

National Survey of Illicit Drug Use and Trafficking among Household Groups in Indonesia

By **Paulina G. Padmohoedjo**
National Narcotics Board, Indonesia

To provide data on the prevalence of use of illicit drugs, tobacco, and alcohol, a National Household Survey on Drug Abuse including boarding houses was conducted by the Health Research Center of the University of Indonesia (Pusat Penelitian Kesehatan) and the National Narcotics Board (BNN), Indonesia. The survey, completed in 2006, provides information on the use of illicit drugs, alcohol and tobacco among members of Indonesia’s household population aged 10 to 60 in both city and rural areas, and residents of boarding houses only in the cities. The survey also examines the demographic correlates of the use of illicit drugs, alcohol and tobacco; and identifies high risk groups of drug abuse in the community.

The survey covered 23 locations consisting of 16 cities and 7 villages in 16 provinces in Indonesia.

Data on knowledge about drug abuse and HIV/AIDS and its prevention were collected. Tapping drug users as informants, information on background data of drug user including types of drugs used, methods of drug use, and treatment history were gathered. From parents of drug users, information on the history of drug use, actions taken, and social and economic losses within the household were determined. From police officers, information regarding drug trafficking was derived.

Survey results showed that there were more female respondents in the household survey, both city and rural areas (53 percent female and 47 percent male). Conversely, there were more males (54 percent) than females in the boarding house survey. More than 50 percent of household survey respondents (56 percent) were aged 30 years old and

above while respondents of the boarding house survey were younger with 77.3 percent aged 20-29 years old. Educational level of respondents in the boarding house survey was far higher (more than 90 percent of both female and male were senior high school graduates or above) than in the household survey with only 47 percent. Majority (63.8 percent) of the boarding house survey respondents were students while 48 percent of household respondents were employed, with almost 18 percent students. Only 26.6 percent of the household respondents and 8.5 percent of boarding house respondents had a monthly income of more than 1,500,000 rupiah.

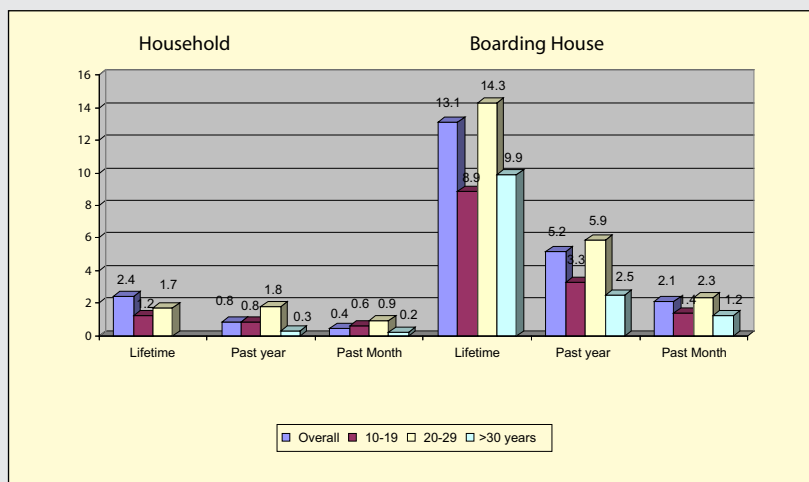
National household survey indicated that 2.4 percent of the household population reported having used illicit drugs, 0.8 percent in the past year, and 0.4 percent in the past month.

Prevalence of drug use among boarding house population significantly indicate a higher prevalence rate of 13.1 percent in their lifetime, 5.2 percent in the past year and 2.1 percent in past month (Table).

The prevalence of drug use of household population in the city reporting having ever used illicit drugs was higher (2.8 percent) than in the village (1.3 percent).

Age group 20-29 had the highest prevalence of illicit drug use for both members of the household population and boarding house residents. For members of the household population aged 10-60, age group 20-29 was the most likely to have ever used illicit drugs (5.1 percent) and to have used it in the past year (1.8 percent).

This is also true among boarding house residents in the 20-29 age group, wherein 14.3 percent had ever used illicit drugs, and 5.9 percent have used it in the past year.



Prevalence of drug use was higher among those with senior high school education and above. It was also higher among the unemployed in both household and boarding house population.

The lifetime rate of illicit drug use among boarding house population in 2005 was 13.1 percent. Some 5.2 percent have used drugs in the past year. Pontianak in West Kalimantan had the highest prevalence rate of illicit drug use in a lifetime (29.7 percent), followed by Yogyakarta (14 percent), Jakarta (12 percent), Medan (8.6 percent), Surabaya (7.6 percent) and Makassar (6.8 percent).

Ganja was the most commonly used illicit drug with 85 percent of members of the household population having used it during their lifetime, while 24.9 percent had used it in the past year. This is also true among boarding house residents wherein 83.9 percent had reported having ever used ganja in their lifetime and 28.6 percent in the past year.

Some 32.1 percent of the household population had ever used ecstasy during their lifetime and 9.6 percent in the past year. A Total of 23.1 percent of boarding house residents had ever used ecstasy during their lifetime and 37.1 percent in the past year, indicating increased used of ecstasy.

Methamphetamine was reported by some 28.9 percent having used it in their lifetime and 8.8 percent in the past year among household population while 26.6 percent of the boarding house population reported having ever used methamphetamine in their lifetime and 24.5 percent in the past year.

Barbiturates was reported by some 20.9 percent having ever used barbiturates in their lifetime and 2.8 percent in the past year. Heroin was reported by 12.9 percent having ever used heroin in their lifetime and 6.0 percent in the past year. Some 10.8 percent had ever used benzodiazepine in their lifetime and 1.2 percent in the past year. Use of other drugs was less common and these other illicit drugs were used by less than 2 percent of the household population in the past year.

Percentage reporting use of illicit drugs in Indonesia among household population, and boarding house population, aged 10-60: 2005 lifetime and past year prevalence.

| | City | Village | Household | Boarding house |
|---|------|---------|-----------|----------------|
| | 212 | 37 | 249 | 384 |
| Types of drugs ever used | | | | |
| Methamphetamine (Shabu) | 30.2 | 21.6 | 28.9 | 26.6 |
| MDMA Ecstasy | 34.0 | 21.6 | 32.1 | 27.3 |
| Heroin (Putauw) | 14.2 | 5.4 | 12.9 | 13.3 |
| Ganja | 84.9 | 86.5 | 85.1 | 83.9 |
| Morphine | 2.4 | 0.0 | 2.0 | 1.6 |
| Benzodiazepine | 11.8 | 2.7 | 10.4 | 7.3 |
| Barbiturates | 22.6 | 10.8 | 20.9 | 8.3 |
| Cocaine | 1.4 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 1.0 |
| LSD | 1.4 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 0.5 |
| Kecubung, mushroom | 8.5 | 5.4 | 8.0 | 2.6 |
| Others | 4.2 | 0.0 | 3.6 | 2.1 |
| Types of drugs used in the past year | | | | |
| Methamphetamine (Shabu) | 9.9 | 2.7 | 8.8 | 24.5 |
| MDMA Ecstasy | 11.3 | 0.0 | 9.6 | 37.1 |
| Heroin (Putauw) | 7.1 | 0.0 | 6.0 | 11.8 |
| Ganja | 23.6 | 32.4 | 24.9 | 28.6 |
| Morphine | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 33.3 |
| Benzodiazepine | 0.9 | 2.7 | 1.2 | 7.1 |
| Barbiturates | 2.4 | 5.4 | 2.8 | 9.4 |
| Cocaine | 1.4 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 25.0 |
| LSD | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Kecubung, mushroom | 2.8 | 0.0 | 2.4 | 0.0 |
| Others | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.4 | 12.5 |

Among all members of the household population, both in city and village, males were significantly more likely than females to have ever used illicit drugs (5.4 percent in the city and 2.6 percent in the village).

City residents were generally more likely than residents in the villages or rural areas to have ever used illicit drugs (2.8 percent) or to have used it in the past year (0.9 percent). Jakarta had the highest prevalence of illicit drug use for lifetime (6.0 percent), followed by Medan (5.7 percent), Bandung (4.8 percent), Yogyakarta (4.3 percent), Pontianak (3.6 percent), Semarang (3.5 percent), Denpasar (2.9 percent), Pekanbaru (2.2 percent) and 2.1 percent for Surabaya and Jambi.

Percentage of village residents who had ever used illicit drugs was 1.3 percent, had used drugs in the past (0.5 percent). However, Deli Serdang, a rural area in North Sumatra reported 5.0 percent of illicit drug use for lifetime, some 2.4 percent in the past year.

Cigarette use among boarding house population was significantly higher than the household population. Age group 20-29 had the highest prevalence of alcohol use (30.2 percent), followed by age group 10-19 with 25.5 percent among the boarding house population. It is interesting to note that females in age group 30 years above among the boarding house population had significant prevalence rate (40.0 percent) as compared to males (10.6 percent).

Among household population, age group 20-29 also had the highest prevalence of drug use with 15.5 percent. Females had higher prevalence of alcohol use (22.9 percent) than males (15.1 percent) in this particular age group.

Alcohol use among boarding house population is higher than the household population. Age group 20-29 generally had the highest prevalence of alcohol use. Among the boarding house population, age group 20-29 had the highest prevalence of alcohol use (30.2 percent), followed by age group 10-19 (23.4 percent) and 30 years+ with 19.2 percent. It is interesting to note that females in age group 30 years above among the boarding house

population had significant prevalence rate of alcohol use (42.9 percent) compared to males (16.7 percent).

Among household population, age group 20-29 also had the highest prevalence of alcohol use with 22.0 percent followed by age group 10-19.

Cigarette and alcohol use among boarding house population were significantly higher than the household population, in their lifetime, in the past year and in the past month.

Prevalence of cigarette use among boarding house population in their lifetime was 56.4 percent, 43.4 percent in the past year, and 42.3 percent in past month. Among household population, the prevalence of cigarette use was 36.2 in their lifetime, 28.8 percent in the past year.

Age group 30+ had the highest prevalence rate with 74.1 percent among boarding house population in their lifetime and 42.4 percent among household population. Males of the boarding house population had significantly higher prevalence (81.3 percent) in their lifetime than their male counterparts in the household population (68.9 percent). The employed among the household population had higher prevalence of cigarette use (57.5 percent) in their lifetime while the unemployed group among the boarding house population had slightly higher prevalence (63.5 percent).

Prevalence of alcohol use among the boarding house population was higher (61.4 percent) than among the household population (32.1 percent) in their lifetime. Prevalence of alcohol use among boarding house population in their lifetime was 61.4 percent, 50.6 percent in the past year, and 49.9 percent in past month. Prevalence of alcohol use among household population was 32.1 percent in their lifetime, 13.9 percent in the past year and 4.9 percent in past month. More household population who are employed had ever used alcohol in their lifetime (29.6 percent), while more boarding house population who are unemployed had ever used alcohol in their lifetime (46.6 percent). ■

Prevalence of illicit drugs, cigarette and alcohol use, 2005.



For further information, contact the author at <padmo-h@diffy.com>