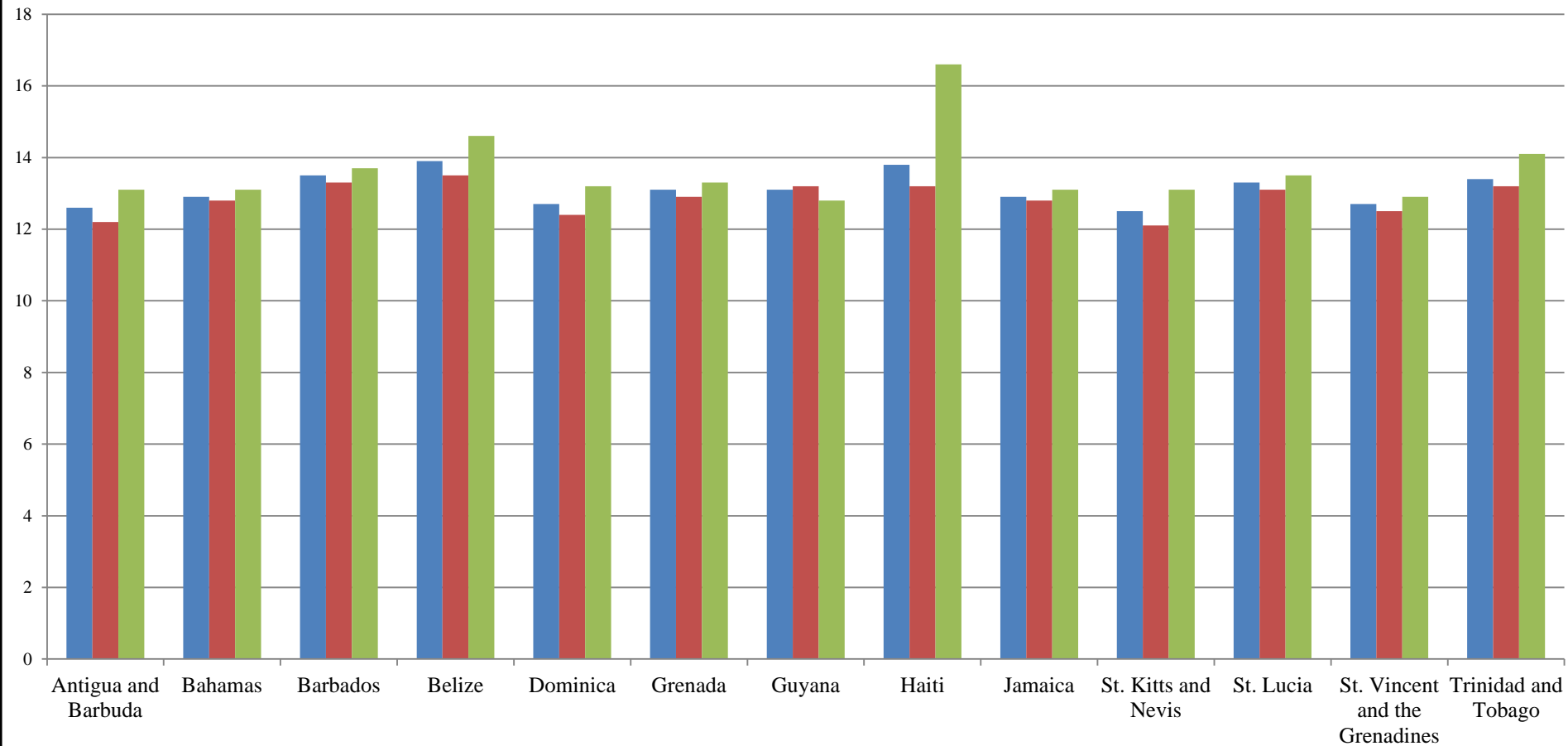






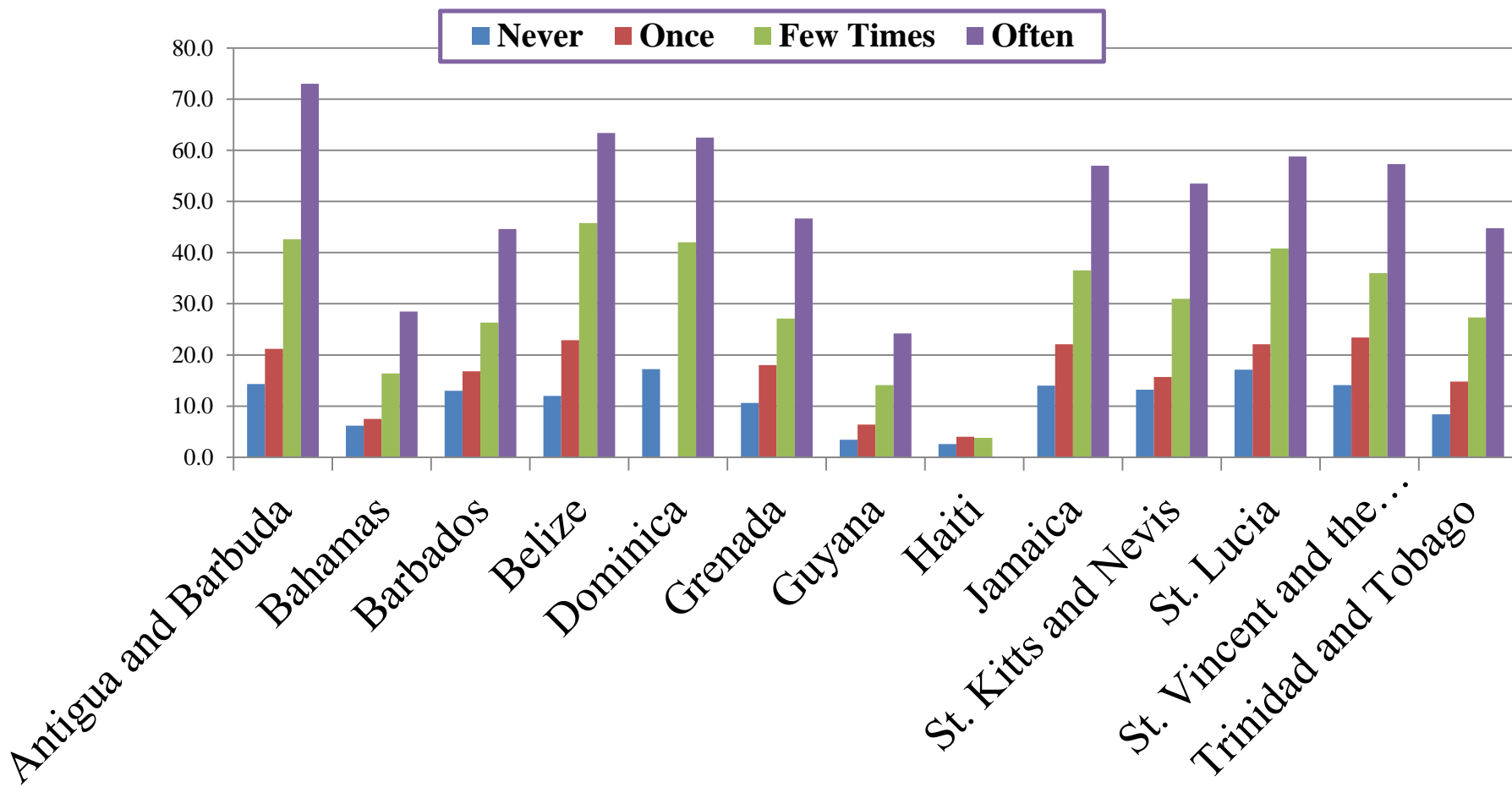
# Average Age of First Use of Marijuana by Gender

■ Overall Average ■ Males ■ Females





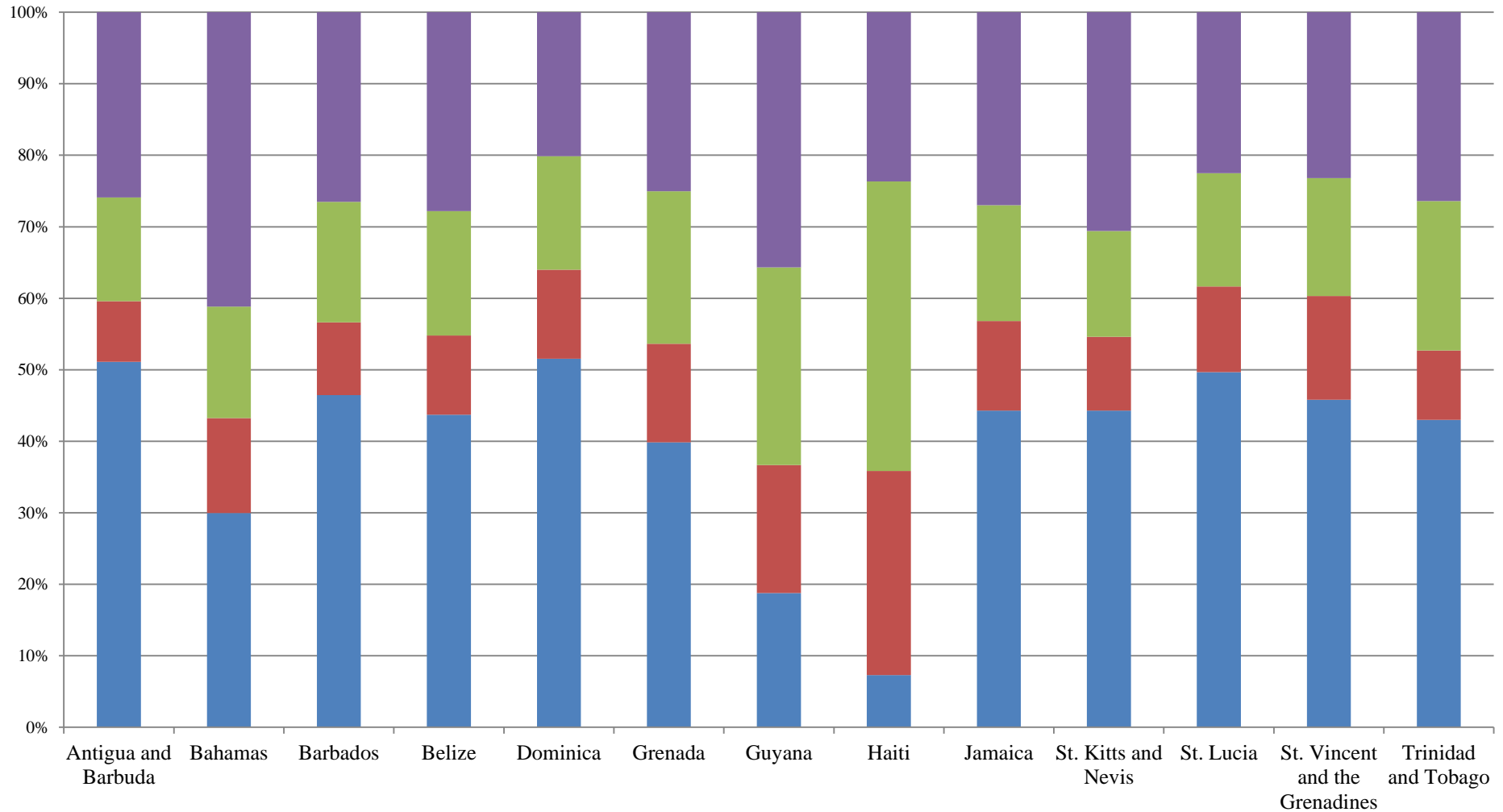
# Lifetime Prevalence of Marijuana Use and Behavioral Problems





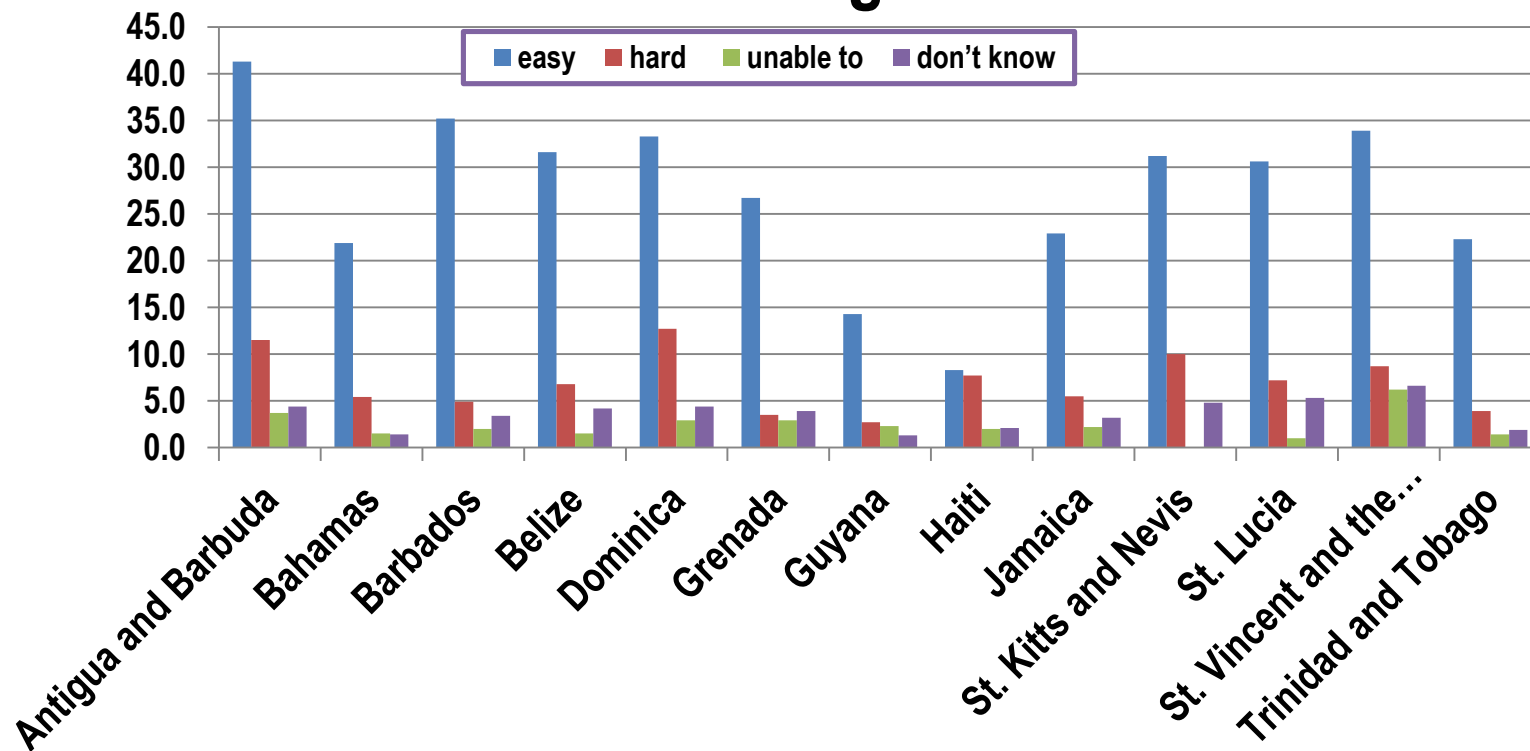
# Ease of Obtaining Marijuana

■ easy ■ hard ■ unable to ■ don't know



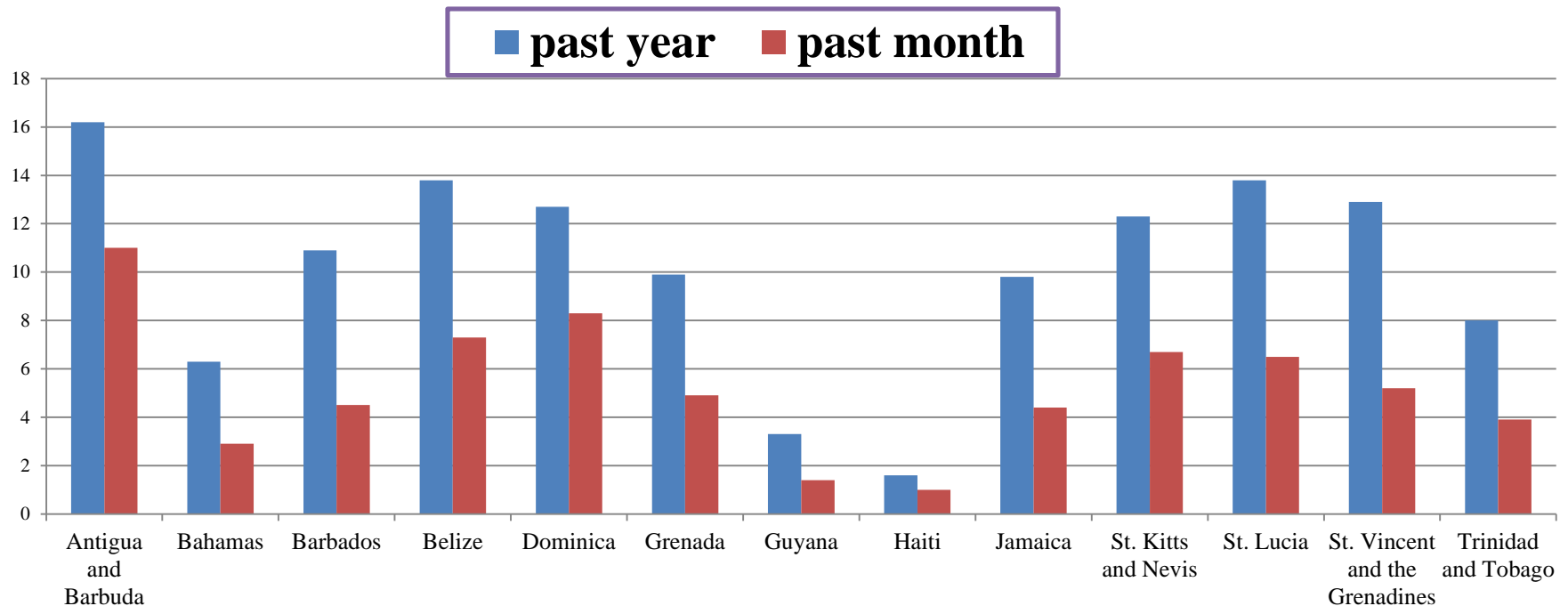


## Past Year Marijuana Use by Ease of Obtaining It



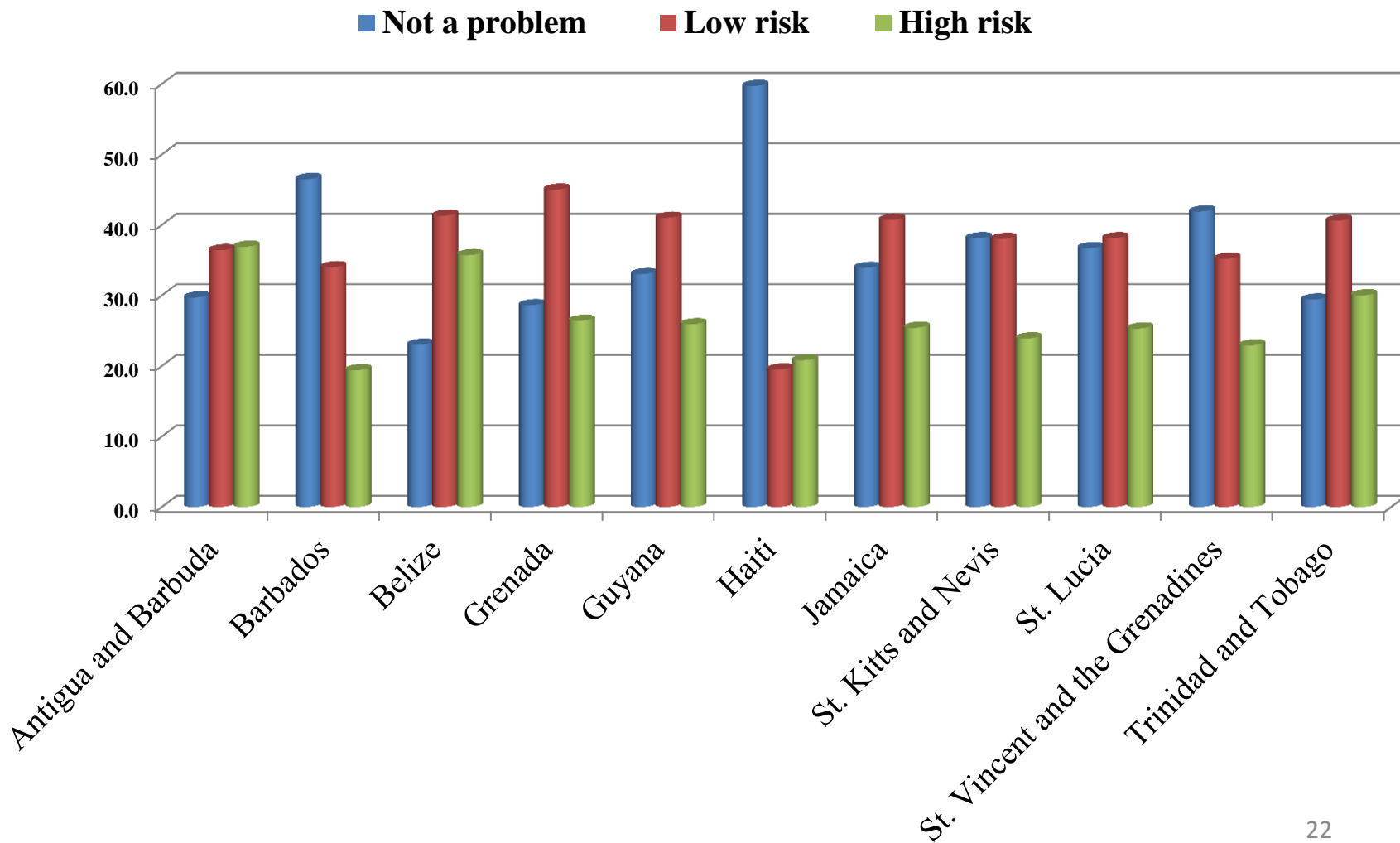


# Past Year and Past Month Incidence of Marijuana Use



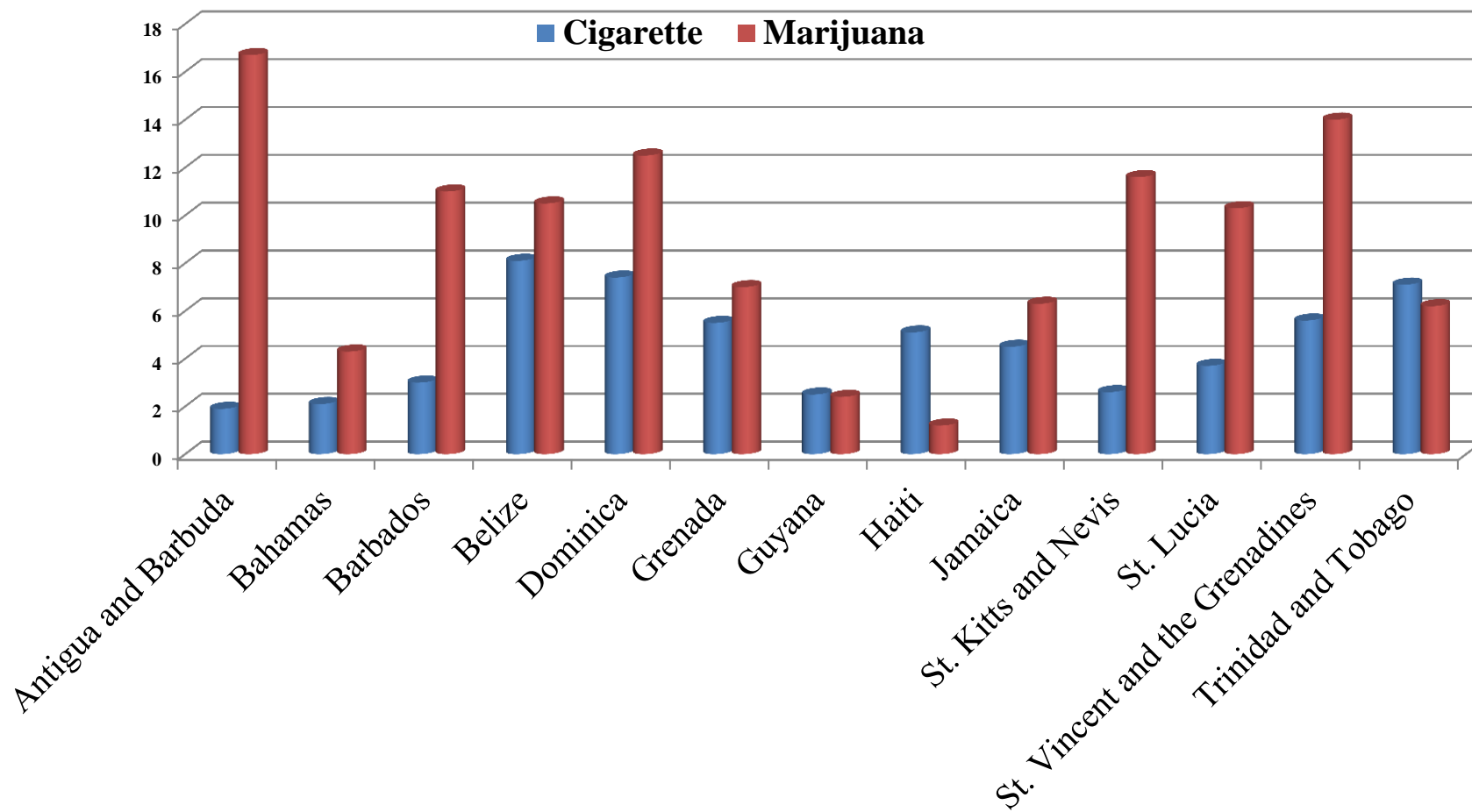


## Cannabis Abuse Screening Test (CAST)



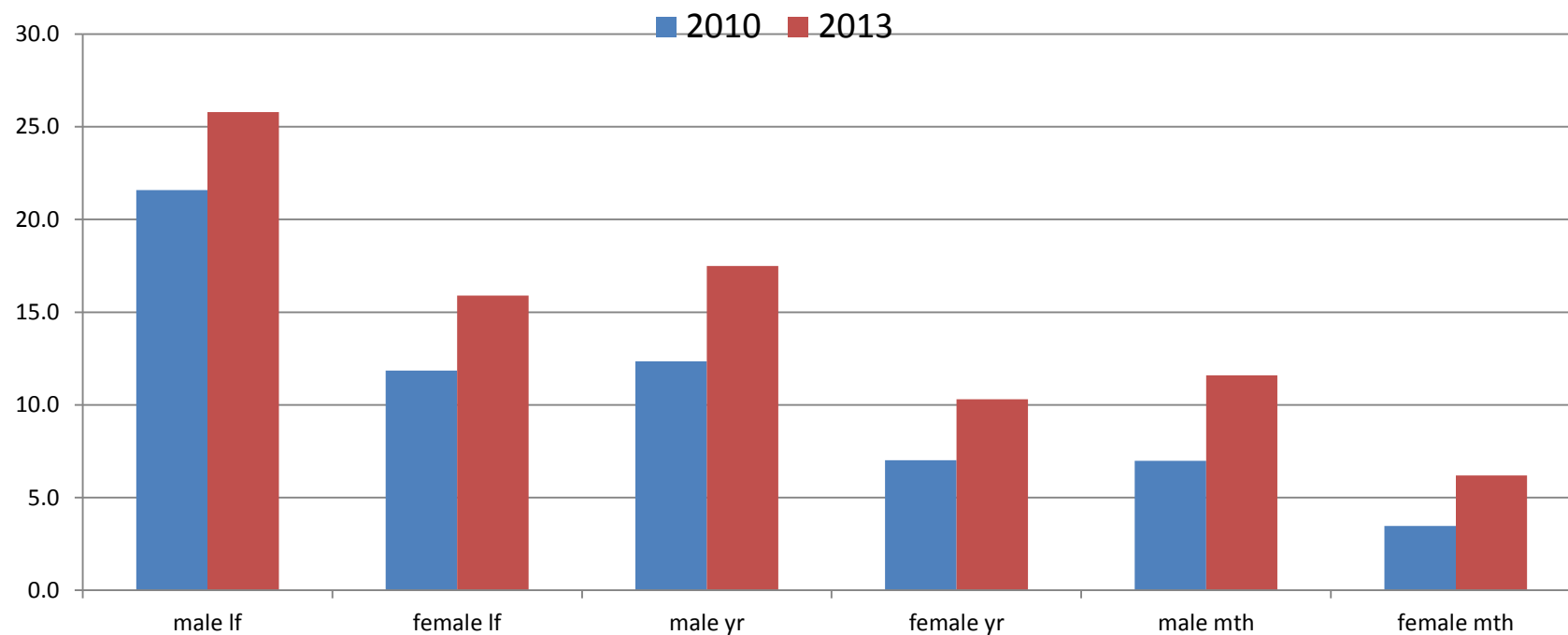


# Past Month Prevalence Cigarettes Compared to Marijuana





## Comparison of Marijuana Use among Gender - Overall Average Prevalence

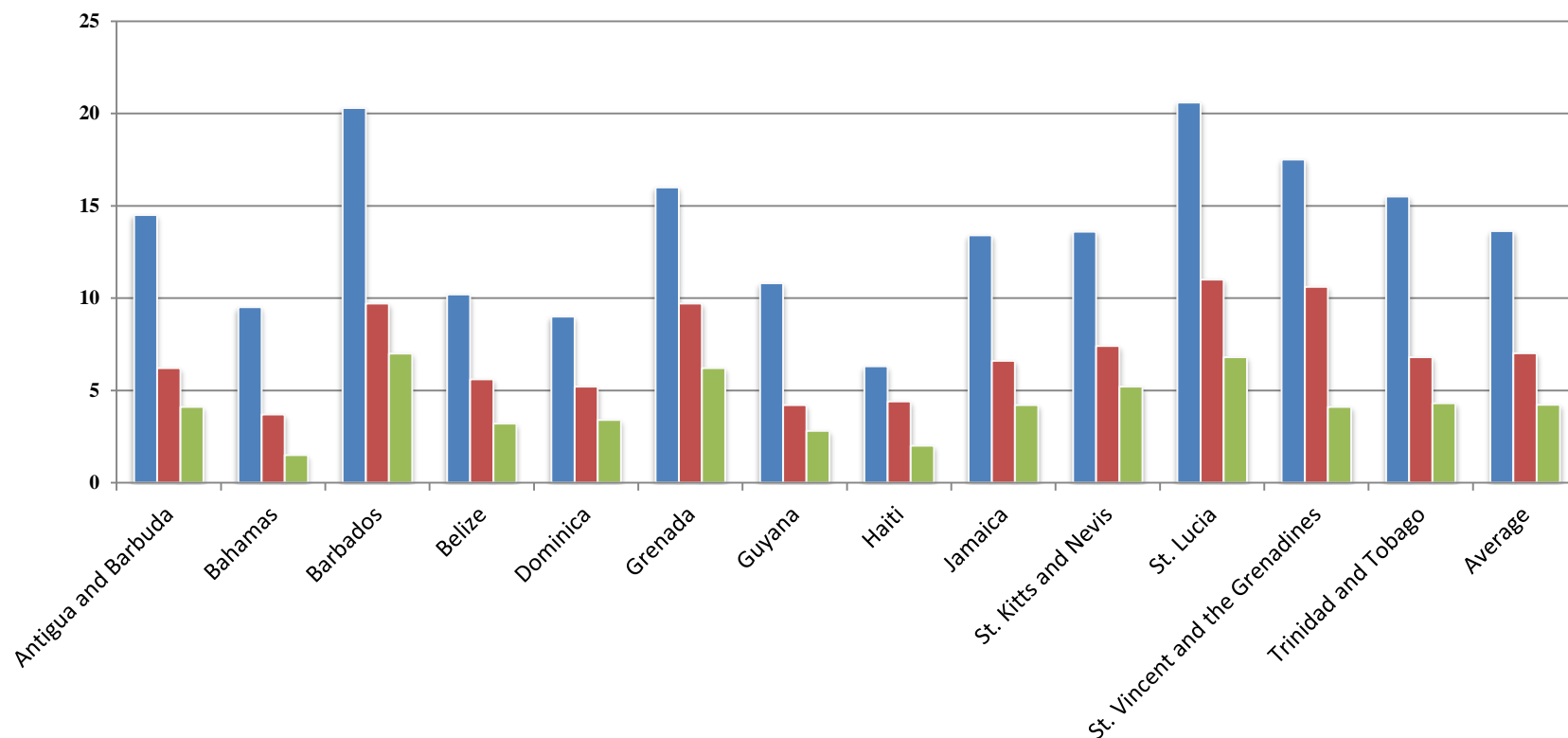






# Prevalence of Inhalant Use

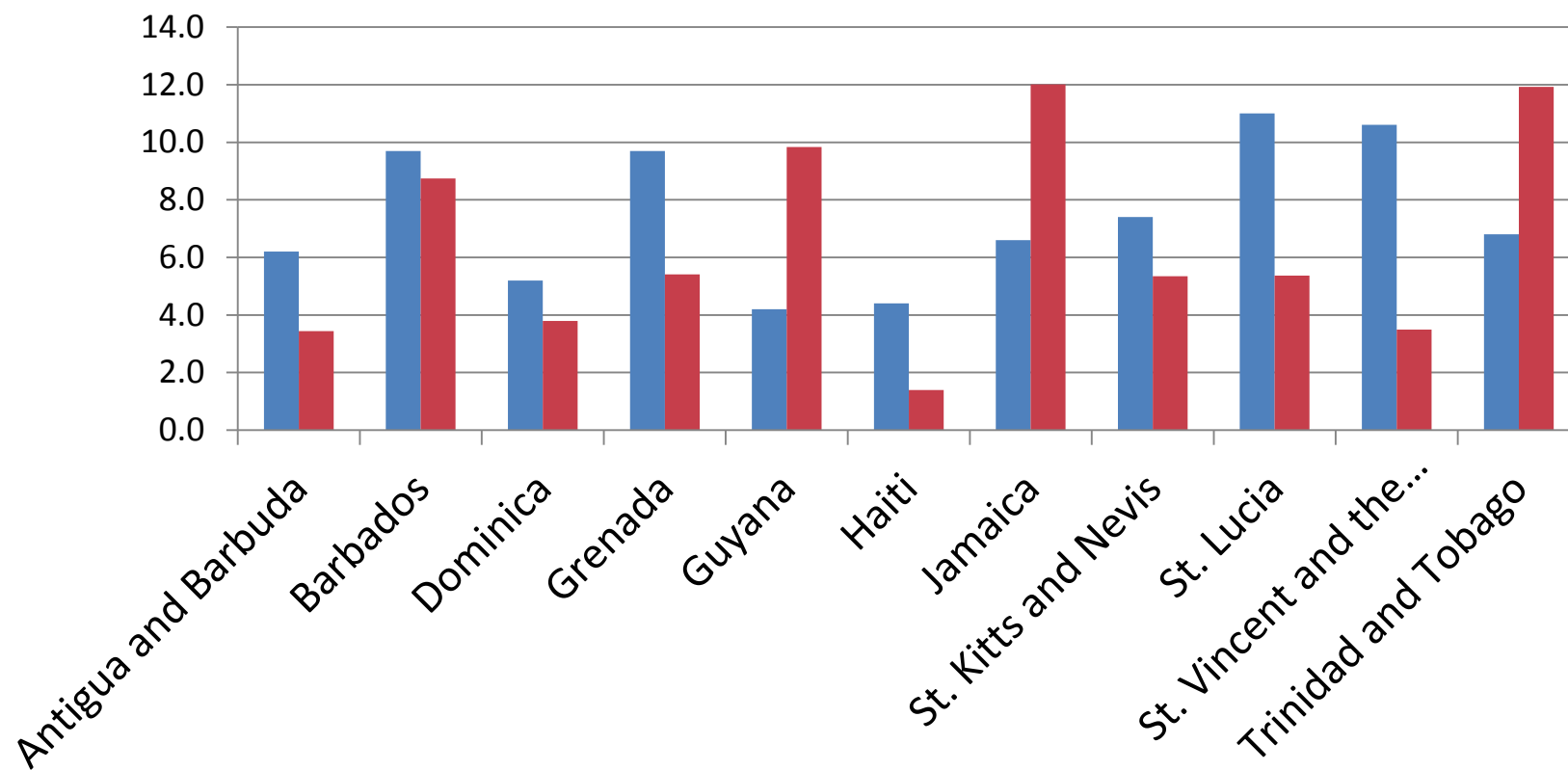
lifetime past year past month





## Comparison of Inhalant Use - Past Year Prevalence

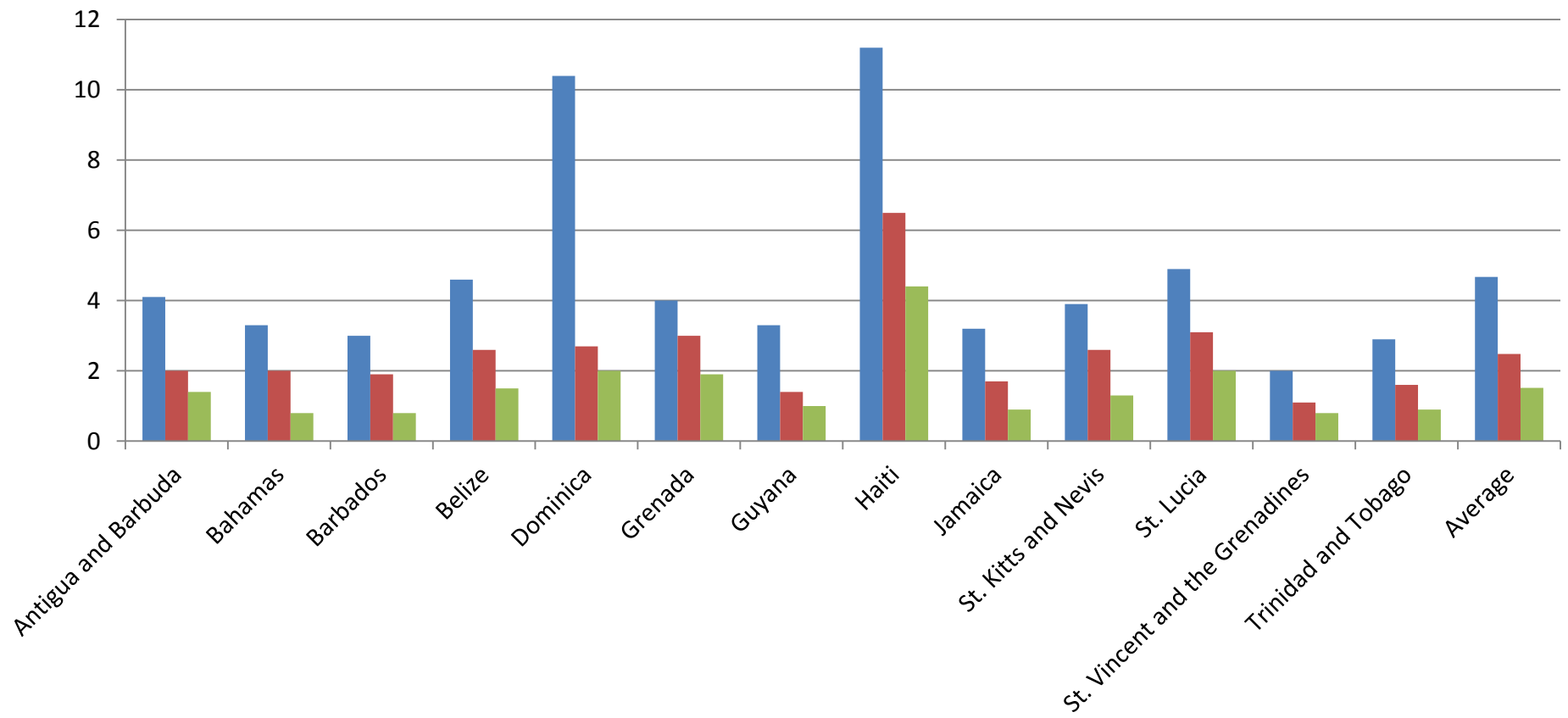
■ 2013 ■ 2010





# Prevalence of Tranquilizer Use

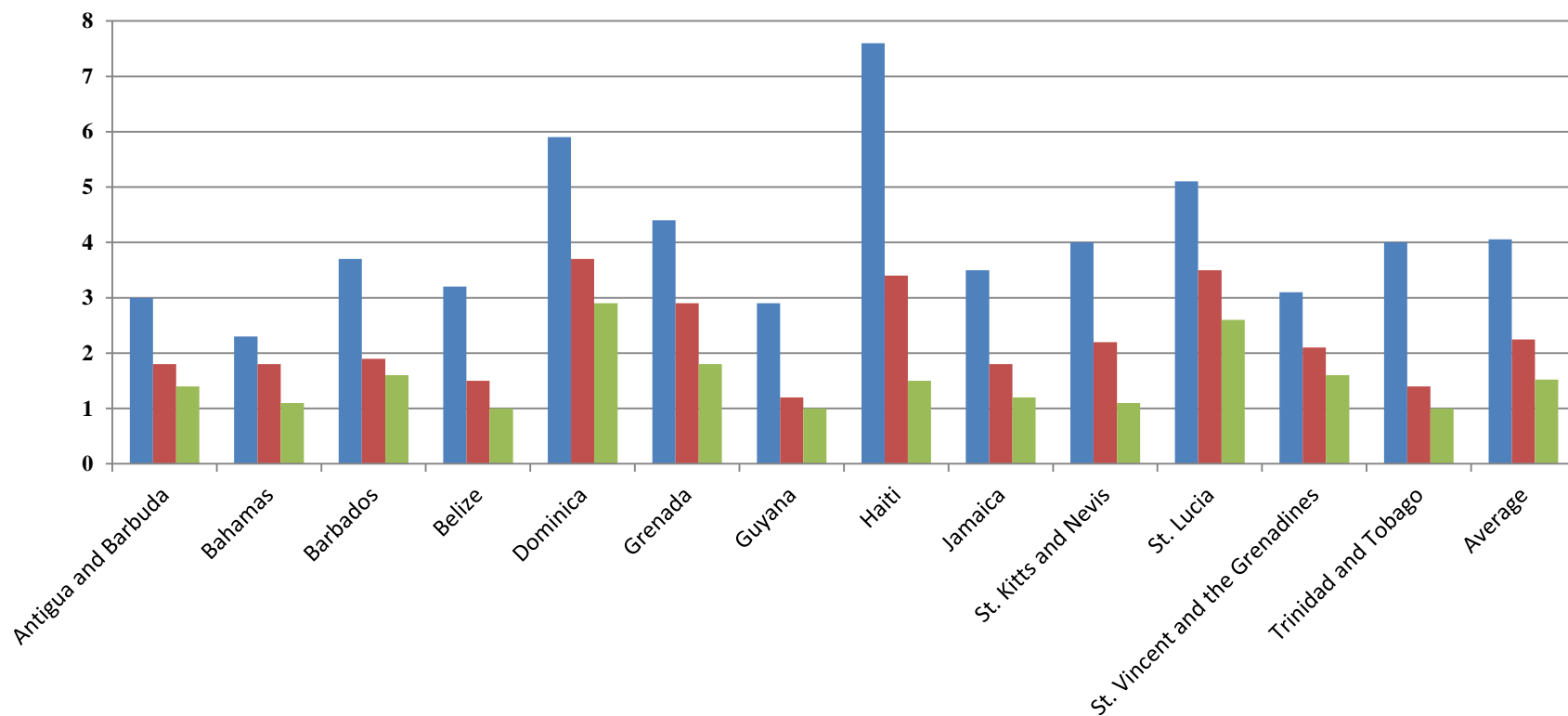
■ Lifetime ■ year ■ month





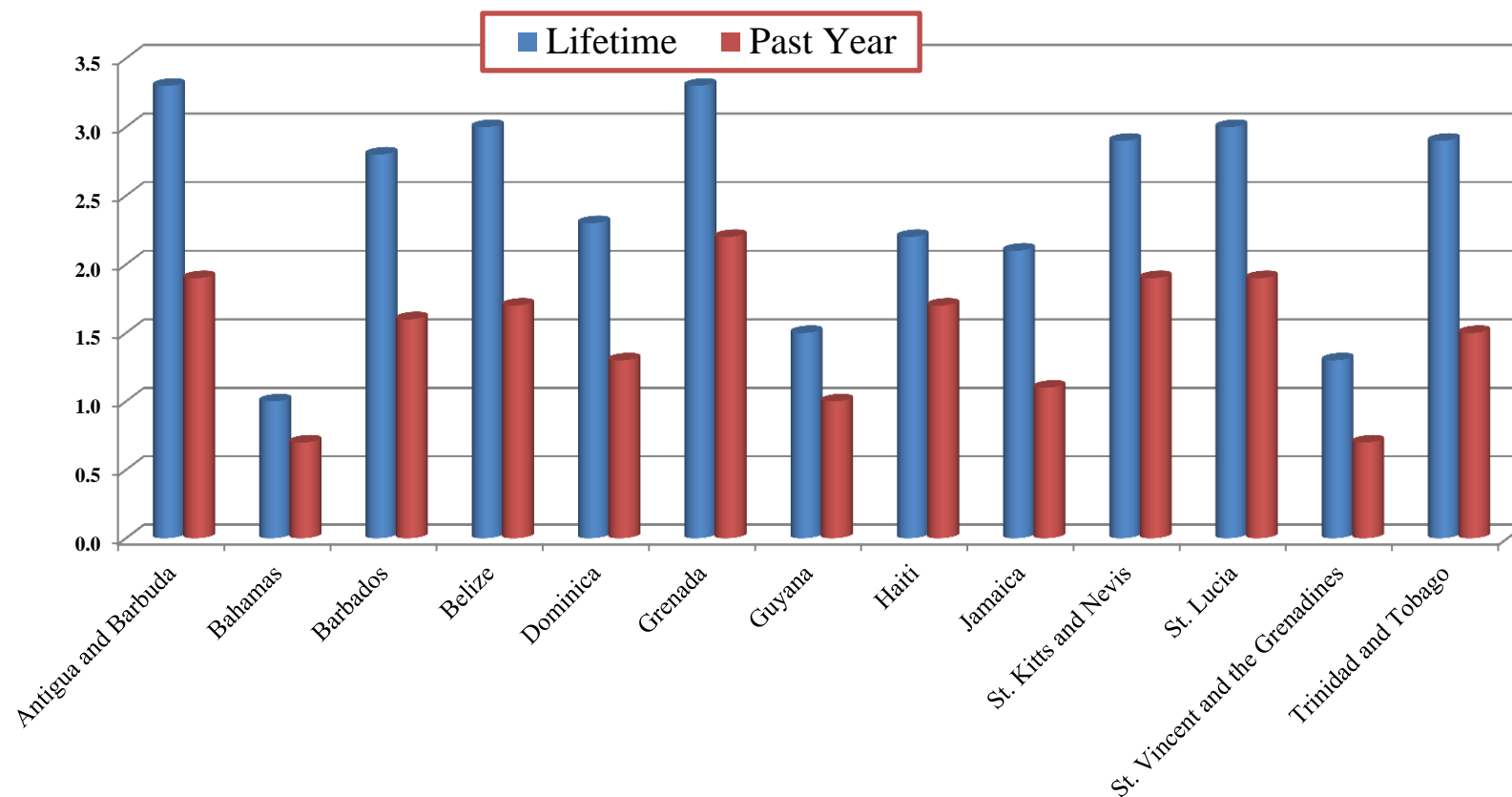
# Prevalence of stimulants

■ Lifetime ■ year ■ month



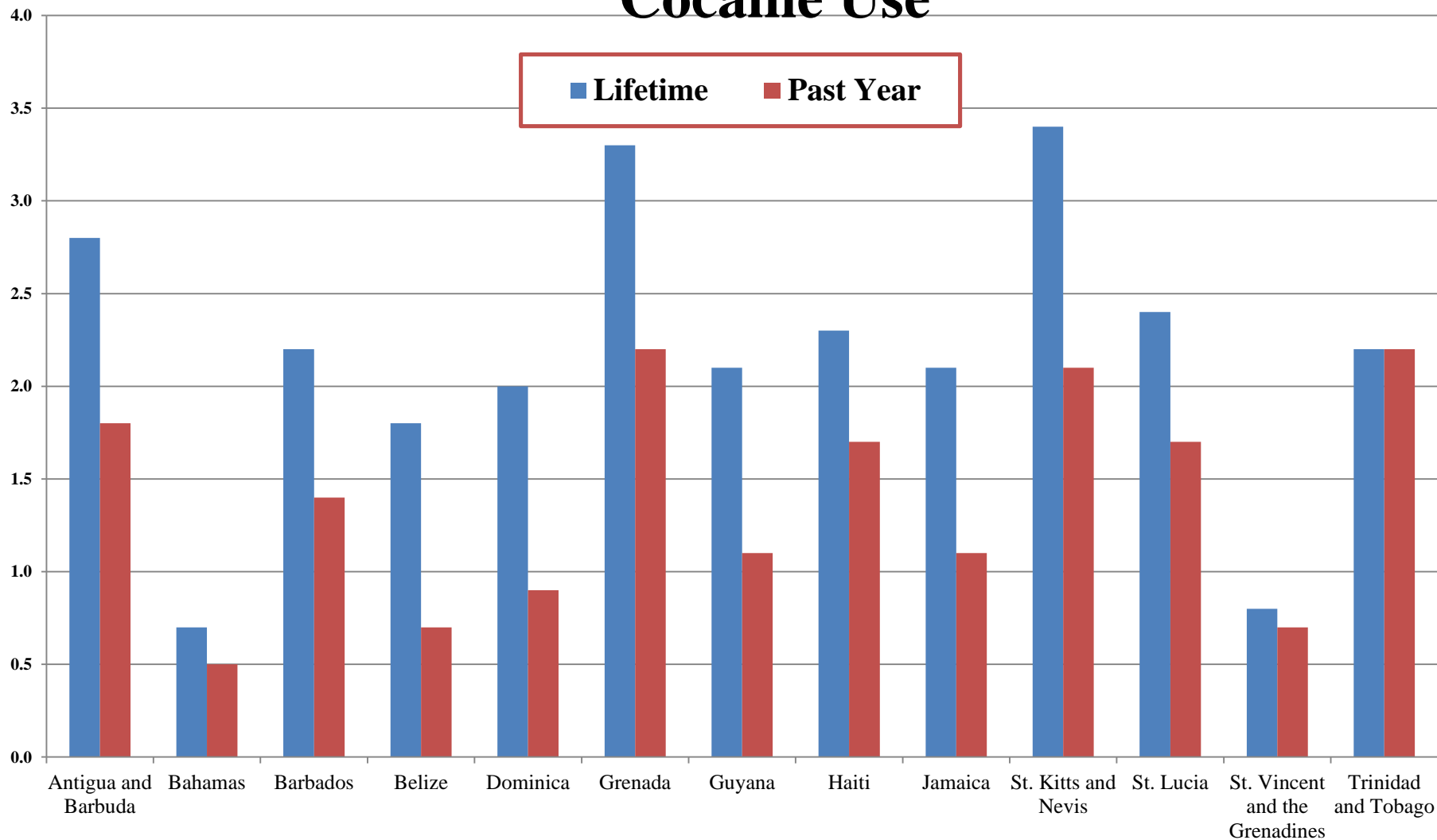


# Lifetime and Past Year Prevalence of Cocaine Use



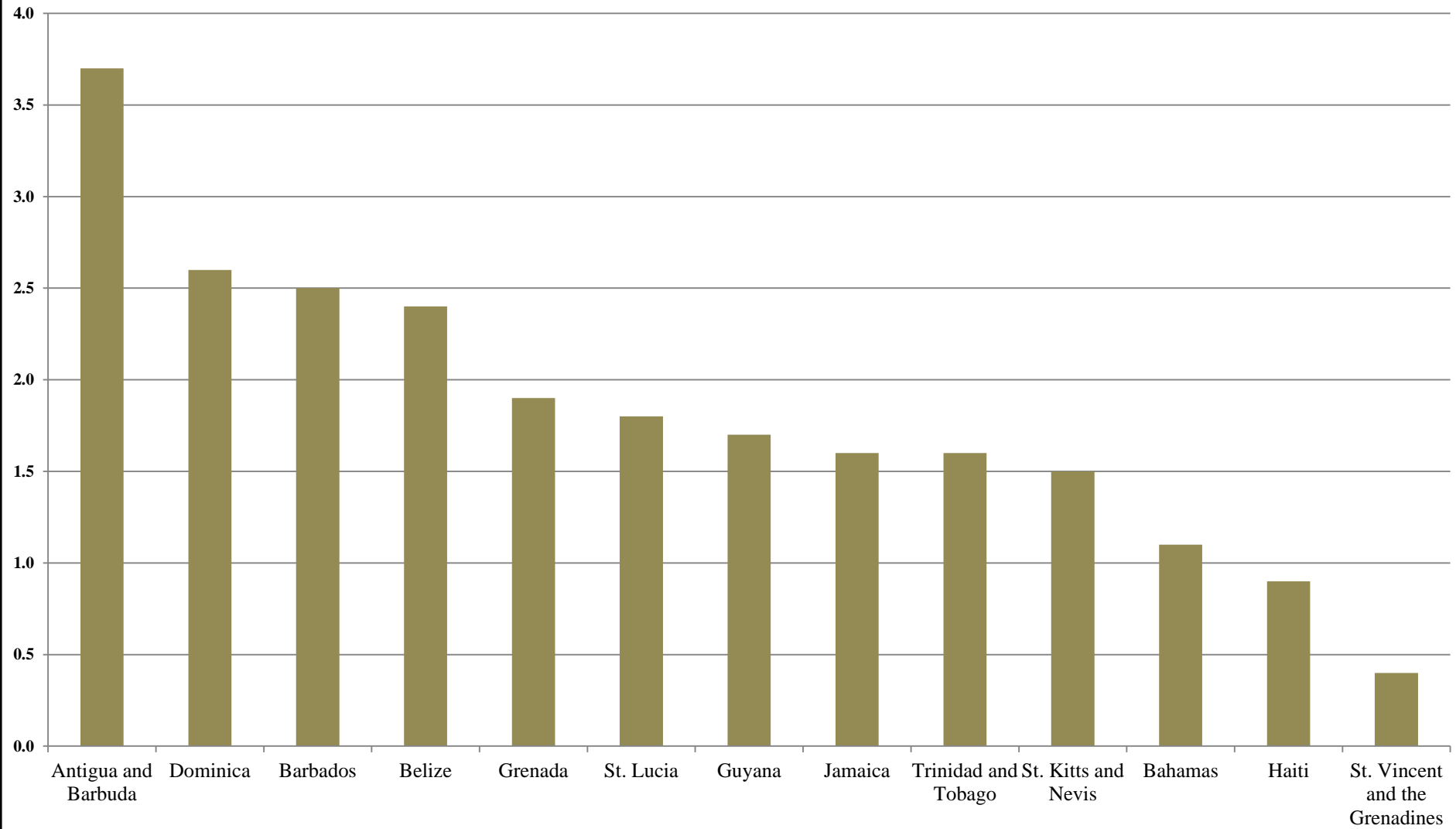


# Lifetime and Past Year Prevalence of Crack Cocaine Use





# Lifetime Prevalence of Ecstasy





# Analysis of Results

- By far the most widely consumed substance is alcohol and this is followed by marijuana.
- Prevalence is relatively high but there is plenty of variability from country to country.
- Marijuana is the most widely used illegal substance and in most cases, its use is even more prevalent than tobacco.





# Analysis of Results

- A very important finding relates to students perception of how easy it is to access drugs.
- Perception of availability of marijuana was very high-- four to five of every ten students indicated that they could access marijuana easily in most of the countries.
- Additionally, the perception of harm associated with marijuana appears to be declining among secondary school students



# Analysis of Results

- Many students do not know the dangers of:
  - frequent misuse of prescription drugs
  - occasional or frequent use of inhalants
  - occasional or frequent use of ecstasy
- The most important finding about marijuana was that in most countries there was an increase in prevalence when compared to the 2010 report and at the same time there was a decline in the harm associated with marijuana use.



# Policy Implications

- There are serious prevention education implications for the findings related to perception of harm related to substance use.
- In relation to other regions, the prevalence of use of some of these substances particularly marijuana and inhalants, is relatively high.
- The age of first use estimates are fairly consistent across countries so the specific point in time where prevention programs intervene can also be fairly uniform. The primary school secondary school transition is a critical time for intervention.



**Thank you for your attention**