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**INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE  
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CICAD**

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**METHOD AND RESULTS OF THE NATIONAL PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE CONSUMPTION STUDY IN  
COLOMBIA  
BY LUIS EDUARDO ALVARADO**



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Dirección Nacional de Estupefacientes



NACIONES UNIDAS  
Oficina contra la Droga y el Delito



# ***METHOD AND RESULTS OF THE NATIONAL PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE CONSUMPTION STUDY IN COLOMBIA***

**November 18, 2009**

# **General Aim of the Study**

To determine the magnitude of psychoactive substance use among the general population in Colombia, among the population aged from 12 to 65, at the national and regional levels.

# Indicators

- Prevalence in life, year, and month
- Usage rates
- Age at first use
- Abuse and dependence
- Accessibility of drugs
- Risk perception
- Availability and supply
- Relationship between drug use and the workplace



# SAMPLE BREAKDOWN BY SEX

Sex	Sample Size	Population Represented	Percentage
Men	11,209	9,250,621	46.80%
Women	17,955	10,514,178	53.20%
Total	29,164	19,764,799	100.00%

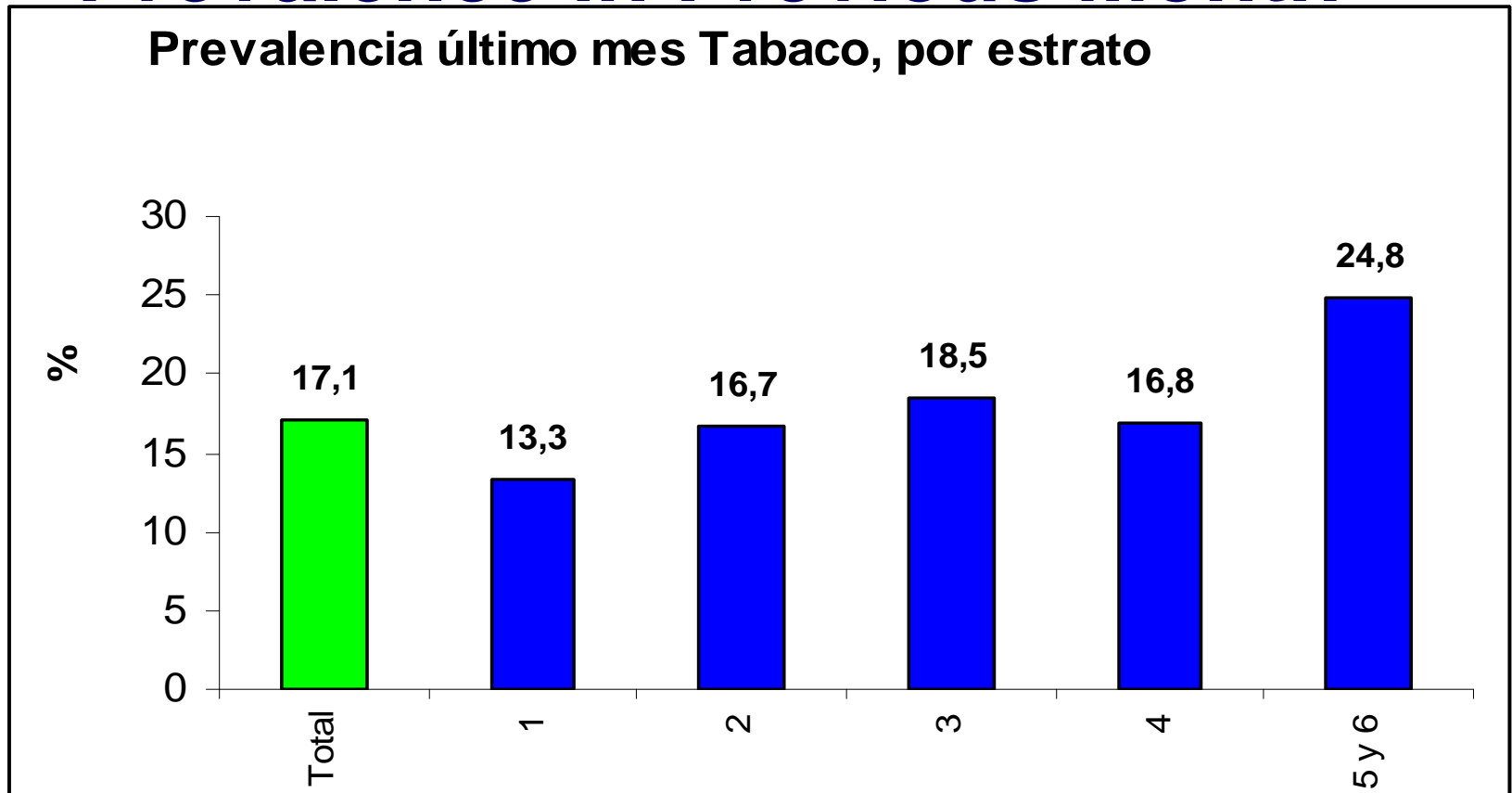
# Comparative Sample

Country	Theoretical Sample	Actual Sample	Coverage
Peru	12,884	11,825	92%
<b>Colombia</b>	<b>46,000</b>	<b>29,165</b>	<b>75%</b>
Ecuador	10,610	7,954	75%
Chile	23,796	17,192	72%
Argentina	19,084	13,493	71%
Bolivia	14,166	9,533	67%
Uruguay	22,000	7,000	32%

# LEGAL DRUGS: RESULTS

## Tobacco:

### Prevalence in Previous Month

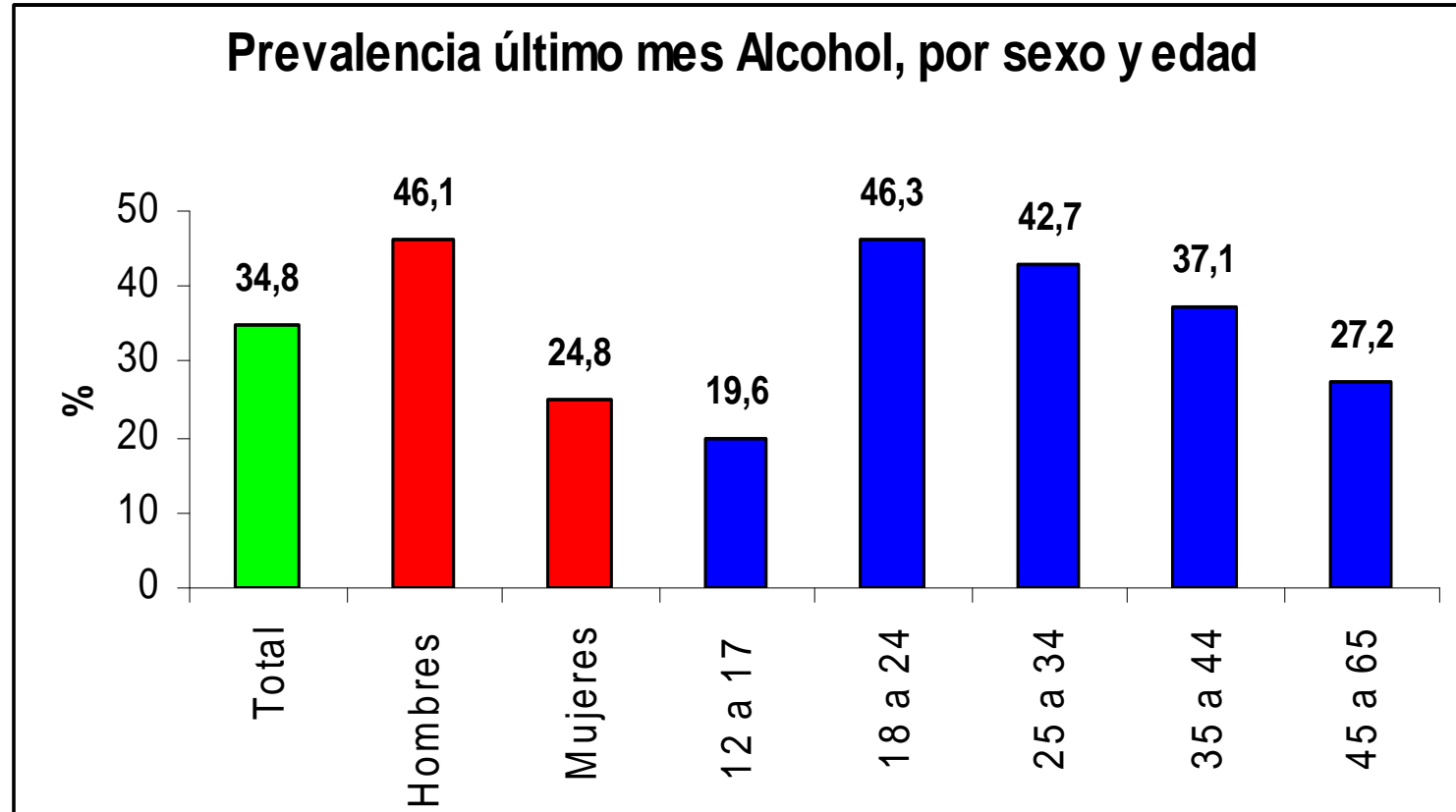


Average age of first use is 17 years.

61% believe smoking one or two cigarettes a day is dangerous.



# Alcohol: Prevalence in Previous Month

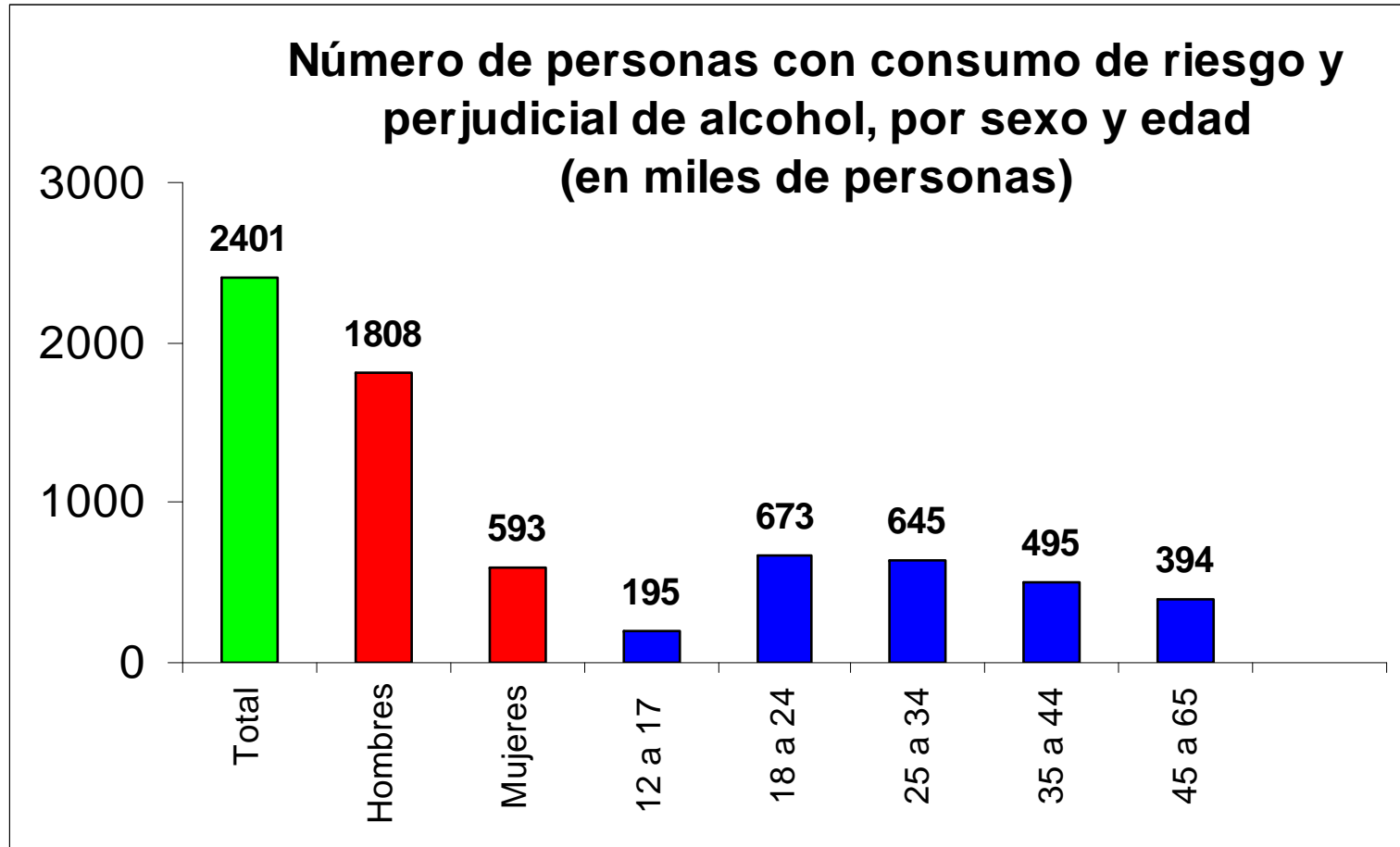


Age of first use is 16 years.

80% believe consuming five alcoholic beverages a day is very dangerous.

# Alcohol: Problem Use

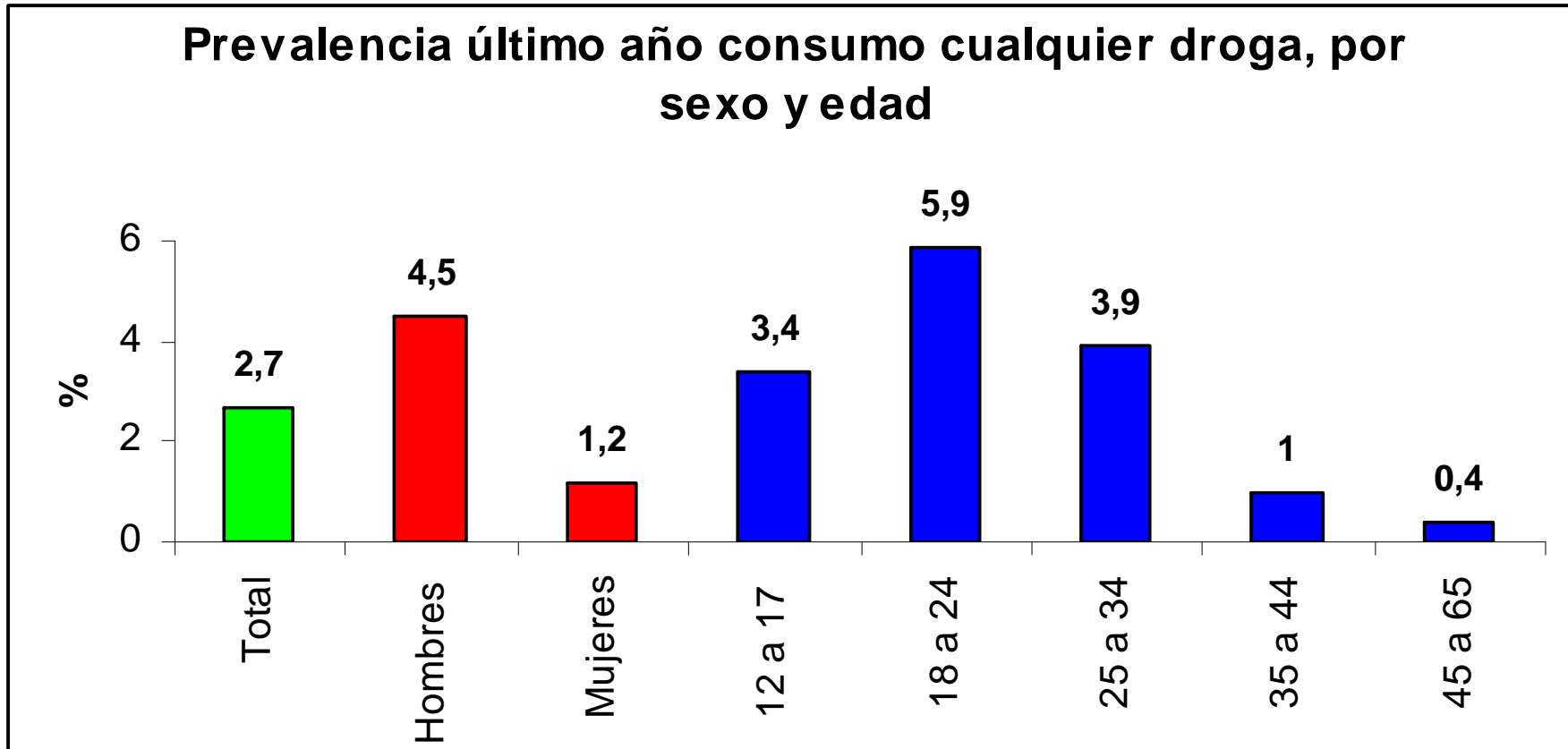
Number of individuals with at-risk and harmful alcohol consumption, broken down by sex and age (thousands)



# ILLEGAL DRUGS: RESULTS

## Use of Any Illegal Drug\*

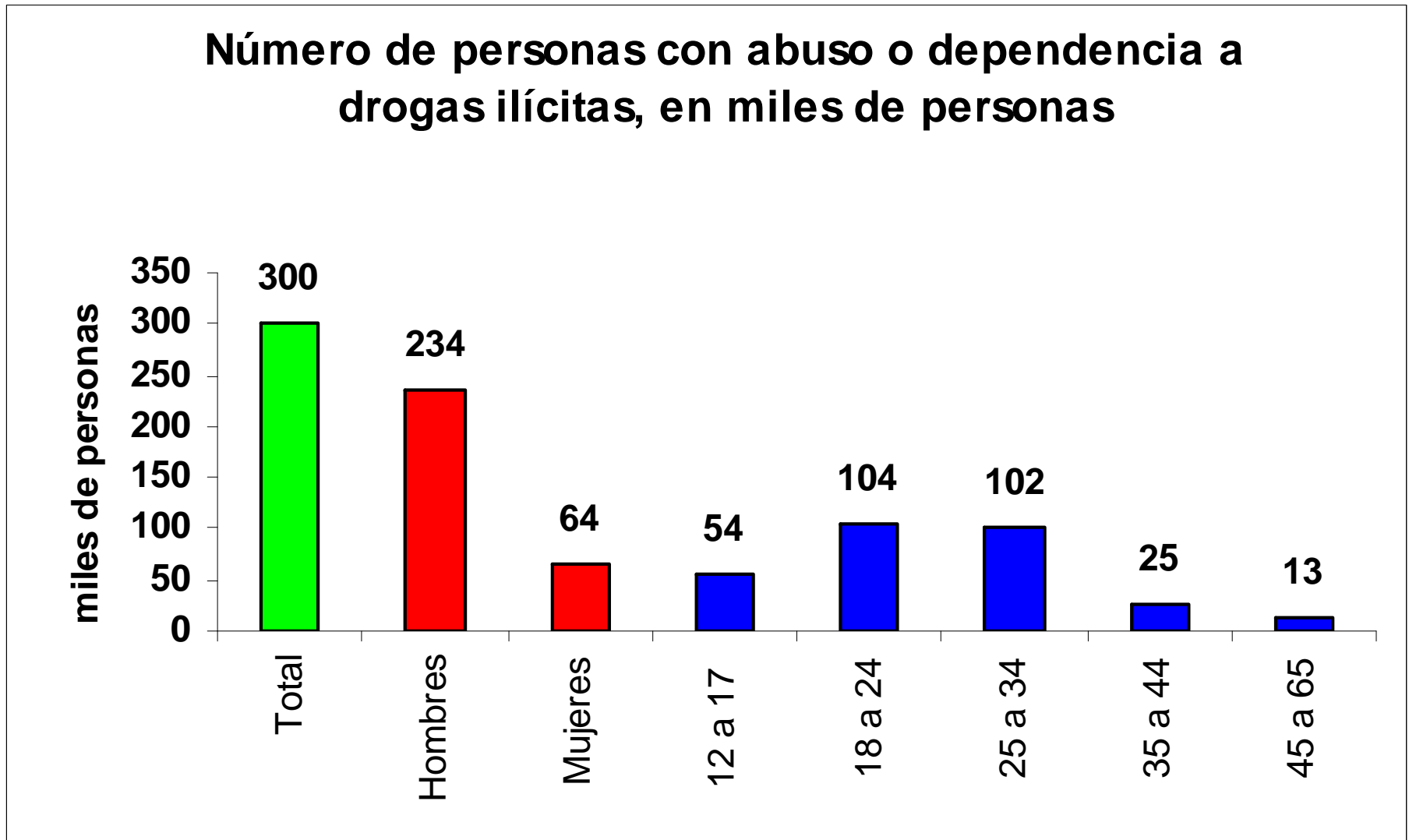
Prevalence in previous year of any drug, by sex and age



\* Marijuana, cocaine, coca paste (basuco), ecstasy, inhalants, heroin

# Any Illegal Drug: Abuse and Dependence\*

Number of individuals with illegal drug abuse or dependence, in thousands



\* Marijuana, cocaine, coca paste (basuco), ecstasy, inhalants, heroin

## Any Illegal Drug: Abuse and Dependence\*

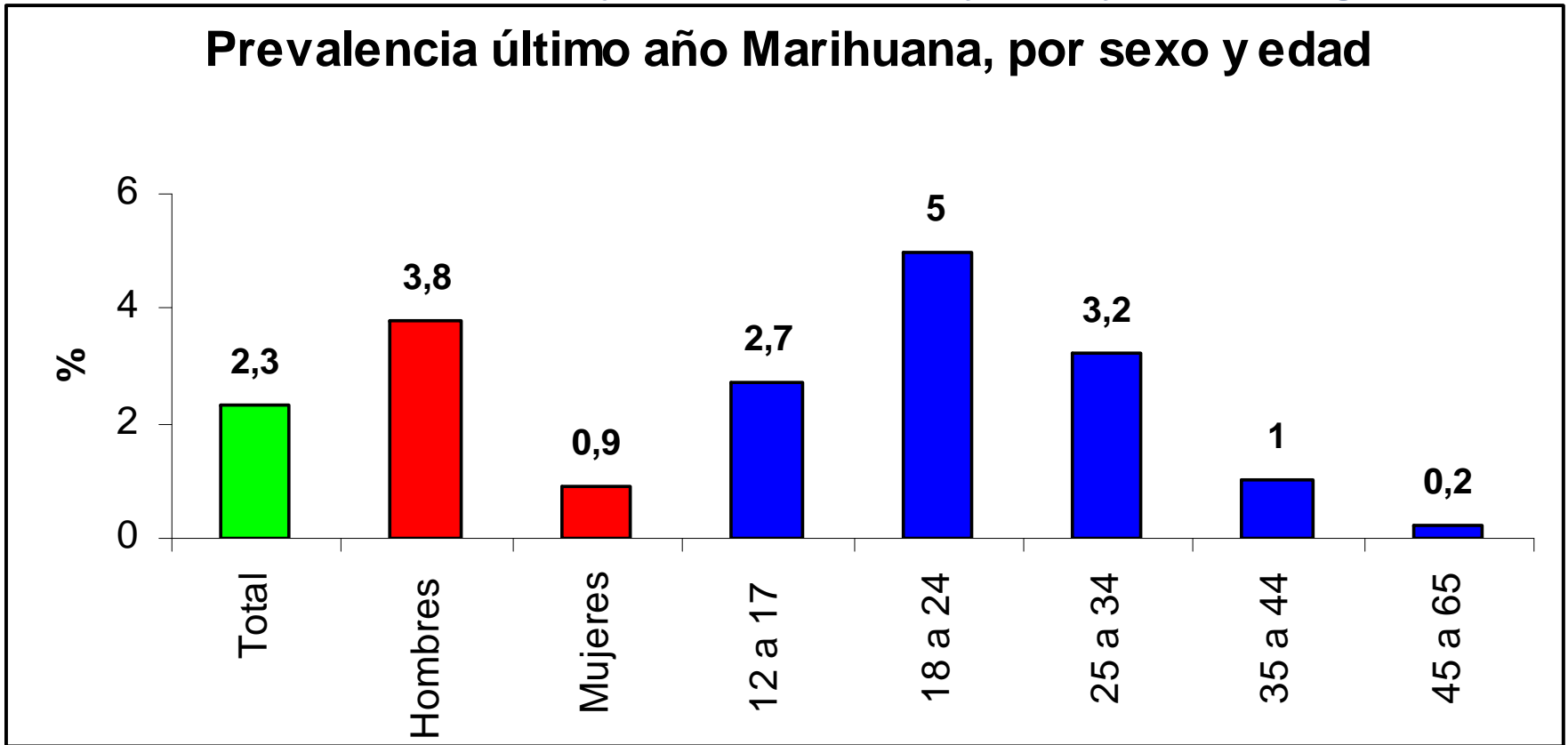
Substance	Number of individuals with abuse	Number of individuals with dependence	Number of individuals with abuse or dependence
Marijuana	52,352	202,066	254,418
Cocaine	22,610	62,243	84,853
Paste (basuco)	6,342	20,129	26,471
Any illegal substance*	62,788	235,152	297,940

\* Does not correspond to the total number of dependents for each specific substance, but to the total number of those dependent on one or more illicit substances.

# Marijuana Use

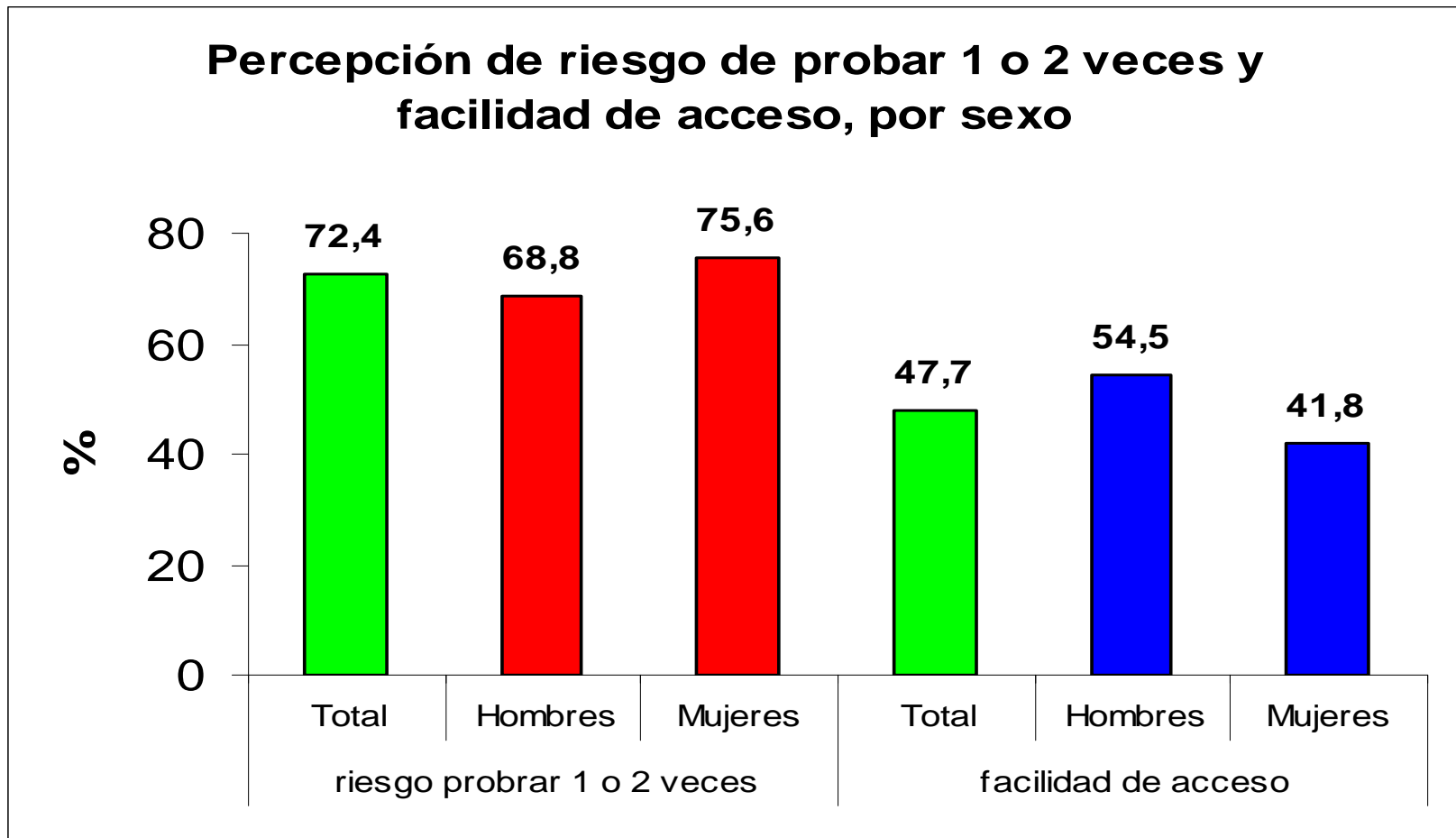
Prevalence of marijuana in previous year, by sex and age

Prevalencia último año Marihuana, por sexo y edad



# Marijuana: Perception of Risk and Ease of Access

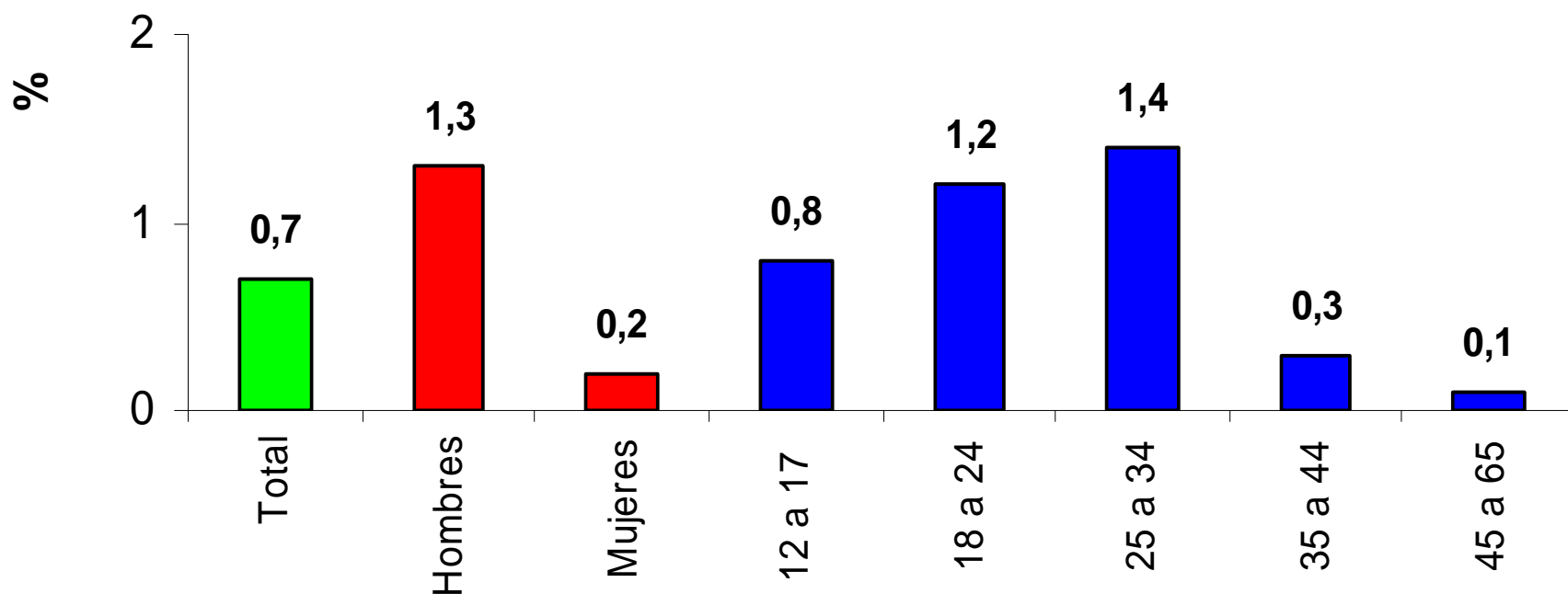
Perception of risk from trying once or twice and ease of access, by sex



# Cocaine Use

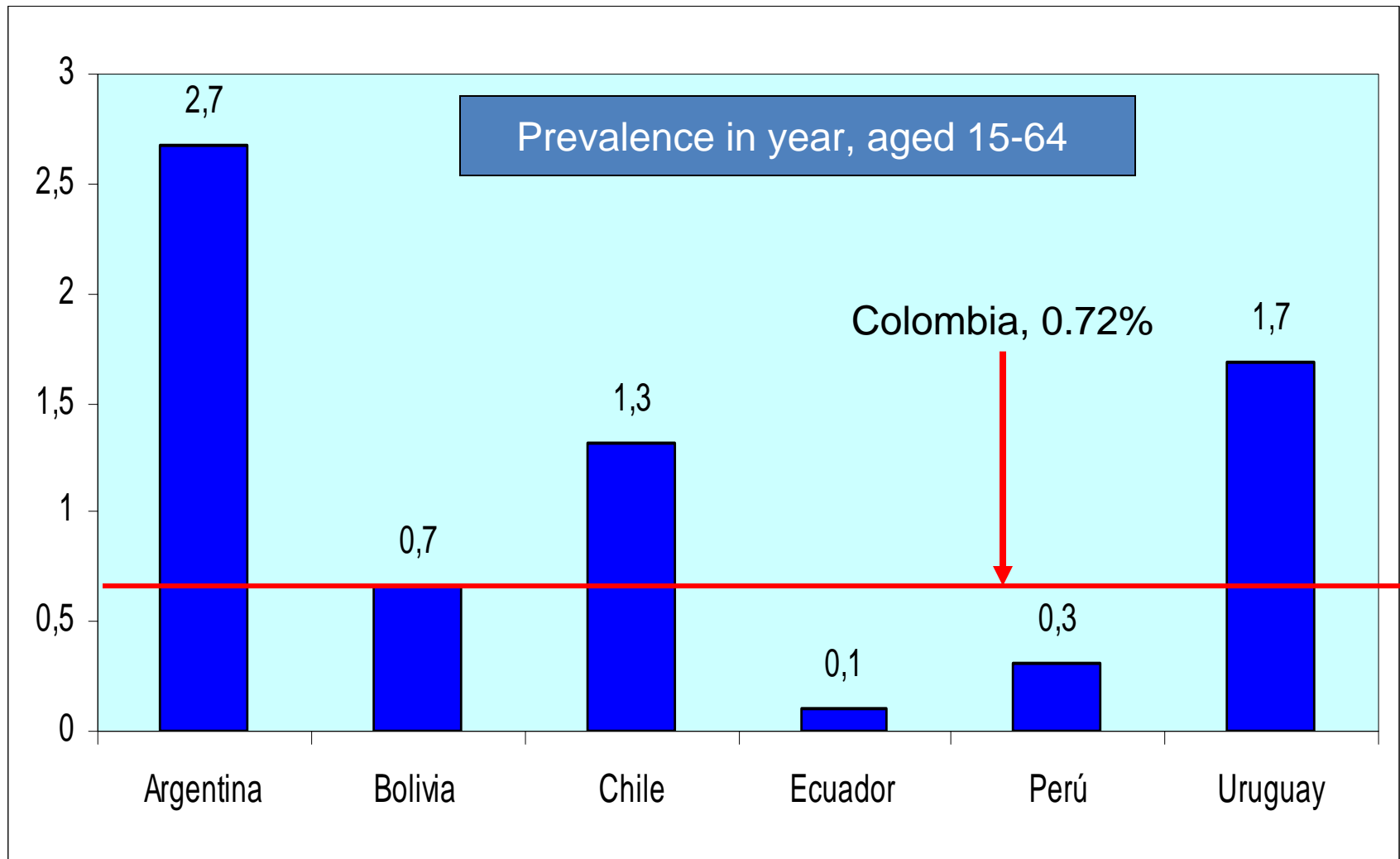
Prevalence of cocaine use in previous year, by sex and age

Prevalencia último año Cocaína, por sexo y edad





# Comparative Prevalence of Cocaine Use



SOURCE. UNODC-CICAD, 2006

# OTHER SUBSTANCES

- COCA PASTE (BASUCO): Prevalence in previous year of 0.17% (0.3% among men and 0.05% among women).
- ECSTASY: Prevalence in previous year of 0.28% (0.4% among men and 0.17% among women).
- HEROIN: Lifetime: below 0.2%.
- INHALANTS: Prevalence in previous year of 0.22% (0.36% among men and 0.10% among women).

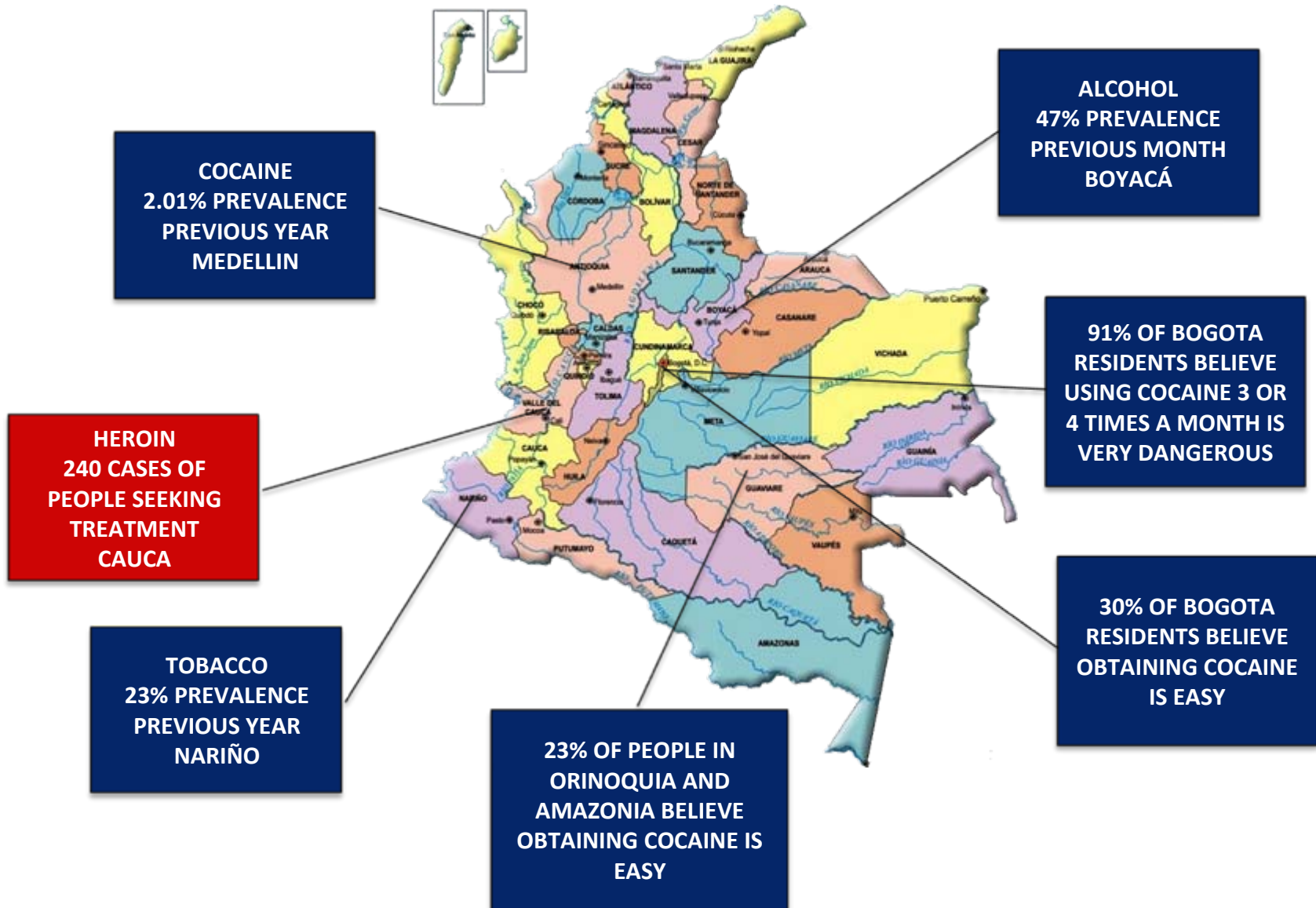
# Comparative: Previous Year Prevalence

(population aged 15 to 64)

Drug	World	Europe	South America (six countries)	Colombia
Cannabis	<b>3.8%</b> (160 million)	<b>7.0%</b> (1%-11.2%) (23 million)	<b>4.8%</b> (0.7%-7.2%) (2 million)	<b>2.5%</b>
Cocaine	<b>0.3%</b> (14.3 million)	<b>1.3%</b> (0.1%-3%) (4.5 million)	<b>1.4%</b> (0.3%-2.7%) (0.6 million)	<b>0.8%</b>

Source: United Nations, World Drug Report 2009, and the study.

# Notable Figures



# FIGURES FOR ACTION

- **The CNE's decision is to conduct the study regularly, with guaranteed funding and using the CICAD/OAS methodology, under the coordination of the Drugs Observatory of Colombia.**
- **Set of indicators directed toward strengthening the national, departmental, and municipal Drug Use Reduction Strategy, and its evaluation.**
- **Psychoactive substance use in Colombia has the size and characteristics of a problem, with serious repercussions on the wellbeing of the population, public health, civic coexistence, security, and the future of the new generations.**
- **The national government continues to promote the constitutional provision that prohibits the carrying of small amounts of drugs for personal use.**
- **Detection of usage of other and emerging drugs.**
- **The government is pursuing efforts to spread information, preventive education, awareness, and citizen mobilization to tackle the problem.**

# FIGURES FOR ACTION

- **THE CNE'S DECISION IS TO CONDUCT THE STUDY REGULARLY, WITH GUARANTEED FUNDING, USING THE CICAD/OAS METHODOLOGY AND UNDER THE COORDINATION OF THE DRUGS OBSERVATORY OF COLOMBIA.**
- **SET OF INDICATORS DIRECTED TOWARD STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL, DEPARTMENTAL, AND MUNICIPAL DRUG USE REDUCTION STRATEGY, AND ITS EVALUATION.**
- **PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE USE IN COLOMBIA REPORTS THE SIZE AND CHARACTERISTICS OF A PROBLEM, WITH SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS ON THE WELLBEING OF THE POPULATION, PUBLIC HEALTH, CIVIC COEXISTENCE, SECURITY, AND THE FUTURE OF THE NEW GENERATIONS.**
- **THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO PROMOTE THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION THAT PROHIBITS THE CARRYING OF SMALL AMOUNTS OF DRUGS FOR PERSONAL USE.**
- **DETECTION OF USAGE OF OTHER AND EMERGING DRUGS.**

# FIGURES FOR ACTION

- **THE GOVERNMENT IS MAKING EFFORTS TO SPREAD INFORMATION, PREVENTIVE EDUCATION, AWARENESS, AND CITIZEN MOBILIZATION TO TACKLE THE PROBLEM. “TERRITORY FREE OF DRUGS” CAMPAIGN.**
- **PRIORITIES: CAMPAIGNS TO DISCOURAGE TOBACCO USE, TO ENCOURAGE ABSTINENCE FROM ALCOHOL AMONG CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS, AND TO PROMOTE MODERATE ALCOHOL USE AMONG ADULTS.**
- **FURTHER RESEARCH INTO DRUG USE WILL CONTINUE AND WILL ALSO EXPLORE THE ECONOMIC ARENA, SUCH AS THE AVOIDABLE COSTS OF DRUG USE.**

Observatorio de  
Drogas de Colombia



# Thank you very much.

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