

Image and perception of drugs in Mauritius - 2015

Report V1.0 September 2015



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Research Objectives and Methodology - i

The main objective of the study is to evaluate the perception of Mauritians regarding drugs and the regulatory framework of drugs in Mauritius.

Sub objectives of the study are to:

- Understand image and perception of addictive substances (drugs as well as others)
- Measure the momentum of drugs on the market
- Assess the awareness of the different types of drugs in Mauritius (natural as well as synthetic including cigarettes and alcohol)
- Assess trial rate and usage of drugs and other addictive substances
- Identify the image and perception associated to Gandia/Marijuana
- Measure how the local population assesses the current regulatory framework related to substances (drugs)
- Test the appreciation and acceptability of a revised regulatory framework of drugs

This study consists of primary and secondary data gathered from (i) a Qualitative and (ii) a Quantitative study

Research Objectives and methodology - ii

Quantitative Study

- 600 face to face interviews, using the Computer Aided Personal Interview (CAPI) technique, were conducted during the period 24th of June to 8th of August 2015. With a sample size of 600, the data presented in this report incurs a margin of error of 4% at the 95% confidence interval *.
- The Population Proportional Sampling methodology (PPS) was used to constitute the sample, based on different zones, as classified by the Central Statistical Office. This methodology allowed an 'area representative' sample of respondents to be selected. For each zone, easily identifiable landmarks/points (churches, schools, Tabagies, Selling points, road junctions, bridges etc) were determined, which acted as starting points and the interviewer then followed a 'random route walk' methodology from that starting point to select the respondents
- The sample was then reweighted to be nationally representative in terms of gender, ethnic group, age group, socio economic group and geographical region across MCA (Municipal Council Areas) and VCA (Village Council Areas) of Mauritius.
- 20% of interviews call check were also carried out to ensure reliability of the collected information

Qualitative study:

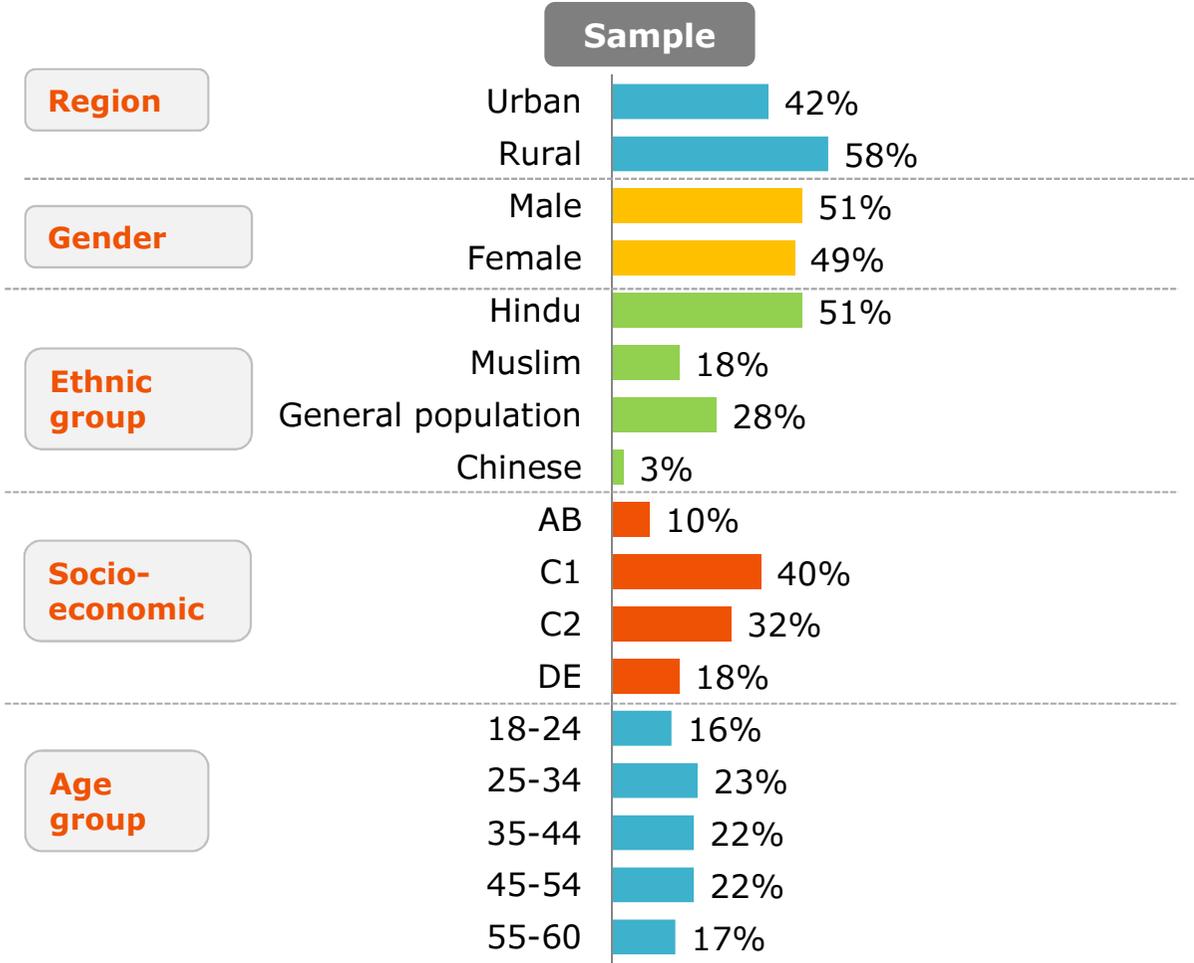
3 Focus Group Discussions were conducted with (i) Mothers, (ii) young adults aged between 18-35 years and (iii) elder adults aged between 36-65 years old during the period of 2nd to 8th of June 2015. The composition of the groups was mixed in terms of gender, ethnic group and socio economic profile.



TNS Analysis

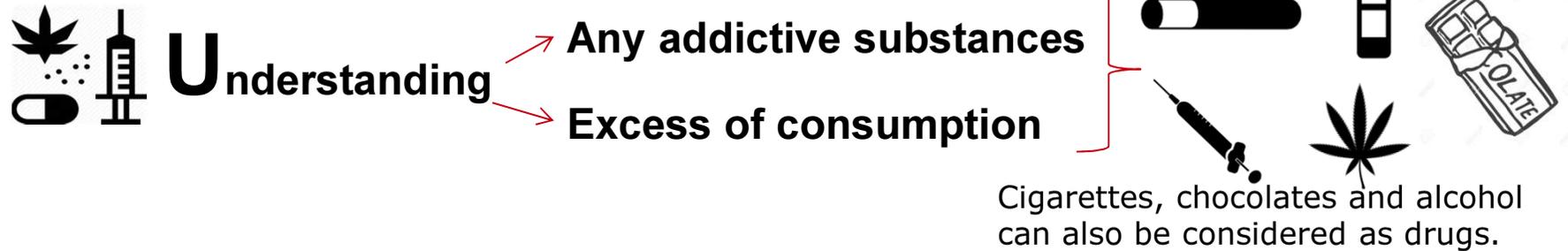
Meaning that if the survey were to be conducted again with another random sample of respondents, 95 out of 100 times results would yield figures within 4 percentage points of their stated totals (at a 95% confidence interval). So if 78% of the total sample indicate they agree or disagree with something tested in the survey, it means that we are 95% confident that the true figure lies between anywhere from 74% to 82%

Profile of respondents



Executive summary

Perception of drugs



Spontaneous Awareness of types of drugs

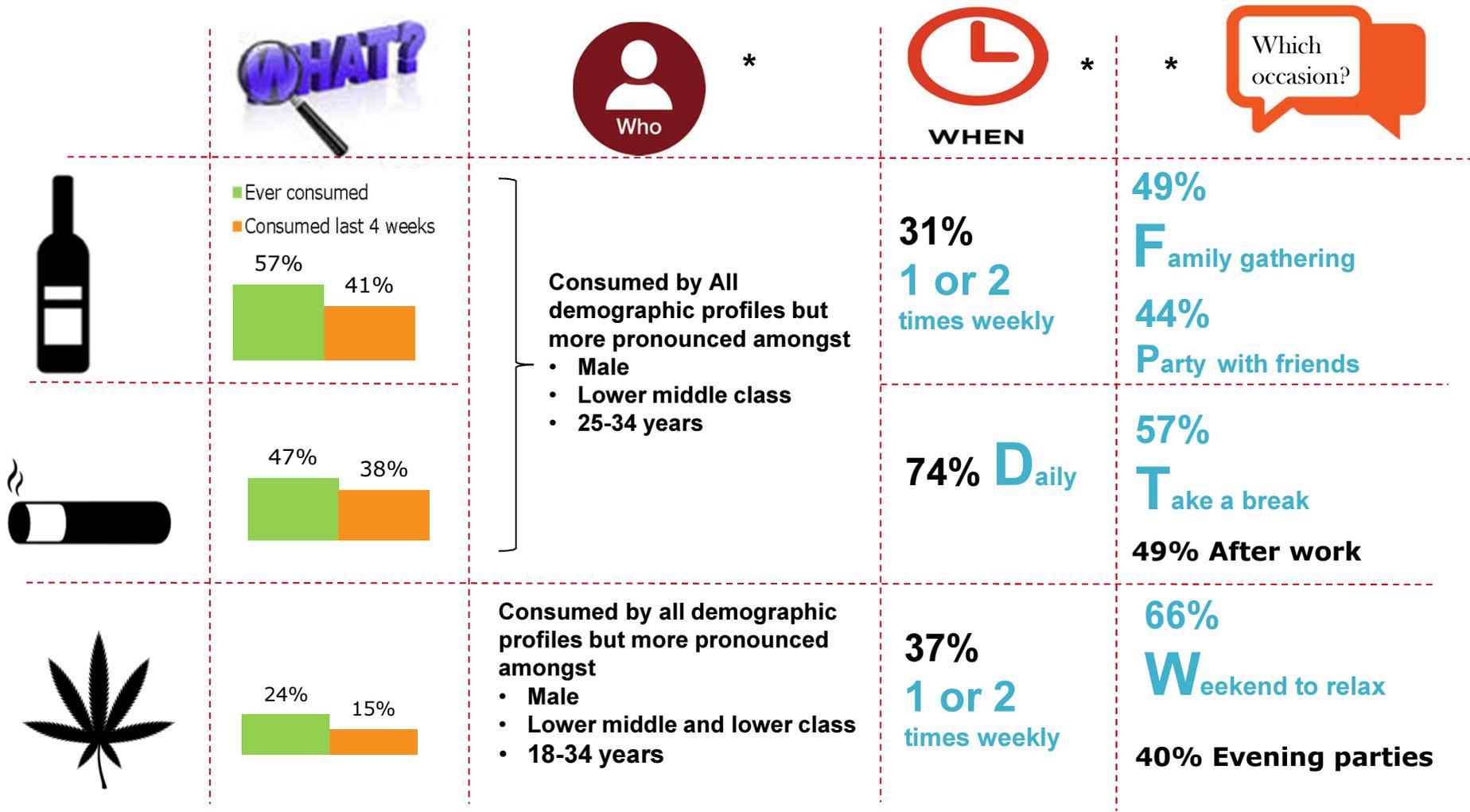


When asked about types of drugs that respondents are aware of, 48% spontaneously mention Gandia/Marijuana (weed/Gandia/Marijuana/masse/cannabis).

28% Differentiate between natural and synthetic drugs

Executive summary

Usage towards alcohol, cigarette and Marijuana



TNS Analysis

* Amongst those who consumed within last 4 weeks

Executive summary

Perception of being dangerous



Heroin (77 / 100 points)
Subutex (77 / 100 points)
Ecstasy (77 / 100 points)
Black **M**amba (77 / 100 points)

Alcohol (69 / 100 points)



Gandia/**M**arijuana (63 / 100 points)
Cigarette(61/ 100 points)

More dangerous

Dangerous

Less dangerous

Before being exposed to new approaches

46% are of the opinion that Law *must* make a difference between Marijuana and other illegal substances **vs 23% who are against** (30% uncertain)

36% are of the opinion that **G**andia/**M**arijuana is harmless if a reasonable amount is consumed **vs 33% who think that Gandia/Marijuana is harmful** (23% uncertain)

34% are of the opinion that **G**andia/**M**arijuana must *not* be considered as a crime and must be considered as equal to cigarettes and alcohol **vs 43% who are against** (31% uncertain)

Executive summary

Perception of Legal Framework of drugs in Mauritius (before being exposed to new approaches)

82% of the interviewed sample are not aware of drug laws in Mauritius

Opinion of drug laws (after reading the drug laws of Mauritius to the respondents)



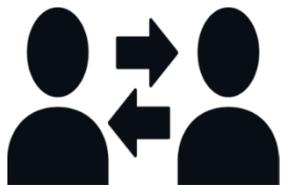
Possession laws

69% Right
12% Not strict at all
7% Too strict



Consumption laws

70% Right
10% Not strict at all
6% Too strict



Dealer laws

73% Right
11% Not strict at all
2% Too strict

The laws for dealers need to be as strict as possible since dealers are responsible for the increase of drug consumers in Mauritius.

Executive summary

Testing new approaches to Drug laws based on those practiced abroad *

		Portugal 	Uruguay 	Holland 	Colorado 	S.East Asia 
	Overall opinion(%Very good idea + %good idea)	44% 40%<f<48%	37% 34%<f<41%	33% 30%<f<37%	40% 36%<f<44%	31% 28%<f<35%
	Adopt this concept in Mauritius(% Definitely yes + % probably yes)	40% 37%<f<43%	33% 30%<f<36%	27% 23%<f<30%	32% 28%<f<35%	29% 25%<f<32%
	Overall opinion(%Very bad idea + % bad idea)	36% 32%<f<39%	27% 23%<f<30%	25% 22%<f<29%	20% 17%<f<23%	27% 23%<f<30%
	Adopt this concept in Mauritius(% Definitely not + % probably not)	22% 19%<f<25%	29% 26%<f<33%	27% 23%<f<30%	24% 20%<f<27%	24% 20%<f<27%

Overall, on average (across concepts), **37%** respond positively to new approaches to drug laws while **27%** respond *negatively*. Concerning adoption in Mauritius, on average 32% are FOR vs 25% are AGAINST. Portugal provoked a higher % of respondents (80%) to take a stand in their decisions be it positive or negative. However, the main weakness of the Portugal concept pertains to the decriminalisation of ALL drugs.



TNS Analysis

* Note : 5 different concepts have been read to interviewers to evaluate their opinions
 (i) Decriminalization of drugs in Portugal (ii) Legalization of Gandia/Marijuana in Uruguay
 (iii) Decriminalization of Gandia/Marijuana in Netherlands (iv) Legalization of Gandia/Marijuana in Colorado and (v) Prohibitionist laws of South Asian countries

Executive summary

Post test – change in attitude

3 Different attitudes

46% **A**gainst repressive laws –(for Portugal, Uruguay, Netherlands and Colorado laws)

30% **F**or repressive laws- (for South East Asian Laws)

24% **M**aintain Mauritian laws

49% are of the opinion that Law *must* make a difference between Marijuana and other illegal substances **vs 28% who are against** (23% uncertain)

Change of attitude

44% of those who initially thought that the Mauritian laws are right changed their mind (around 70%) for a law that differentiates between Gandia/Marijuana and other illegal substance after being exposed to other concepts.

Insights

- ❖ Drugs are a major social problem in Mauritius and so is Alcohol.
- ❖ However, Gandia / Marijuana is **not** deemed to be more dangerous than Alcohol and / or cigarette: Alcohol is perceived to be more dangerous than Gandia/Marijuana while cigarette is deemed to be as dangerous as Gandia/Marijuana.
- ❖ Mauritians in general (including mothers) are quite well versed about different drug names. Nearly 50 different drug names have been cited spontaneously by the sample interviewed
- ❖ Consumers of Gandia/Marijuana come from all socio demographic background.
- ❖ Nearly 80% of interviewed sample are not aware about drug laws in Mauritius
- ❖ There is consensus that drugs is a very sensitive issue and it is proliferating in Mauritius. However there is no consensus on decriminalisation of drugs in Mauritius.
- ❖ Changing the status of Drug users as criminals to sick people is welcomed by respondents (45% of respondents).
- ❖ 49% of Mauritians interviewed believed in differentiating laws pertaining to Marijuana and other illegal substances, vs 28% who are against differentiation.

Way forward - i

Drugs top the list of social problems in Mauritius and about half of Mauritians interviewed admit that they are directly or indirectly concerned and exposed to this problem. More and more different types of drugs, including dangerous synthetic drugs, are penetrating the Mauritian market .

However, the case of Marijuana / Gandia needs to be well situated in this context as it generates **mixed** emotions and feelings: 36% think that Gandia/Marijuana is harmless if a reasonable amount is consumed vs 30% who are uncertain and 33% who think that Gandia/Marijuana is harmful. 34% think that Gandia/Marijuana must *not* be considered as a crime and must be treated just like cigarettes and alcohol vs 23% who are uncertain and 43% who are against this view. 46% claim that the law must make a difference between Marijuana and other illegal substances vs 31% who are uncertain and 23% who are against

Mauritius is, without any doubt, riding the globalization and new technology wave. Locals are increasingly connected to foreign countries, either through the Mauritian Diaspora, Internet or via Paid TV and overseas travel. They are thus exposed to new and novel practices across the world and across different domains in life, and drugs is no exception. However, there is no clear preference for a particular legal framework of DRUGS: 46% are against repressive laws while 54 % are for repressive laws (30% for highly repressive laws as in South East Asia and 24% for Mauritian laws).

Given the numerous negative impact of drugs(social, health, political, economical), there is a need to rethink about existing Mauritian laws concerning illegal substances in Mauritius for the war on drugs to be more effective.



Way forward - ii

Research findings indicate that after having been exposed to the novel approaches of combatting drugs across the world, 49% of Mauritians have expressed their wish that laws demarcate between Gandia /Marijuana and other more harmful / dangerous drugs (v/s 28% for those who are against the law and 25% who do not take a stand / are uncertain)

The fundamental idea of rethinking the status of a drug consumer from a criminal to a sick person has been welcomed by 45% of interviewed sample as they believe that drug addicts are victims who also need help rather than being rejected by society as criminals. However, while the Portugal concept is relatively more appreciated than others, Mauritians are not ready yet to decriminalize all drugs. The Portugal concept is deemed to be a potential for Gandia / Marijuana and not for ALL drugs.

The study showed that Mauritians are less tolerant to drug dealers, being convinced that dealers are at the roots of all drugs consumption in Mauritius. However, although they condemn dealers, Mauritians are not for death penalties (42% are against). They suggested that the law must be more strict where the offenders can experience lifetime imprisonment.

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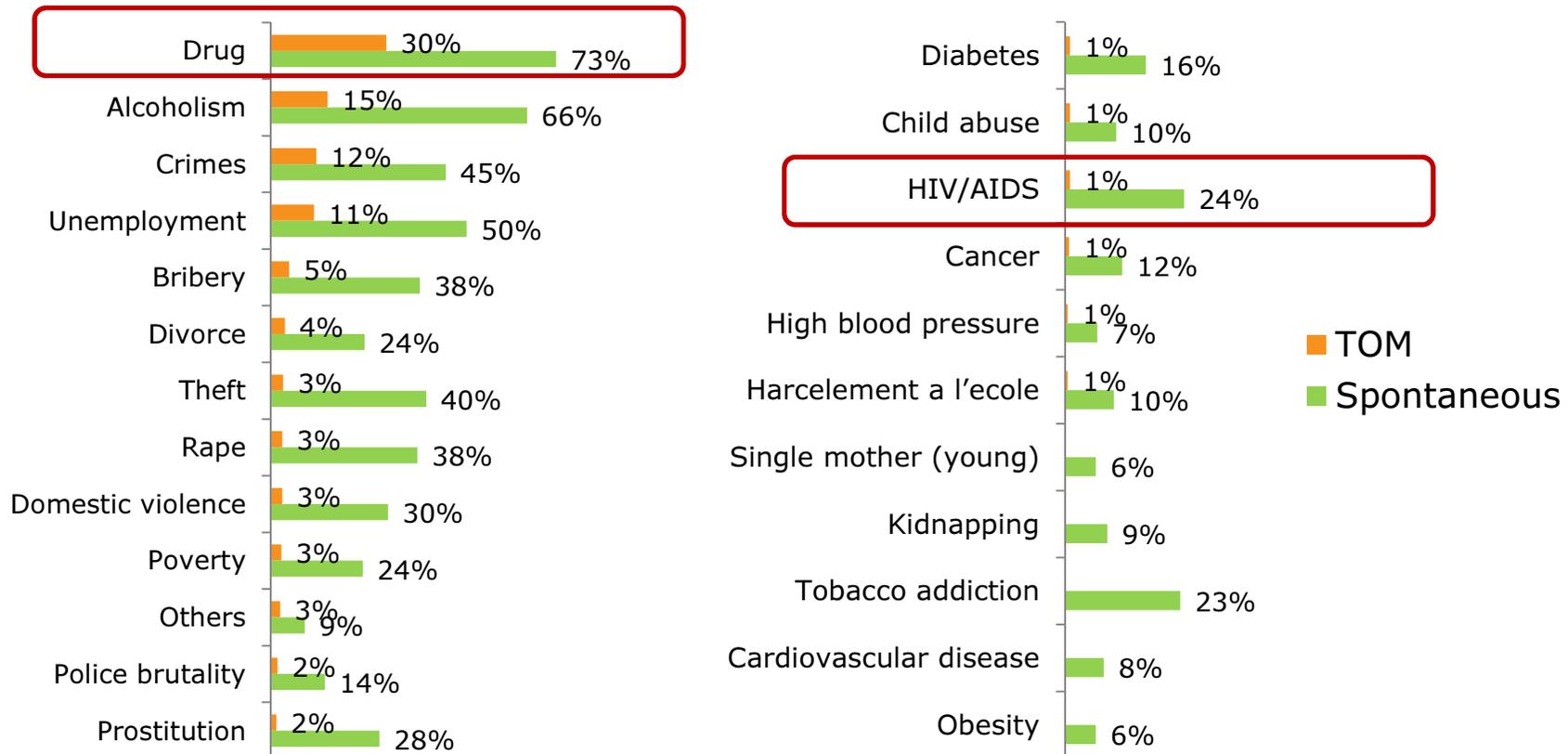
Understanding of Social problems



Awareness of Social problems

Drug is spontaneously mentioned by 73% of people interviewed as being a social problem for Mauritius (mentioned by 30% of the respondents as Top of mind). Alcoholism stands at the second position with a TOM association of 15%. Crimes and unemployment are other social problems mentioned. We note that HIV/AIDS is mentioned spontaneously by 24% of the respondents.

WHAT social problems come to their mind?



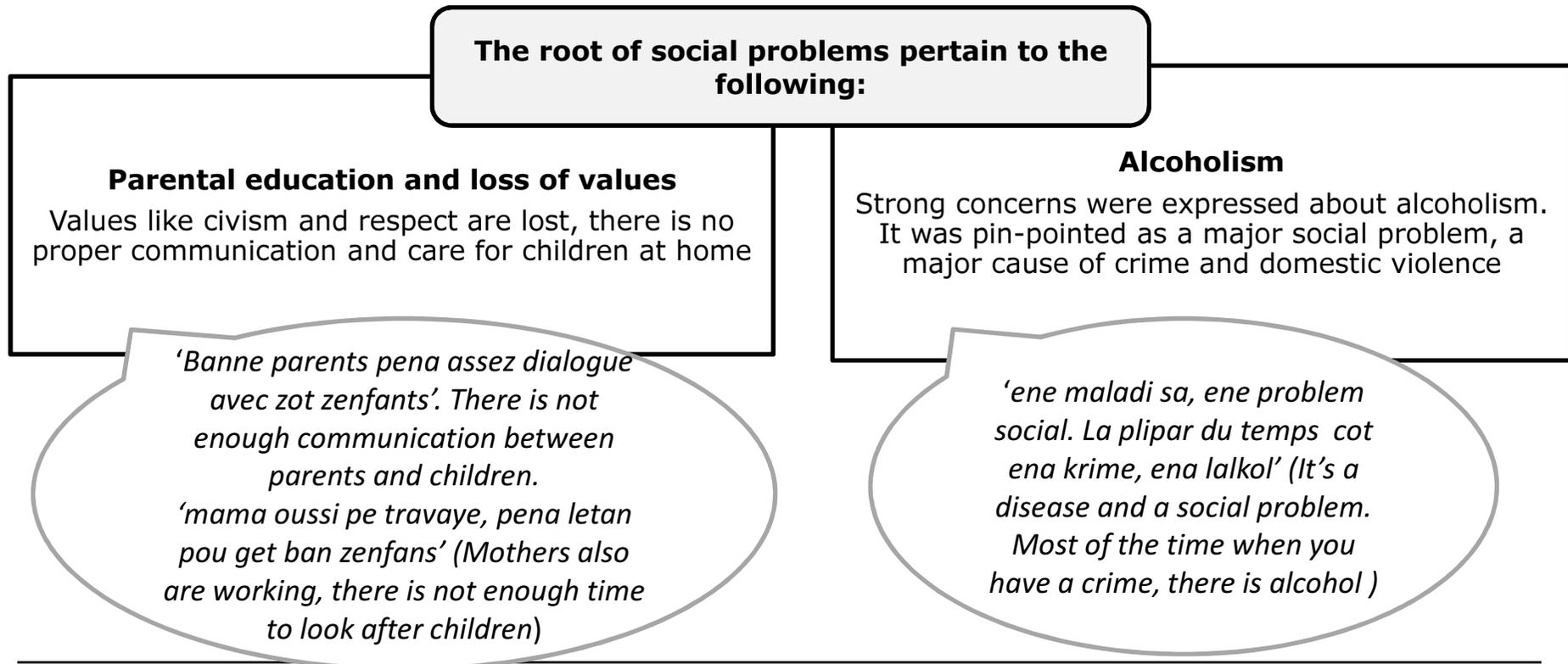
TNS Analysis

Base n= 600
% of respondents

Causes of social problems

Alcoholism is perceived to be the root of several social problems like rape, crime, violence and unemployment.

As for **drugs it remains a major concern for most**, be it directly or indirectly. Those who feel directly concerned with drugs are mostly those who have a relative consuming drugs while those who are indirectly concerned mentioned that drug is a problem to their immediate surroundings.

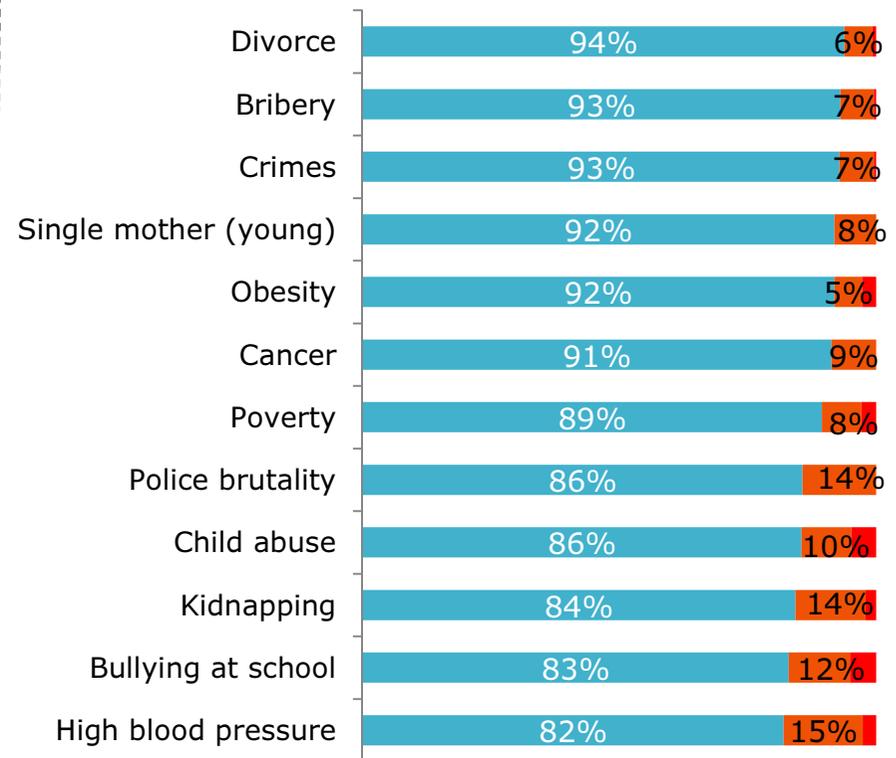
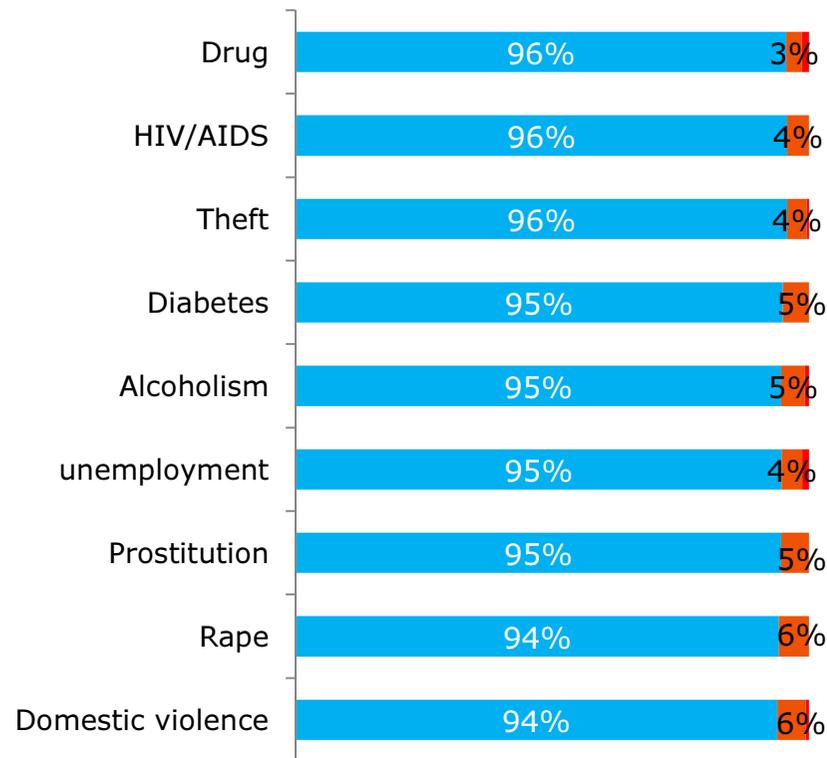


Evolution of social problems in the past 5 years

Respondents were asked about their perception of social problems in the past 5 years.

Globally, all social problems mentioned are seen to have increased during the past 5 years. Drug is perceived to have increased by 96% of respondents.

■ Increased ■ Remained stable ■ Decreased



TNS Analysis

Base n= Those who are aware of the social problems
% of respondents

Social problems of concern

Directly or indirectly- % of respondents

		Directly
Drug	49%	14%
Alcoholism	48%	21%
Unemployment	37%	13%
Theft	28%	7%
Crimes	27%	5%
Bribery	21%	5%
Poverty	19%	7%
Domestic violence	18%	5%
Rape	17%	5%
Divorce	16%	5%
Tobacco addiction	15%	7%
Prostitution	14%	3%
Diabetes	14%	7%
HIV/AIDS	12%	3%
Police brutality	11%	3%
Child abuse	8%	1%
Cancer	7%	2%
Harcelement a l'école	7%	2%
High blood pressure	5%	3%
Obesity	5%	1%
Cardiovascular disease	5%	1%
Kidnapping	4%	1%
Single mother (young)	4%	1%

Respondents were asked if they are concerned directly or indirectly by the social problems they mentioned spontaneously**.

49% of respondents are concerned directly or indirectly by drugs, a figure very close to 48% for alcoholism. Unemployment is another major social evil

Except for diabetes (14%) and HIV/AIDS (12%), health issues incidence is below 10%: 7% for cancer, 5% for high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease.

Alcoholism tops the list of social problem where respondents feel more directly concerned (21%) followed by drugs (14%) and unemployment (13%).



TNS Analysis

Base n= 600
% of respondents

Note: ** To allow comparison and calculate incidence, responses were calculated over the total sample

Those who are concerned about social problems

Social problems are a major concern for the society irrespective of gender, ethnic, socio economic and age groups.

	Alcoholism (n=287)	Drug (n=294)	Unemployment (n=220)	Theft (n=165)	Crimes (n=159)	National
Male	57%	51%	55%	55%	41%	51%
Female	43%	49%	45%	45%	49%	49%
Urban	32%	36%	31%	25%	33%	42%
Rural	68%	64%	69%	75%	67%	58%
AB	9%	11%	10%	12%	9%	10%
C1	41%	43%	43%	41%	44%	40%
C2	31%	30%	31%	27%	27%	32%
DE	18%	15%	16%	21%	20%	18%
Hindu	53%	49%	50%	48%	48%	51%
Muslim	15%	19%	20%	20%	21%	18%
General population	30%	30%	28%	30%	31%	28%
Chinese	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%
18-24	16%	15%	17%	15%	13%	16%
25-34	26%	29%	27%	23%	26%	23%
35-44	19%	20%	22%	19%	18%	22%
45-54	23%	21%	22%	27%	26%	22%
55-60	16%	16%	11%	16%	18%	17%



TNS Analysis

% of respondents

Note: ** To allow comparison and calculate incidence, responses were calculated over the total sample

6

Perception of drugs



Perception of drugs

Understanding of 'drugs'

There is consensus that drugs pertain to anything that has a **psychological effect** on the human body and that could make one be **addicted to**.

"cigarette oussi ene la drogue parski ou pa kapave san pass li" (Also cigarette is a drug as you cannot do without it)

It has also been highlighted that **excess consumption** of any substances can also be considered as drugs.

"Tou sibstans ki ou pran en exces, lalkol oussi". (All substance you take excessively, and alcohol too)

Names of drugs- Awareness of drug names

Common drug names like Heroin, brown sugar, cocaine, subutex, methadone, cigarette, Gandia/Marijuana, synthetics drugs have been mentioned by almost all participants. Moreover some participants added that medicines, panadol, valium, alcohol and cigarette are also drugs.

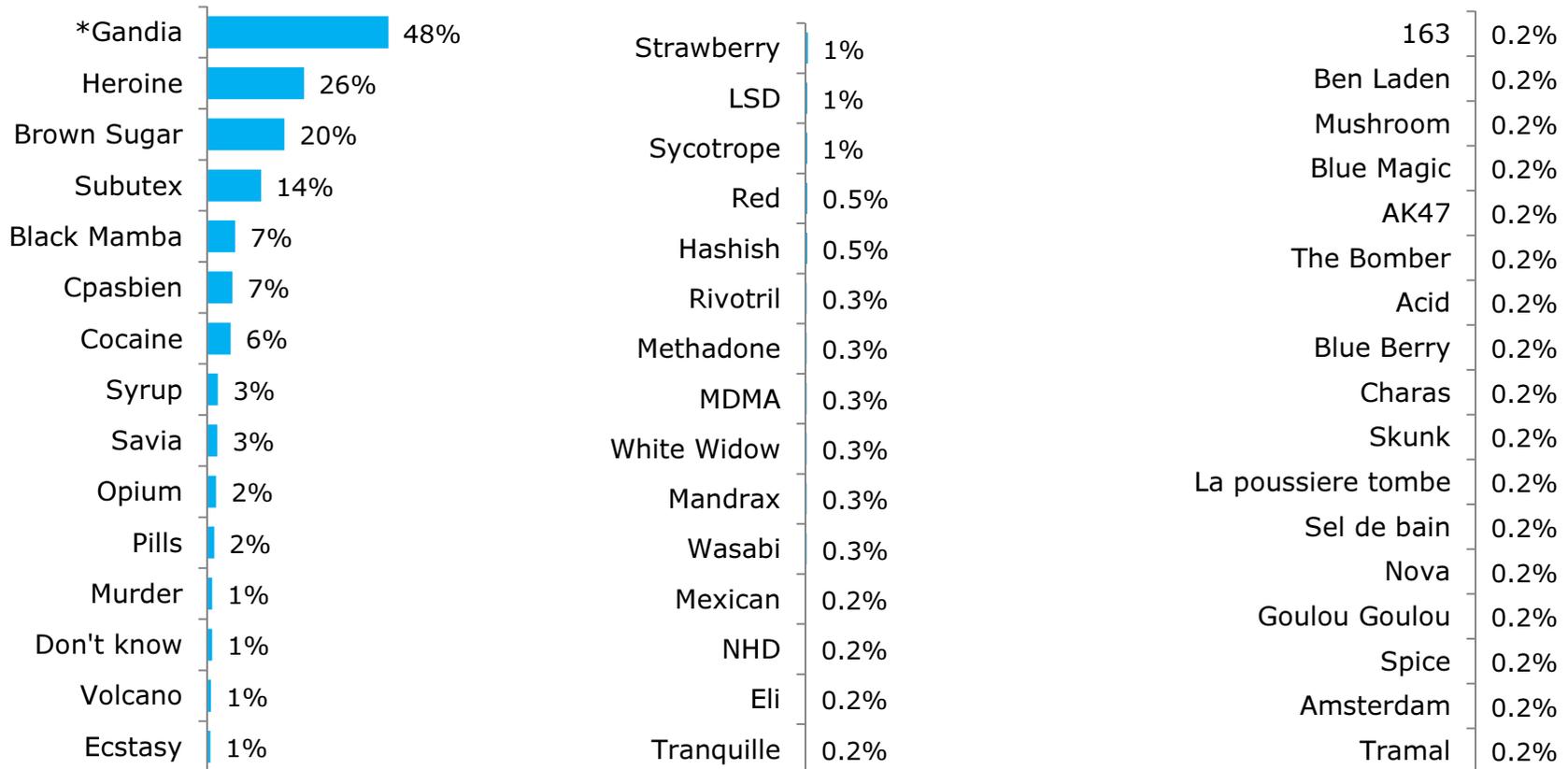
The awareness level of drugs of mothers was rather surprising. Drug names **Cpasbien, Black Mamba, la colle, hashish, Gandia/Marijuana, Wazabi** have been spontaneously mentioned. They are more alert since they have a constant fear that their children might be influenced and consume one of them.

" Ou tend tous kalité nom la drogue dans radio ou lor jounal aster, et li bien inquietant pour nous comme parent". (We hear or read several names of drugs on the radio or television and we are quite upset as parent.)

What drugs do you know?

Respondents were asked what drugs are they aware of.

Spontaneously, 47 different types of drugs have been mentioned by the interviewed sample. They tend to relate drugs to only illicit substances. Nearly one out of two mention Gandia/Marijuana as a drug.



*Note: Gandia/Marijuana was also cited as weed, Gandia/Marijuana, cannabis and mass

Base n= 600
% of respondents



TNS Analysis

Perception of drugs

Good knowlegde of different ways of consuming Gandia/Marijuana

Some participants have a good knowledge about the different ways of consuming Gandia/Marijauna. Gandia/Marijauana can either be **smoked like cigarette/shisha** or **eaten as cakes(brownies) or stuffed fruit(apple)** and **drunk in milk during Holi festival (bang)**. Some of them even described a mode of inhaling Gandia/Marijuana known as 'Koulé levé'.

"koulé levé, bong, fimer dan pomme ou mem dan gato". (5 different modes of consumption and packaging described)

Price of Gandia/Marijuana and Heroin

Some participants are aware of doses and rates practiced by dealers. Gandia/Marijuana is sold in terms of doses commonly known as 'Pooliah' and is perceived **as quite expensive**. One **dose is approximately Rs300**. Some of them are even aware of the **Cocaine/Heroin rate, Rs 500 for 125 g**.

« *Gandia li assez cher ek vend par boute, samem ki dir pooliah. Ene pooliah is Rs 300 environ* »

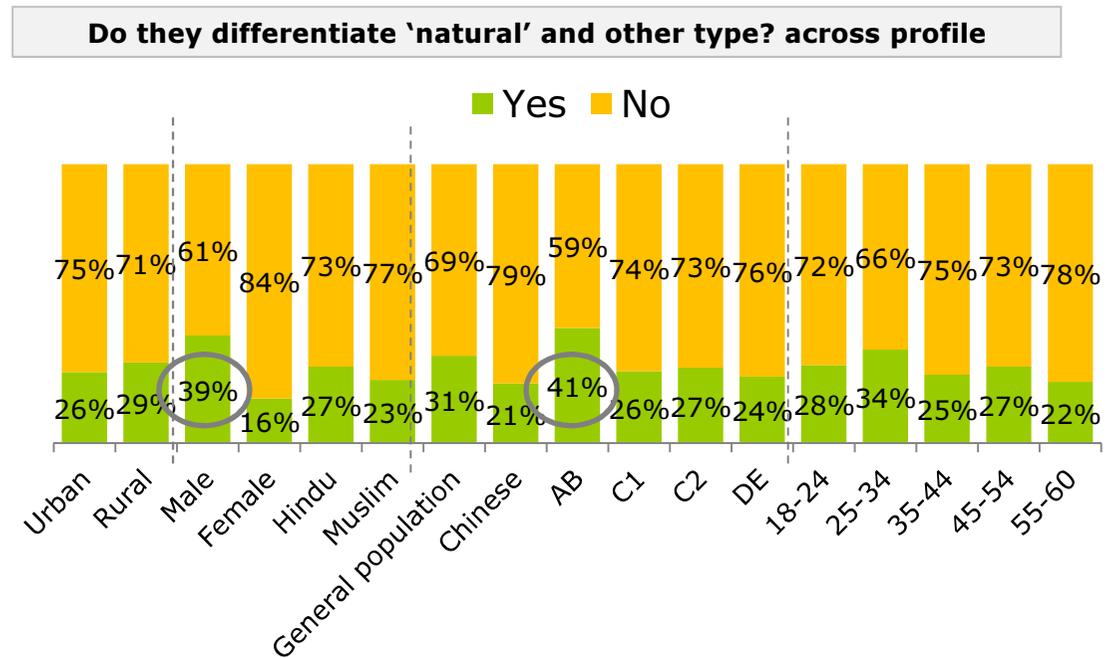
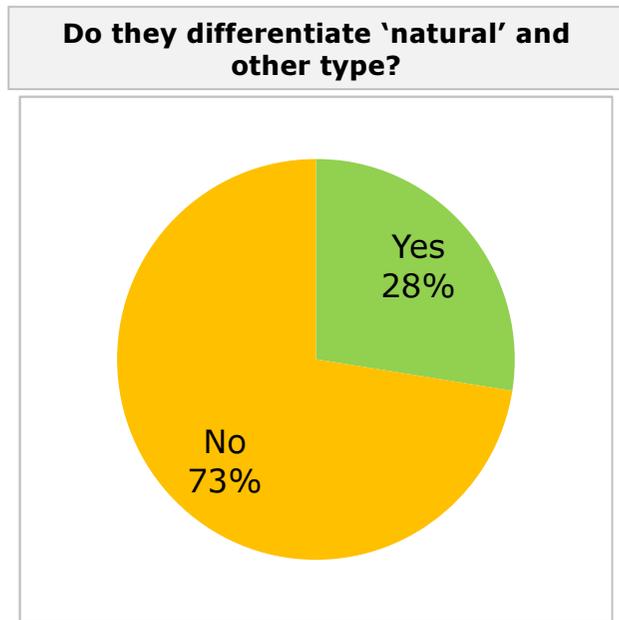
Gandia is quite expensive and is sold in small doses, known as Pooliah. 1 Pooliah is approximately Rs300

« *Cocaine, heroine vend sa par demi-quart aster: 125g ene ti prise Rs500* »

Cocaine, heroin is sold at Rs 500 for 125g a small dose

Do they differentiate between 'natural' and other types of drugs'?

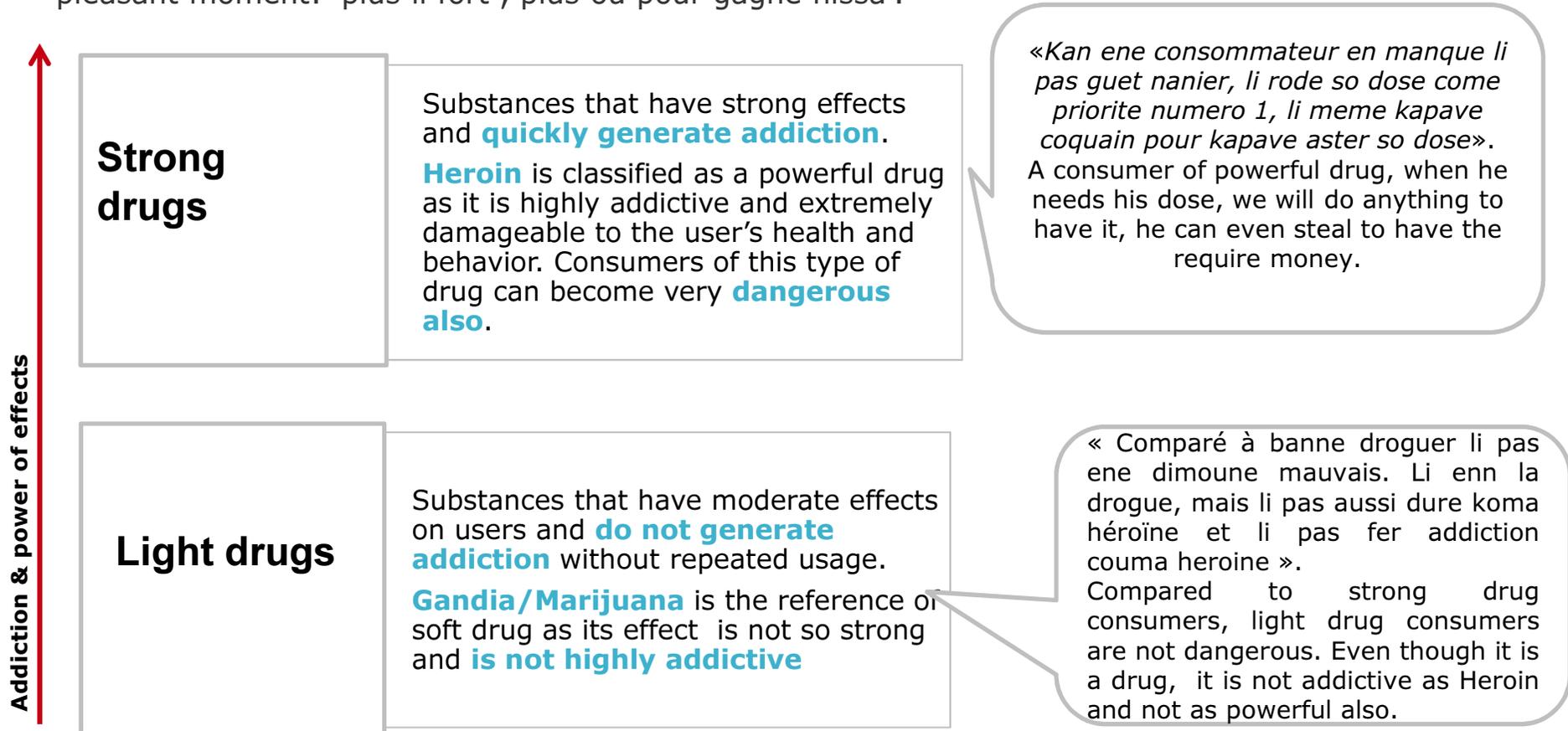
28% of respondents do differentiate between 'natural' and other types of drugs'. The percentage of those who can differentiate is higher amongst Male, the upper class and those aged 25 to 34 years old.



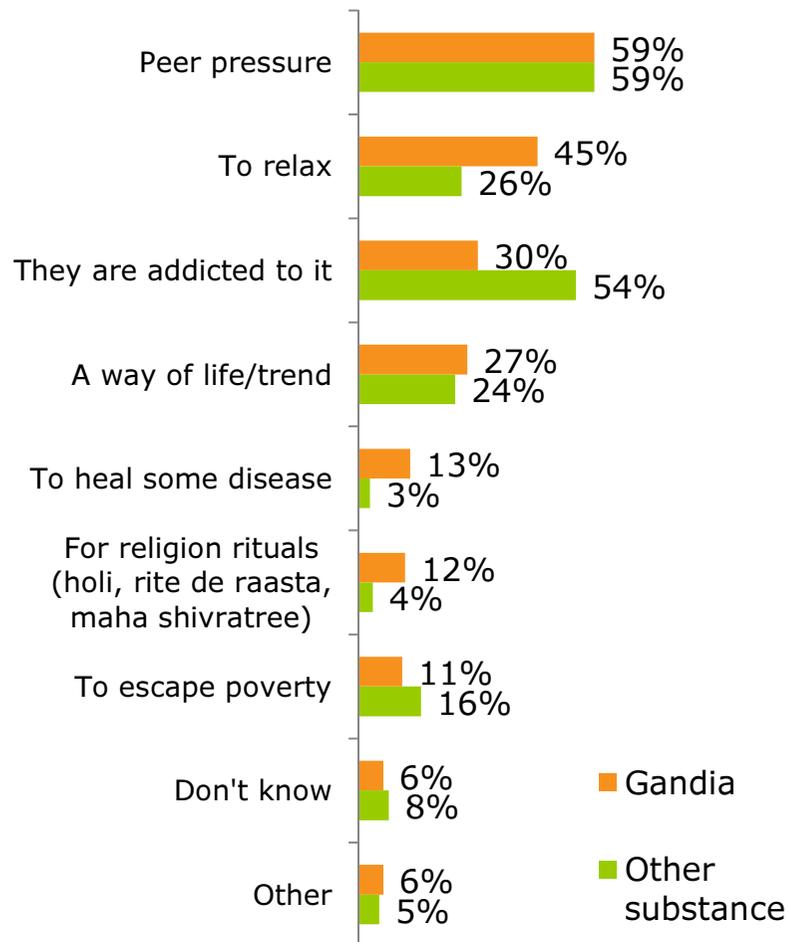
Different types of drugs

Two types of drugs have been identified

Drugs are classified into two categories. The first category pertains to all **strong drugs** and the second category pertains to **light drugs**. The more it is strong, the more the user will enjoy a pleasant moment: 'plus li fort , plus ou pour gagne nissa'.



Perception about why people consume Gandia/Marijuana and other substances



Respondents feel that the consumption of Gandia/Marijuana or any other types of substances are mainly driven by **peer pressure(59%)**.

Secondly respondents think that Gandia/Marijuana is consumed to be released from daily stress(45%) while consumers of Heroine do so by addiction(54%).

12% of respondents claimed that Gandia/Marijuana is used for religious/belief rituals while it has a medical vocation according to 13% of respondents.

It is interesting to note that in focus groups' discussions, most participants were aware that Gandia/Marijuana is used as a common practice in foreign countries to cure cancer. They stressed on its usage for healing the pain of patients in the terminal phase. They have also mentioned the use of Gandia/Marijuana for religious purposes.

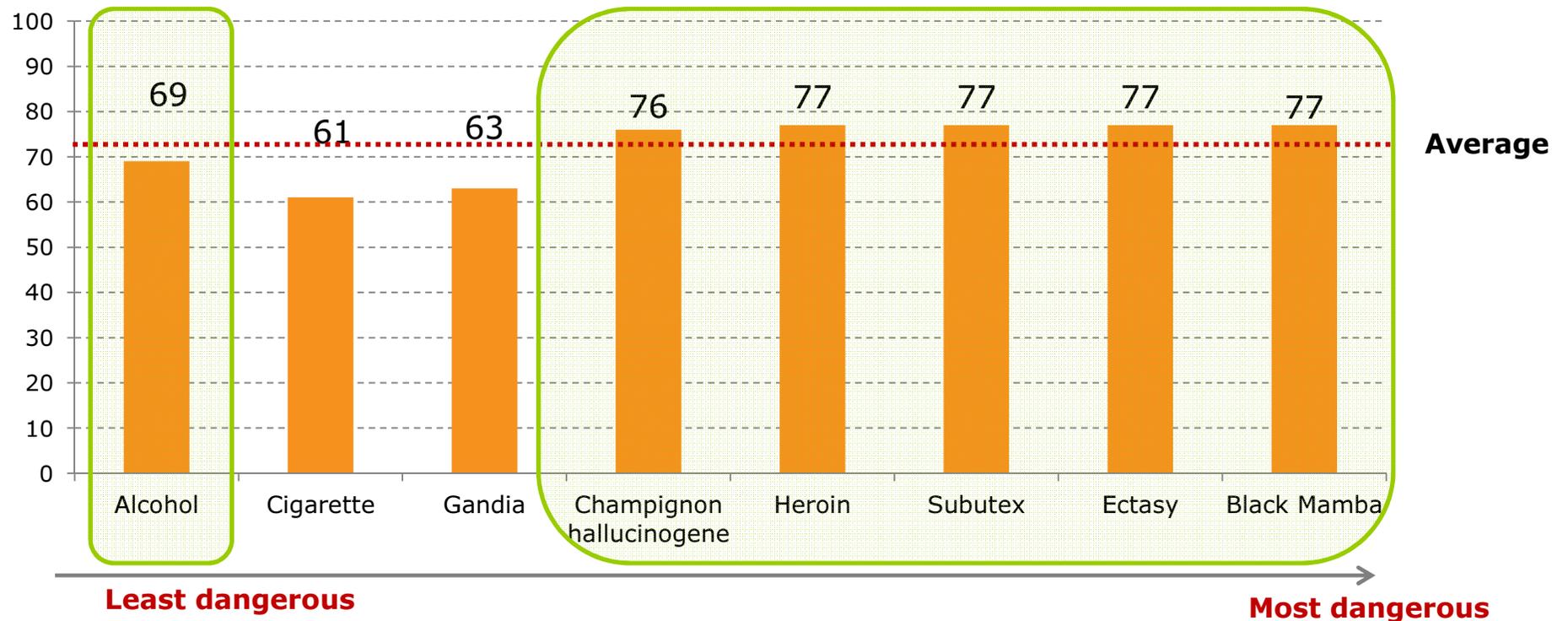
"Pendant Holi, boire bang meme ban zenfants boire li" (for Holi, we dring milk with Gandia/Marijuana, even children drink it)

Perception of danger

Respondents were asked to rate the dangerousness of drugs and substances on a scale of 1-10 where 1= not dangerous at all and 10= very dangerous.

Heroin, subutex, Ecstasy and Black Mamba are seen as being more dangerous with a mean score of 77.

Gandia/Marijuana and cigarette are seen to be at the same level in terms of degree of danger while alcohol is perceived as being more harmful than Gandia.



Note: respondents were asked to rate each product on a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 means very dangerous and 10 means less dangerous. Scores have been reweighted. The higher score is (near 100), the product is more dangerous



TNS Analysis

Base n=600 respondents
% of respondents

Which drug is perceived as being more dangerous?

A list of drugs was read to respondents and they were asked to evaluate which drug is most dangerous for themselves, for the users and for the society.

Heroin is perceived to be the most hazardous substance by it for respondents or the users of heroin or for the society.

Only 6% of the interviewed sample considered Gandia/Marijuana as dangerous.

	For yourself	For users	For the society
Heroin	33%	38%	38%
Alcohol	22%	16%	17%
Synthetic Cannabis	12%	16%	17%
Don't know	8%	2%	2%
Cigarette	7%	8%	4%
Gandia	6%	6%	6%
Others	5%	4%	7%
Subitex	4%	7%	7%
Ectasy	3%	2%	2%
Champignon hallucinogen	1%	1%	1%

Perception about Gandia/Marijuana consumption

The consumption of Gandia/Marijuana is perceived as not being addictive. Participants added that Gandia/Marijuana is smoked during social gatherings or alone after work as a stress relief. It can also be consumed alone either after work or during weekends in order to feel more relaxed.

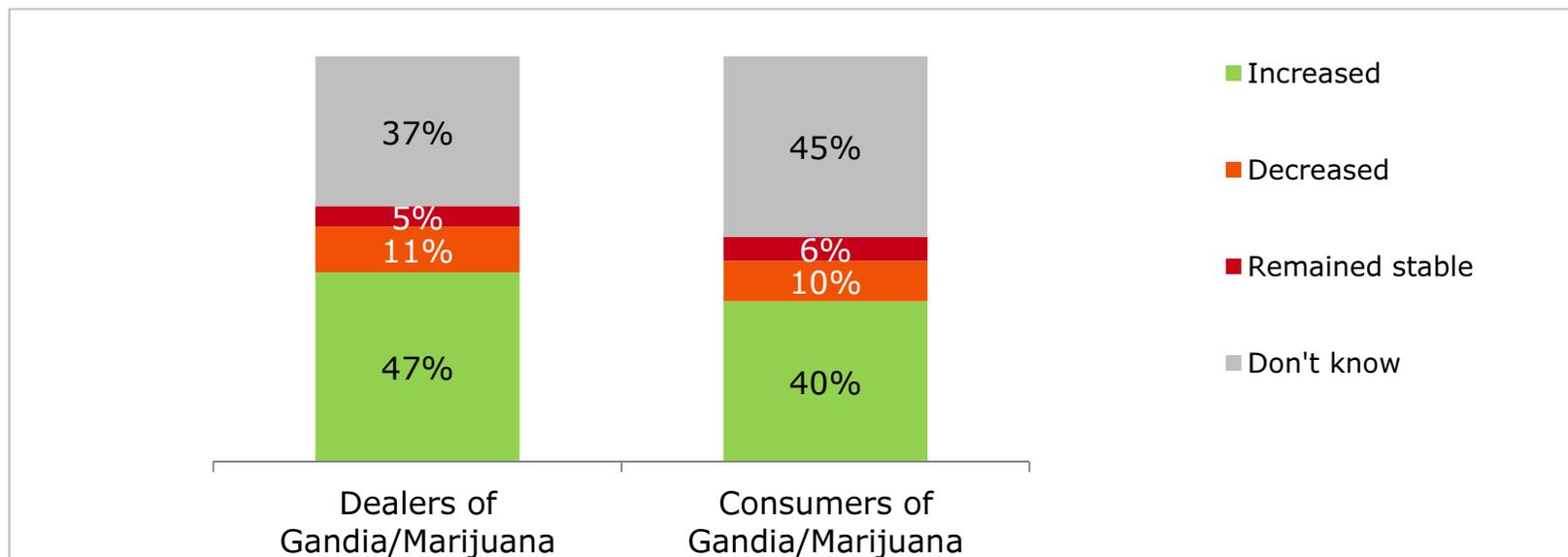
Why	With whom	How	Where	When
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Peer pressure• To relax• To cool down• To share a moment with friends• For the sensations• To try a new experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Friends• Partner• Alone	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Smoked:• Rolled in papers• In pipe (artisanal)• Water pipe (artisanal)• Eaten:• Cookies/cakes• Drink:• Infused with milk (bang)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At home• At a friend's place• Outdoor/Nature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social event• After a day/week of work

Perception of evolution of Gandia/Marijuana in Mauritius : consumption and dealers

Respondents were asked how do they find the consumption/ number of dealers of Gandia/Marijuana in Mauritius - has it increased, decreased or remained stable.

Globally, nearly one out of 2 respondents feel that the usage and business of Gandia/Marijuana have increased over the past 5 years.

It is worthy to note that respectively 37% and 45% of the interviewed sample are not aware of the evolution of Gandia/Marijuana in the society, be it in terms of consumptions or in terms of dealers.



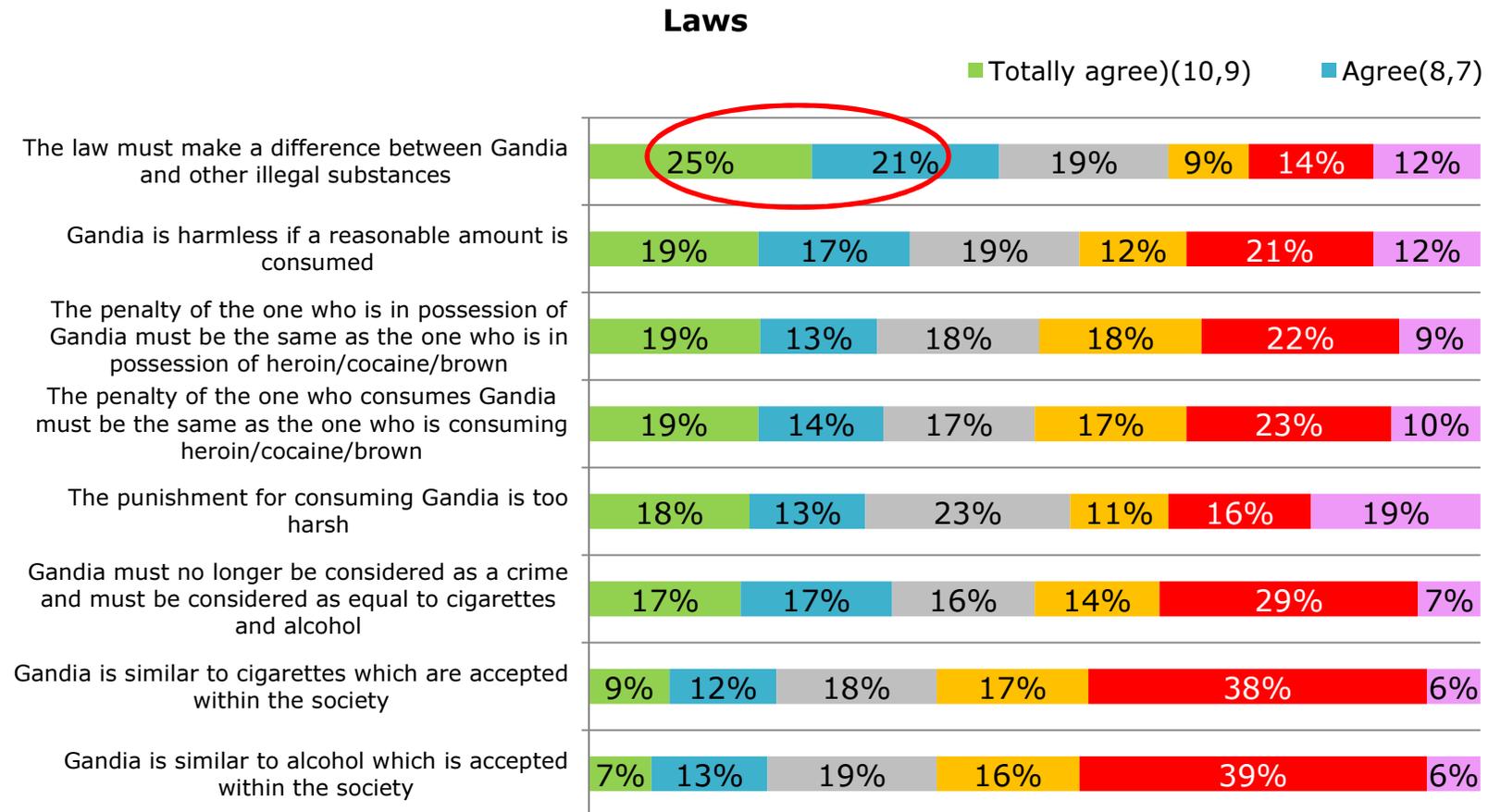
Perception of evolution of Gandia/Marijuana and drugs in Mauritius : **consumption and dealing**

Further investigations have been done to understand the feeling of drug usage and dealers having increased in Mauritius.

	Reasons for increase
Consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very common to meet someone who consumes Gandia/Marijuana in the street. “Kan ou pe marché , ou fini senti si ene dimune in fume masse depart so l’odeur et c’est ene zafaire bien commun sa”. (While walking, it’s very easy to note if someone has just taken Gandia/Marijuana as it has a strong smell. It is very common nowadays) • Heard and read a lot of articles pertaining to the increase of Gandia/Marijuana consumptions amongst youngsters in Mauritius. Young adults are mostly those who are victims of the drug abuse. “Premier la drogue gagne toujours en cadeau”. (The first dose is most often offered by a third party.)
Dealers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to purchase drugs if you have the right contact. “ Bien facile pour aster la drogue, il suffit ki ou conne dimune” • Feeling of insecurity in their immediate surrounding . “Parfois ou sorti asoir ou pas kapave marche parski ou croise tous qualité dimune ou trouve banne transactions ki pe derouler” (At times, you can’t go out at night since you can come across weird people or even dealers”)

Perception of Gandia/Marijuana(Laws)

Globally, the interviewed sample perceived that the offence of Gandia/Marijuana should not be similar to other illegal substances and the laws must make a difference; 46% agree vs 23% who are against. Moreover, 36% of the interviewed sample think that Gandia/Marijuana is harmless if it is consumed in a reasonable amount vs 33% who are against this view.

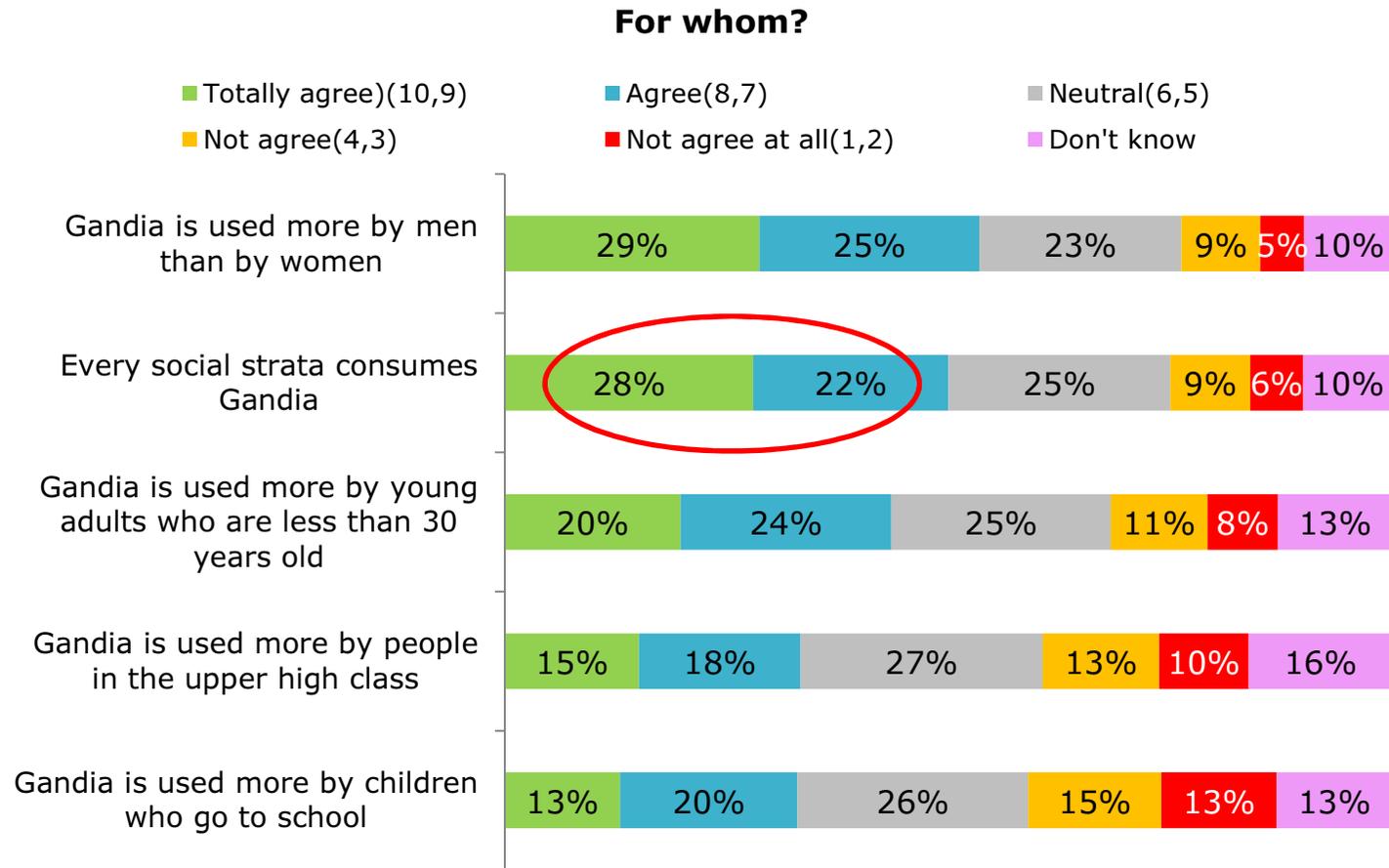


TNS Analysis

Note: A list of statements were read to respondents where they were asked to evaluate their opinions on a scale of 1-10 where 1 means Not agree at all and 10 means totally agree.

Perception of Gandia/Marijuana(for whom?)

Gandia/Marijuana is perceived to be used by all socio economic classes and age groups. However, there is a perception that the usage of Gandia/Marijuana is more pronounced amongst men than women.



TNS Analysis

Note: A list of statements were read to respondents where they were asked to evaluate their opinions on a scale of 1-10 where 1 means Not agree at all and 10 means totally agree.

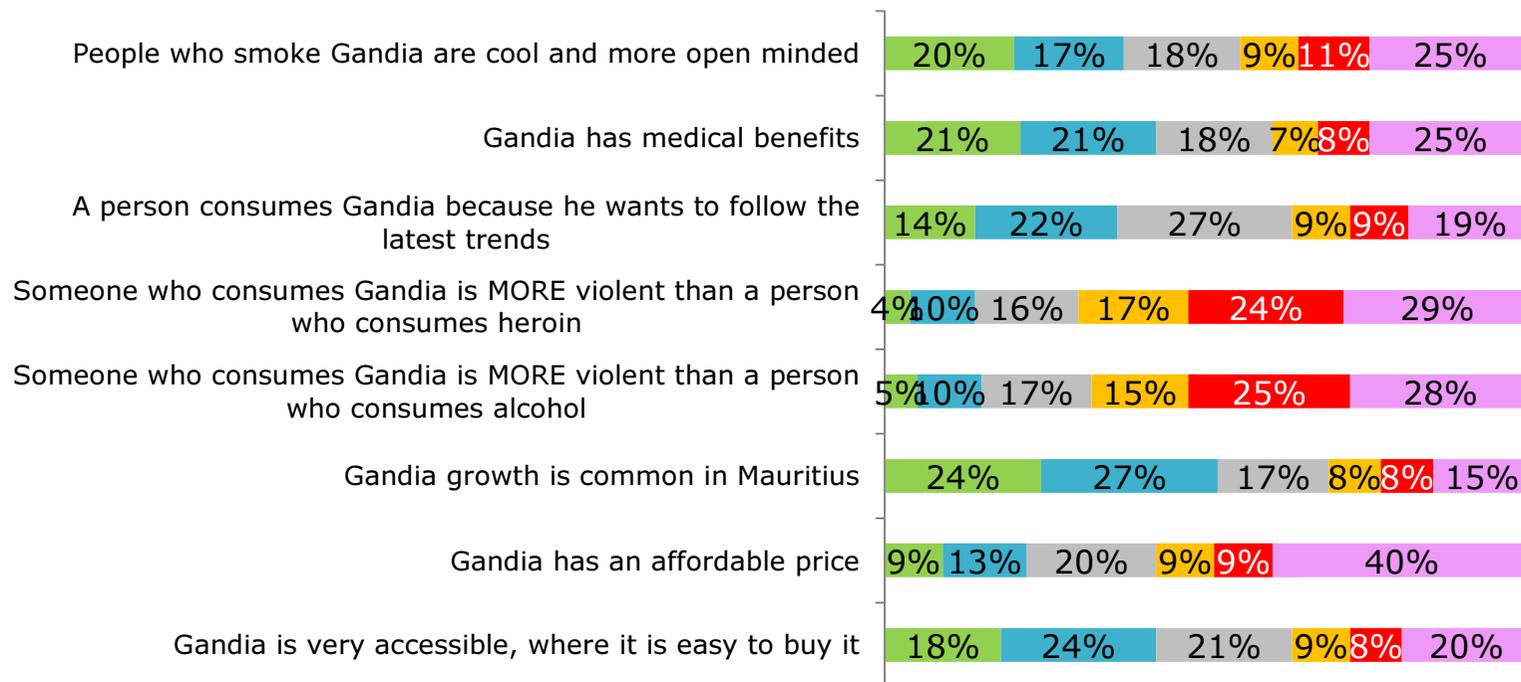
Base n=600 respondents
% of respondents

Perception of Gandia/Marijuana(Benefits and usage)

37% of the interviewed sample agreed that those who smoke Gandia/Marijuana are cool and open minded vs 20% who did not agree with this statement. Moreover, 42% agreed that Gandia has various benefits vs 15% who are against.

Benefits and usage

■ Totally agree(10,9) ■ Agree(8,7) ■ Neutral(6,5) ■ Not agree(4,3) ■ Not agree at all(1,2) ■ Don't know



TNS Analysis

Note: A list of statements were read to respondents where they were asked to evaluate their opinions on a scale of 1-10 where 1 means Not agree at all and 10 means totally agree.

Base n=600 respondents
% of respondents

Personality of Gandia / Marijuana and Heroin users

Mostly **mild positive associations** are made to Gandia/Marijuana, as shown below.

Gender/Age	Occupation	Religion	Residence	Associations
Both gender As from 15 years old	Hawkers Various activities Artist Jobless	Any religion Rasta	Port Louis Discotheque Countryside Rural zone	Cool , Plant, Rasta cool Kaya, Calm Nature , Head spinning Agriculture, Party, Peaceful Relax, Bob Marley, A medicine , Relaxed Smoke, Bong, Joint Mature, Philosopher , Yoga

Mostly **negative feelings** are associated to Heroin consumers.

Gender/Age	Occupation	Religion	Residence	Associations
Both gender No specific age	Unemployed Manual worker	No specific ethnic group More pronounced amongst General Population, Muslim	Port Louis Discotheque At home (hidden) Streets Slum areas Barkly, Tranquebar Roche Bois Homeless Urban zone	Social Problem Roam in street, Violent Like Theft-will even steal from his own family , Junky, Confused Dangerous , Addicted

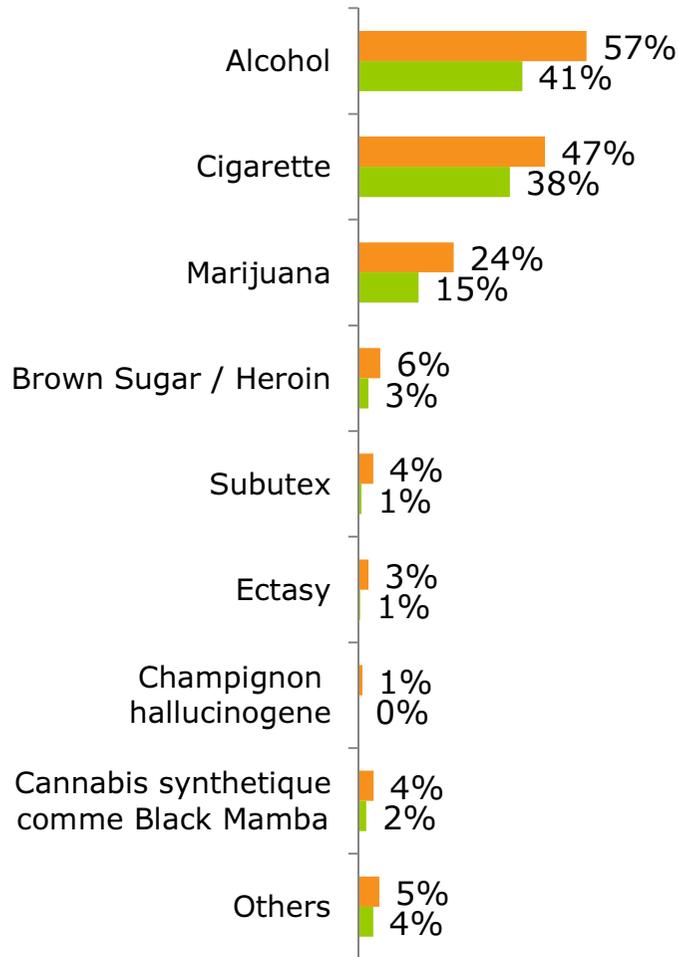
7

Usage of alcohol,
cigarettes and illicit
substances



Penetration of drugs and alcohol

- Ever consumed
- Consumed in last 4 weeks



Respondents were asked if they have ever tried some types of drugs/alcohol/cigarettes and if they have consumed in last 4 weeks

Alcohol and cigarettes are the two most common substances that have ever been consumed by the respondents (respectively by 57% and 47%). The past 4 weeks consumption is also high where 41% of the interviewed sample have consumed alcohol during the 4 past weeks and 38% consumed cigarettes.

It is worthy to note that one out of four respondents have ever consumed Gandia/Marijuana while 15% have consumed it during the past 4 weeks.

32%

% of the interviewed sample that have never consumed alcohol, cigarettes or any drug

25%

% of those who have ever consumed any type of drug (Gandia/Marijuana, heroin, subutex, ecstasy, champignon hallucinante, synthetic cannabis or other) – excluding alcohol and cigarette

17%

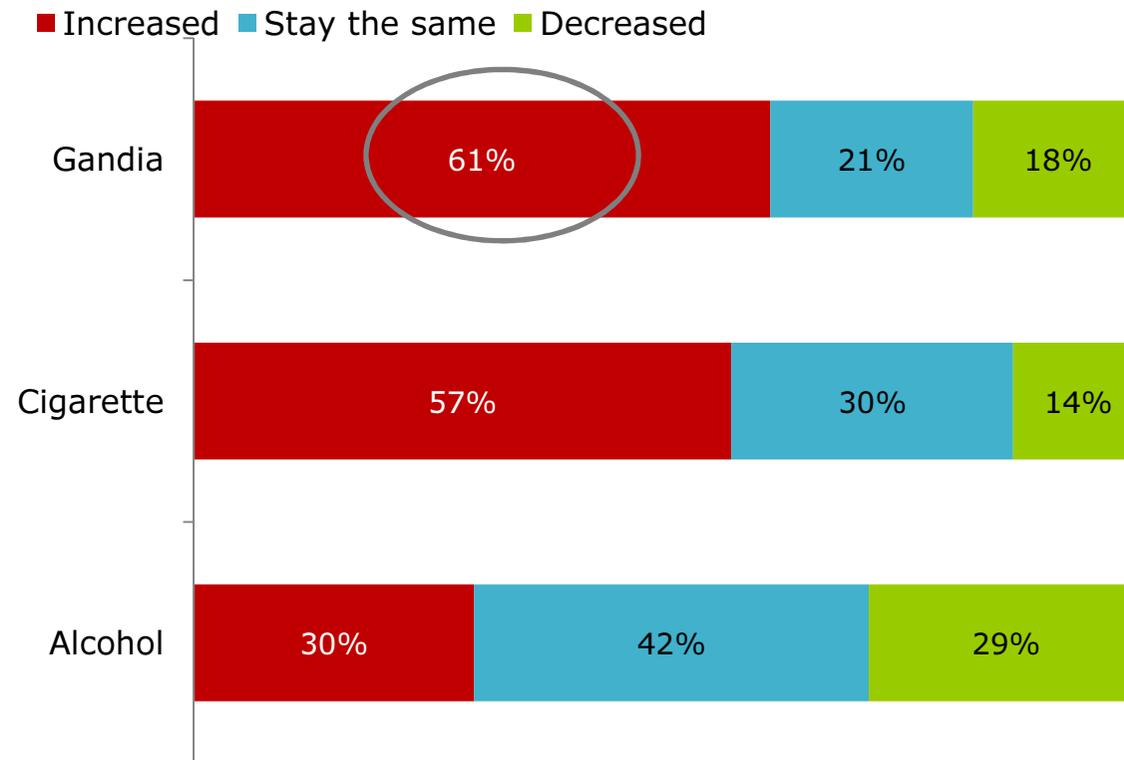
% of the interviewed sample who are currently taking drugs (excluding alcohol and cigarettes) of any type in Mauritius



Own consumption evolution in the past 3 years

Respondents were asked if their consumption has increased, remained at the same level or decreased in the past 3 years.

It is worthy to note that the consumption of all substances have significantly increased during the past 3 years. Respectively 61% and 57% of Gandia/Marijuana and cigarette consumers have increased their intake compared to 3 years ago.



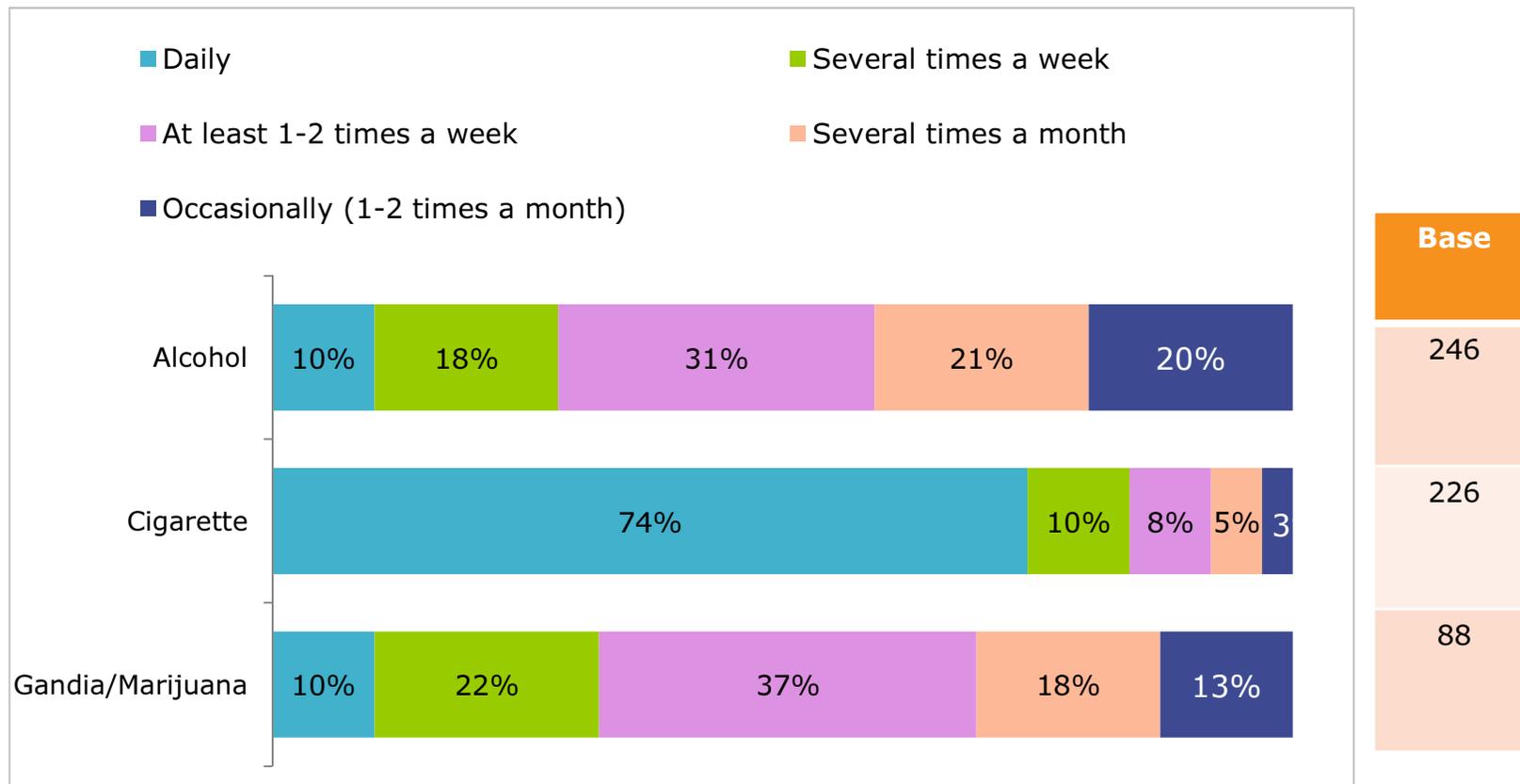
Who are alcohol, cigarettes and drugs users ?

Gandia/Marijuana is consumed mostly by male respondents and young people aged between 18-34 years. Across socio demographic profiles, nearly all socio economic groups and ethnic groups consume Gandia/Marijuana. However, a more pronounced usage is noted amongst the lower and lower middle class and General Population.

	Those who have ever consumed alcohol (n=341)	Current users of alcohol (n=245)	Those who have ever tried cigarettes (n=279)	Current users of cigarettes (n=226)	Those who have ever tried Gandia/Marijuana (n=142)	Current users of Gandia/Marijuana (n=85)	National
Male	62%	70%	77%	79%	82%	82%	51%
Female	38%	30%	23%	21%	18%	18%	49%
Urban	43%	37%	36%	34%	35%	15%	42%
Rural	57%	63%	64%	66%	66%	85%	58%
AB	11%	9%	13%	12%	11%	7%	10%
C1	36%	35%	35%	34%	31%	31%	40%
C2	35%	38%	36%	37%	39%	39%	32%
DE	19%	19%	17%	17%	19%	24%	18%
Hindu	55%	54%	47%	45%	46%	46%	51%
Muslim	6%	3%	15%	16%	16%	15%	18%
General population	36%	40%	35%	37%	36%	35%	28%
Chinese	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%	3%
18-24	16%	13%	18%	19%	16%	19%	16%
25-34	26%	27%	30%	31%	29%	28%	23%
35-44	20%	22%	20%	20%	20%	21%	22%
45-54	23%	23%	17%	16%	21%	15%	22%
55-60	16%	16%	15%	15%	13%	17%	17%

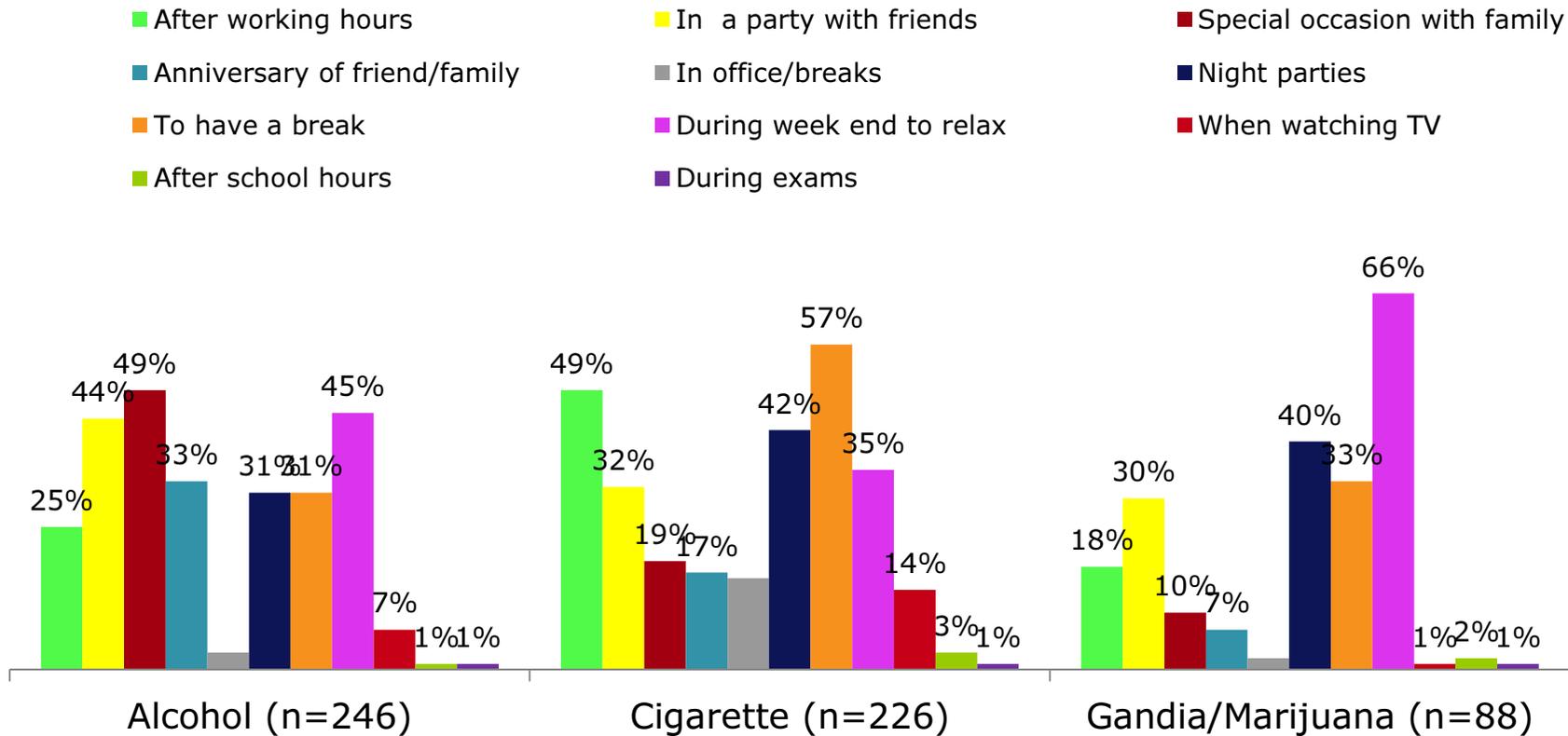
At what frequency do they consume ...?

Amongst those who consumed cigarettes, the majority consume it daily. With regards to Gandia/Marijuana, 32% are regular users: 10% consume it on a daily basis and 22% several times a week.



At what occasion do they consume..?

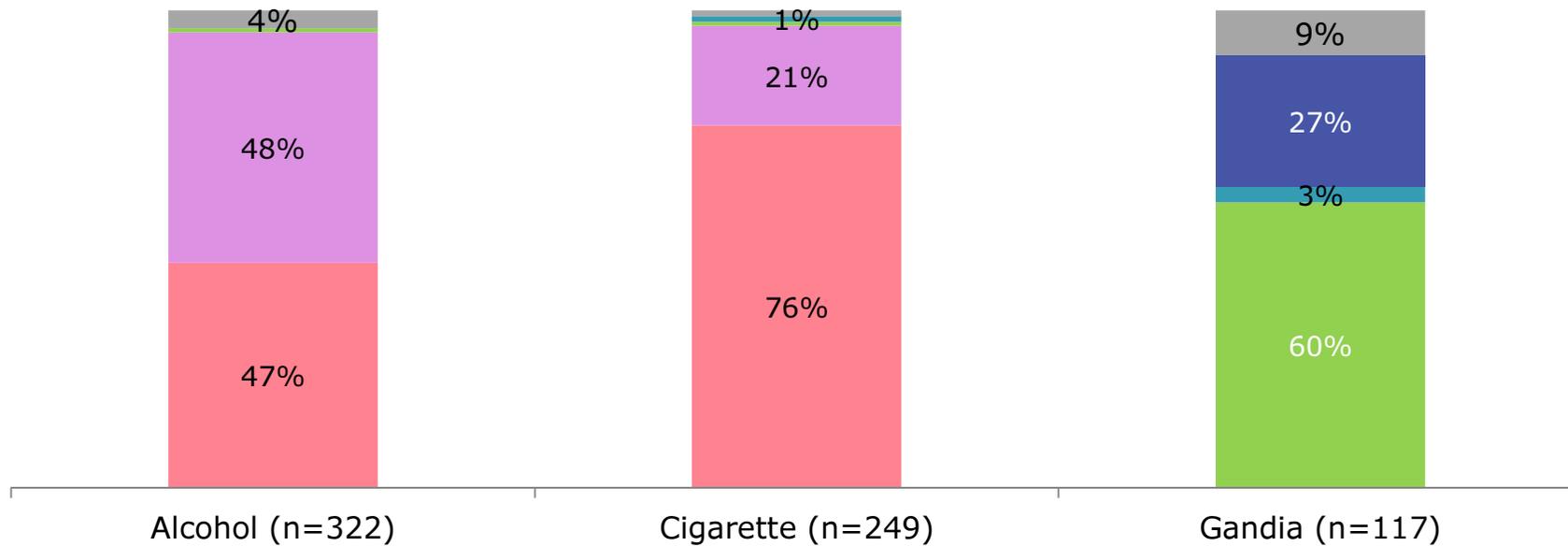
Alcohol is mostly consumed during family gatherings (49% of alcohol consumers) and in parties with friends(44%) while cigarettes are smoked mainly to have a break (57% of cigarette consumers). As for Gandia/Marijuana it is mostly consumed during weekend to relax and in evening parties (respectively by 66% and 40% of those who consumed Gandia/Marijuana)



Where do they buy it most often?

Alcohol and cigarettes are bought most often in usual traditional Boutique and Super/Hypermarkets. As for Gandia/Marijuana, it is mostly purchased with someone that the users know.

■ Others ■ Dealers ■ Street vendors ■ With someone I know ■ Super/hypermarket ■ Boutique



TNS Analysis

Base n= Those who ever tried and who still consume the type of product
% of respondents

8

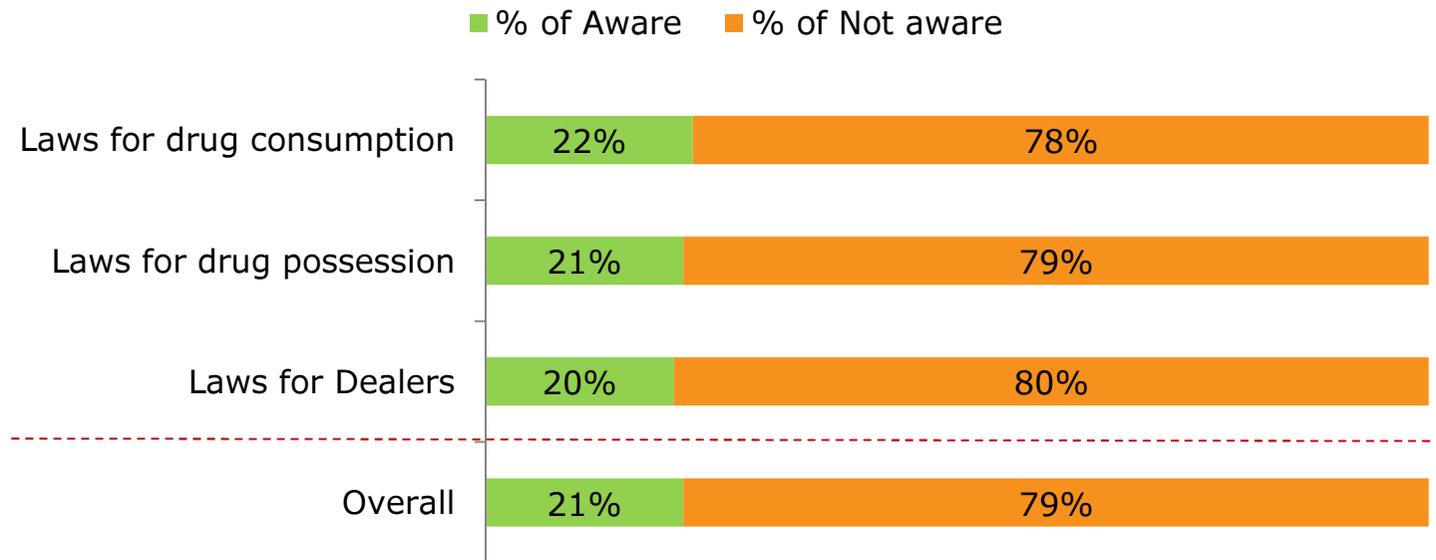
Regulatory framework in Mauritius



Drug laws in Mauritius: Awareness

Respondents were asked whether they are aware of the actual drug laws in Mauritius.

Globally, the majority is not aware of the legal framework regarding drugs in Mauritius. Only 1 out of 5 respondents claimed that they are aware of the laws: 22% are aware of laws for drug consumption, 21% are aware of laws for drug possession and 20% are aware of laws for dealers.



TNS Analysis

Base= 600 respondents

Drug laws in Mauritius: Awareness across profile

When analysed across profile we may note that the awareness of drug laws irrespective of types of offence is over represented amongst male and mature adults(45-54 years old).

The awareness of drug consumption laws is over represented amongst those residing in the rural areas and those belonging to the General population ethnic group.

	Consumption laws (n=132)	Possession laws (n=126)	Dealers (n=120)	National (n=600)
Male	68%	65%	63%	51%
Female	32%	35%	37%	49%
Urban	36%	42%	45%	42%
Rural	64%	58%	55%	58%
AB	11%	8%	11%	10%
C1	38%	39%	38%	40%
C2	31%	31%	32%	32%
DE	20%	21%	20%	18%
Hindu	48%	48%	50%	51%
Muslim	17%	18%	18%	18%
General population	32%	31%	30%	28%
Chinese	2%	3%	2%	3%
18-24	10%	11%	12%	16%
25-34	25%	20%	21%	23%
35-44	23%	25%	22%	22%
45-54	27%	29%	29%	22%
55-60	15%	15%	16%	17%



TNS Analysis

Base= 600 respondents

Drug laws in Mauritius

The drug laws were read separately to the respondents and they were asked to evaluate the legal framework of each. (this was BEFORE the new ways to combat drugs were read to them)

More than two thirds of the interviewed sample claim that the actual legal framework of drugs in Mauritius is the right one. 69% of respondents quoted that the laws regarding possession is right, 70% for laws regarding consumption and 73% for laws regarding drug dealers.

Overall opinion of laws- % of respondents

	Possession	Consumption	Dealers
Not strict at all	12%	6%	11%
Too strict	7%	10%	2%
Right	69%	70%	73%
Don't know	12%	14%	14%

Drug laws in Mauritius: Across profile

The profile of those who mentioned that drug laws in Mauritius are right, are well distributed across all demographic profiles, except for region, where an over representation is observed amongst the rural inhabitants. As for those who quoted that the laws for possession are too strict, an over representation is noted amongst male, AB, general population and middle age adults(25-34 years old). Consumption laws are perceived as being too strict mostly by males, middle class, general population and middle age adults.

	Possession				Consumption				Dealers				National (n=600)
	Not strict at all (n=72)	Too strict (n=43)	Right (n=411)	Don't know (n=74)	Not strict at all (n=35)	Too strict (n=57)	Right (n=423)	Don't know (n=84)	Not strict at all (n=64)	Too strict *(n=13)	Right (n=439)	Don't know (n=84)	
Male	54%	79%	48%	45%	57%	69%	49%	47%	43%	77%	51%	53%	51%
Female	46%	21%	52%	55%	43%	31%	51%	53%	57%	23%	49%	47%	49%
Urban	56%	47%	35%	60%	53%	61%	34%	63%	57%	45%	35%	63%	42%
Rural	44%	53%	65%	40%	47%	39%	66%	37%	43%	55%	65%	37%	58%
AB	11%	20%	9%	9%	18%	14%	9%	10%	10%	7%	10%	11%	10%
C1	38%	41%	43%	27%	33%	49%	41%	32%	44%	40%	41%	31%	40%
C2	32%	25%	33%	33%	29%	22%	34%	32%	28%	39%	32%	35%	32%
DE	19%	14%	16%	31%	20%	15%	17%	26%	18%	15%	17%	24%	18%
Hindu	51%	47%	52%	50%	51%	47%	53%	44%	56%	62%	52%	42%	51%
Muslim	16%	16%	20%	13%	27%	14%	19%	11%	15%	24%	18%	20%	18%
General population	30%	34%	26%	33%	14%	37%	25%	42%	26%	15%	27%	35%	28%
Chinese	4%	3%	3%	3%	8%	2%	3%	3%	4%	0%	3%	3%	3%
18-24	15%	17%	16%	15%	17%	16%	16%	15%	16%	14%	16%	18%	16%
25-34	26%	41%	20%	29%	27%	33%	20%	27%	27%	31%	22%	24%	23%
35-44	21%	15%	22%	25%	21%	19%	22%	26%	22%	25%	21%	25%	22%
45-54	22%	25%	22%	20%	22%	24%	23%	18%	25%	22%	21%	24%	22%
55-60	16%	2%	20%	12%	13%	9%	19%	13%	11%	8%	20%	10%	17%



TNS Analysis

Base= 600 respondents

* Sample size is too small to conclude

Awareness and assessment of the legal framework

Since participants could not clearly demarcate between the one who possesses, and consumes or dealer, they talked mostly about the laws for consumer and dealer.

Consensus amongst participants for a more strict law for dealers

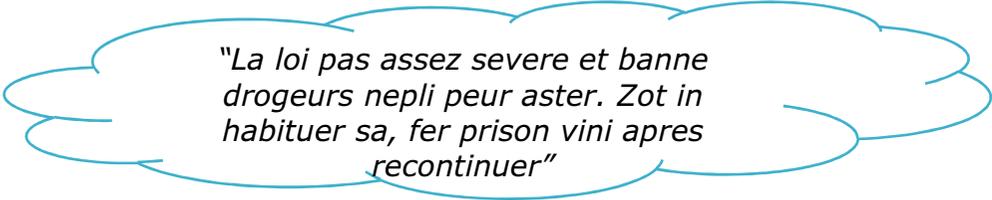
Laws for dealers shall be severe or even more strict, since if there are no dealers, there won't be any consumers. Jail by itself is not perceived as an efficient solution: deals continue even in prison due to corruptions. Lifetime imprisonment can be a solution to decrease dealers in Mauritius

Consumer Law : No consensus

More repressive Law

Some have a more 'repressive attitude' when it comes to drugs, they are more prone towards the application of a strict law. Gandia/Marijuana, heroin and other illegal drugs are all similar for them.

They mentioned that the laws in Mauritius are not strict enough as the number of drug consumers are increasing and fines and imprisonment are not a barrier for most, since they are used to this system.



"La loi pas assez severe et banne drogeurs nepli peur aster. Zot in habituer sa, fer prison vini apres recontinuer"

Awareness and assessment of the legal framework

Consumer Law

For anti-repressive rules

Some acknowledged that **consumers are victims** and they need a close follow-up and support to be cured. They think that the laws for consumers are too severe and should categorize the offence by **separating consumers of Gandia/Marijuana with other illicit drugs**. We cannot consider a consumer of Gandia/Marijuana similar to someone who is shooting up himself with illicit drugs.

"Pas kapave met tout ensam, ene consommateur Gandia/Marijuana pas parey couma ene drogeur ki piquer".

In addition to that, they mentioned that the authorities should be more lenient with a consumer of Gandia/Marijuana, **it's similar to cigarette** and no offences should be applied to the consumer. They even mentioned that **there are no laws for alcohol drinkers, yet someone who is drunk is more dangerous and can even commit crime** compared to someone who smoke Gandia/Marijuana.

"Ene dimune ki consome l'alcohol ti bisin ena la loi pour li aussi parski ene dimune sous influence l'alcohol li ene dimune bien agressif ki meme kapave fer ene crime, par contre ene dimune kin fume Gandia/Marijuana li bien trankil li"

9

Concept testing summary

5 different concepts have been read to interviewers to evaluate their opinions

1. Decriminalization of drugs in Portugal
2. Legalization of Gandia/Marijuana in Uruguay
3. Decriminalization of Gandia/Marijuana in Netherlands
4. Legalization of Gandia/Marijuana in Colorado
5. Prohibitionist laws of South Asian countries





Concept Portugal(read to interviewers)

Portugal is the first country that adopted laws to change the perspective on drugs, where it was not legalized but rather decriminalized since 2001.

Decriminalisation means that an individual who is in the possession of Gandia/Marijuana, cocaine, heroin or any other drugs in small amount will not be considered as a criminal.

In Portugal, individuals who are in the possession of drugs are considered to be sick persons. Therefore, they are not sent to jail but rather to medical centers as patients and the ministry of health carries a follow-up with these persons where they are offered treatment in order to help them to get out of this problem.

Today, Portugal's drug consumption rate is the lowest of Europe, this means that compared to 14 years ago where the law has been changed, drugs consumption has not increased in the country. And currently, there are fewer infractions, with fewer people catching AIDS and less people have died due to an overdose. Furthermore, with this method, drug users can go to social centers more freely because they feel more at ease , sick and they want to come out of this problem.



Concept Uruguay(read to interviewers)

Two years ago, Uruguay adopted a law to completely legalize sales and consumption of Gandia/Marijuana.

A person must be registered with the government to be able to buy Gandia/Marijuana, and sales of Gandia/Marijuana is regulated by the government.

For all those who have registered, the quantity they purchased is cumulated in a database each time that they buy Gandia/Marijuana. An individual is not allowed to buy more than 40 grams of Gandia/Marijuana per month.

It is a measure that the government has put in place because the black market is a market which involves a lot of money and violence. Therefore, to decrease the business of big traffickers, the government has decided to regulate sales.

It sells at cheaper prices than traffickers to discourage people from buying with traffickers. Moreover, this system contributes to the economy of the country.



Concept Netherlands(read to interviewers)

In Holland, another system of decriminalization for marijuana has been adopted to separate the business of marijuana from the business of more dangerous drugs like heroin and cocaine.

Marijuana is for sale only in coffee shops where individuals must be over 18 years old to buy/consume Gandia/Marijuana. It is not legal to buy it on the streets.

This concept has decreased the business of marijuana dealers in streets who very often sell other drugs as well. Also, people who live in Holland consume less marijuana as compared to people in other European countries.



Concept Colorado (read to interviewers)

In America, 23 states have legalized the use of Gandia/Marijuana for medicinal purposes. Also, there are 4 States that completely legalized the use of marijuana, such as Colorado.

However, an individual must be over 21 years old to buy/consume Gandia/Marijuana, and he will have to pay a tax when purchasing marijuana.

Other than marijuana, Colorado has also enforced a needle exchange program to make new syringes available to drug users. This method also helped to fight transmissible diseases.

One year after the legalization of marijuana in Colorado, the rate of fatal accidents has decreased and the number of crimes and thefts has also been reduced. In addition, Colorado obtained \$40 million profit (tax) and has invested \$8 million on sensitization campaigns among youngsters regarding drugs.



Concept South East Asian countries(read to interviewers)

Generally, in the South-East of Asia, laws regarding drugs are much more strict.

For example, in Indonesia, if a person is found in the possession of drugs, he faces the risk of being jailed for 20 years. On the other hand, regarding dealers, the law is even stricter with death sentences and big fines.

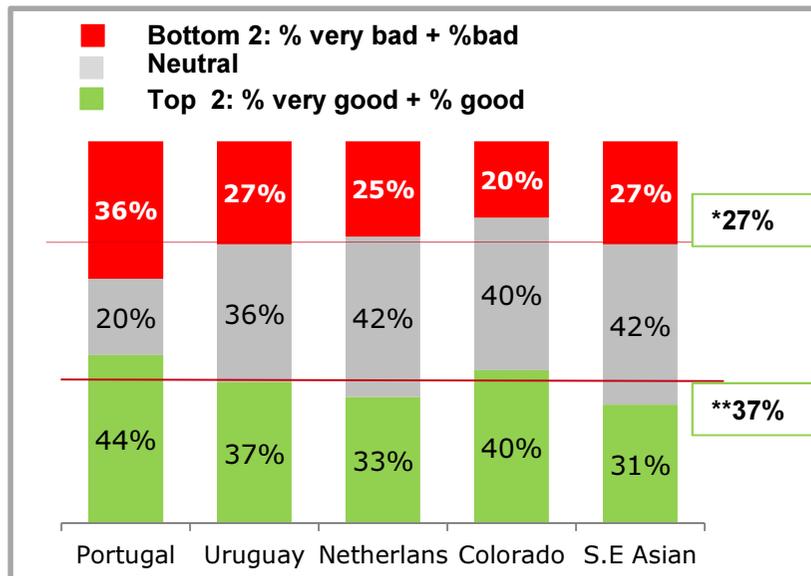
Despite the fact that the system has been enforced since many years, the rate of drug consumers has remained more or less the same, or has even increased. In Iraq also, there is the death penalty for cases related to drugs. Yet, Iraq remains the world's greatest consumer of heroin.

Summary- Overall opinion

5 different concepts have been read to respondents. After each concept, respondents were asked to evaluate the overall idea of the concept on a scale: very good idea, good idea, neutral, bad idea, very bad idea.

Globally, on average, 37% respond positively to new approaches to drug laws while 27% respond negatively. Around one third of the interviewed sample are 'fence sitters', i.e., not taking a stance.

When compared to each other, the concept of Portugal provoked a higher % of respondents (80%) to take a stand in their decisions, be it positive or negative. 44% of respondents mentioned that the concept of Portugal is "very good" or is a "good idea"(vs 37% overall) while 36% were against the concept (vs 27% for overall). However, taking the margin of errors into consideration, we note that there is no clear-cut conclusion between positive and negative responses for Portugal and South East Asian concepts.



	Top 2 Confidence of Interval	Bottom 2 Confidence of Interval	Overlapping of confidence interval
Portugal	40%<f<48%	32%<f<39%	No clearcut conclusion on positive and negative responses
Uruguay	34%<f<41%	23%<f<30%	Share of positive responses are higher than share of negative responses
Netherlands	30%<f<37%	22%<f<29%	
Colorado	36%<f<44%	17%<f<23%	
S.East Asian	28%<f<35%	23%<f<30%	No clearcut conclusion between positive and negative responses



TNS Analysis

*Average % of negative scores for all concepts

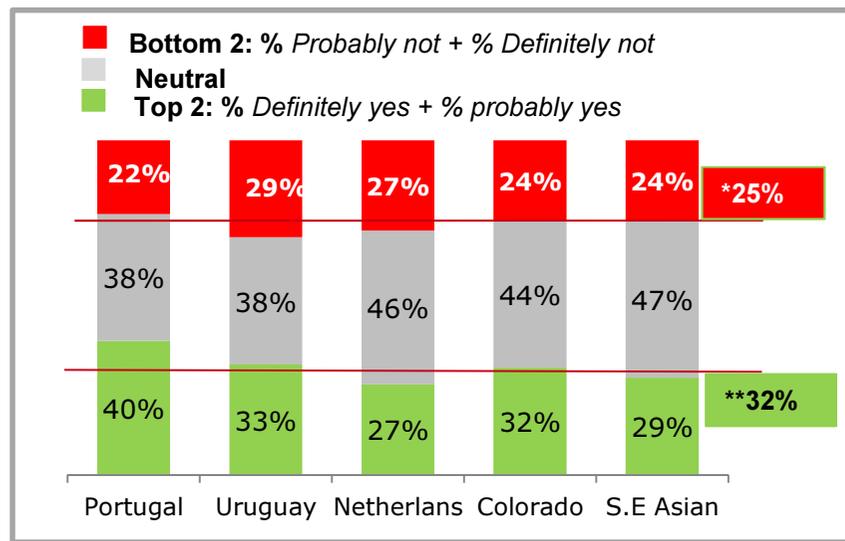
** Average % of positive scores for all concepts

Summary- Adoption of concept in Mauritius

Respondents were also asked to evaluate whether the idea can be adopted in Mauritius on a scale: Definitely yes, probably yes, neutral, probably not, definitely not.

When it comes to adopting the tested concepts in Mauritius, the average share of neutral opinion is rather high, where 43% of the sample do not take a stand, drug laws being sensitive and the laws tested being rather innovative. **Except for Portugal**, there is **no clear consensus about the adoption of the tested concepts** in Mauritius

The **concept of Portugal conquered 40% of the interviewed sample**, with 38% failing to take a stand and 22% are clearly against this idea. The weakness of the Portugal concept pertains to the decriminalisation of **ALL drugs**. Participants feel that only Gandia/Marijuana shall be decriminalised and not all illegal substances.



	Top 2 Confidence of Interval	Bottom 2 Confidence of Interval	Overlapping of confidence interval
Portugal	36%<f<44%	19%<f<25%	Share of positive responses are higher than share of negative responses
Uruguay	29%<f<37%	26%<f<33%	No clearcut conclusion on positive and negative responses
Netherlands	23%<f<30%	23%<f<30%	
Colorado	26%<f<36%	20%<f<27%	
S.East Asian	25%<f<32%	20%<f<27%	



TNS Analysis

*Average % of negative scores for all concepts

** Average % of positive scores for all concepts

Profile of those who think that concepts can be adopted in Mauritius

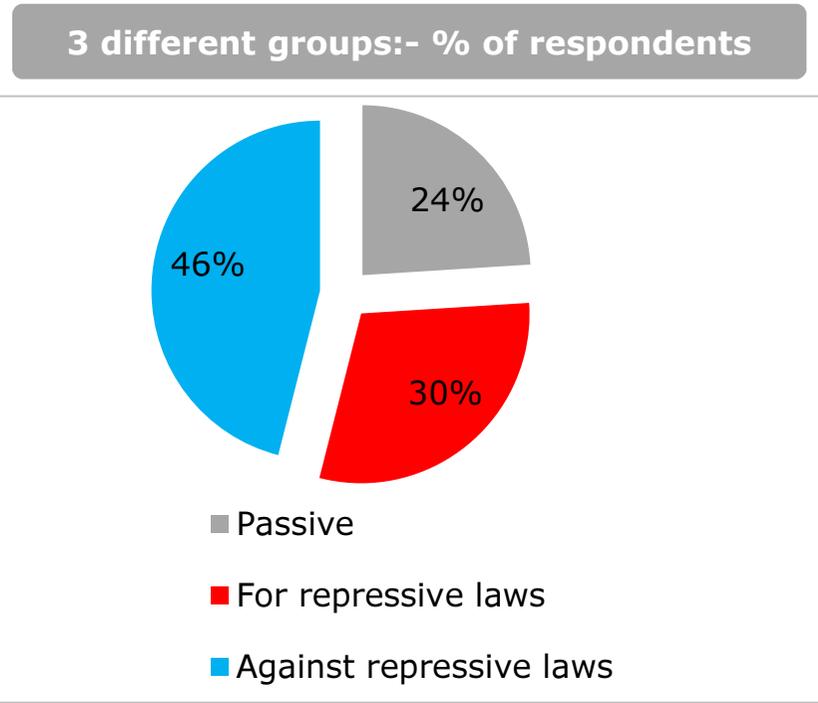
Those who are more lenient to adopt a more liberal law (Portugal, Uruguay, Netherland or Colorado) are mostly the male respondents, those living in the rural areas, general population and adults aged 25-34 years. As for those who are for the adoption of South East Asian laws, an over representation of women and elder adults (35-60 years old) are noted.

	Concept of Portugal	Concept of Uruguay	Concept of Netherlands	Concept of Colorado	Concept of South Asia	National (n=600)
	Adapt this concept in Mauritius(% Definitely yes + %probably yes)					
	(n=238)	(n=199)	(n=160)	(n=191)	(n=172)	
Male	60%	62%	62%	59%	43%	51%
Female	40%	38%	38%	41%	57%	49%
Urban	26%	27%	29%	27%	40%	42%
Rural	74%	73%	71%	73%	60%	58%
AB	12%	9%	12%	12%	11%	10%
C1	37%	40%	38%	43%	43%	40%
C2	31%	31%	31%	31%	28%	32%
DE	20%	20%	20%	14%	18%	18%
Hindu	48%	49%	48%	51%	52%	51%
Muslim	16%	16%	19%	11%	22%	18%
General population	34%	34%	31%	36%	24%	28%
Chinese	2%	<1%	2%	2%	2%	3%
18-24	18%	20%	21%	23%	14%	16%
25-34	28%	27%	30%	26%	19%	23%
35-44	23%	19%	23%	20%	19%	22%
45-54	21%	22%	17%	18%	24%	22%
55-60	11%	12%	9%	14%	24%	17%



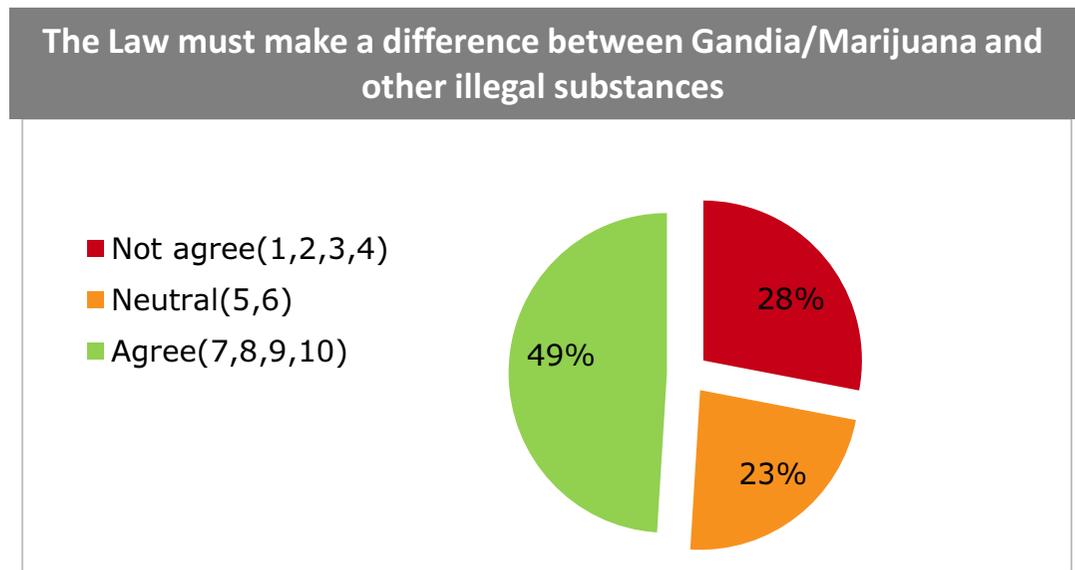
Summary – For or against repressive laws?

After being exposed to the different novel approaches to combat drugs, findings indicate that 46% are against repressive laws, that is, are open and receptive to the laws. 30% are for repressive laws and 24% claim that current Mauritian laws are ok



Opinion regarding Mauritian Laws after being exposed to different concepts around the world

After exposing the different concepts, respondents were asked about their opinion regarding the Mauritian laws. 49% of the interviewed sample agreed that the laws must make a difference between Gandia/Marijuana and other illegal substances. It is worthy to note that 44% of those who initially thought that the Mauritian laws are right, changed their mind for a law that differentiates between Gandia/Marijuana and other illegal substance after being exposed to other concepts.



TNS Analysis

Note: A list of statements were read to respondents where they were asked to evaluate their opinions on a scale of 1-10 where 1 means Not agree at all and 10 means totally agree.

Base= 600 respondents

10

Detailed concept test

5 different concepts have been read to interviewers to evaluate their opinions

1. Decriminalization of drugs in Portugal
2. Legalization of Gandia/Marijuana in Uruguay
3. Decriminalization of Gandia/Marijuana in Netherlands
4. Legalization of Gandia/Marijuana in Colorado
5. Prohibitionist laws of South Asian countries



Concept Portugal: Detailed

Globally the concept of Portugal was appealing to 44% of the interviewed sample against 36% who did not adhere to the concept. Respectively 40% and 45% of the respondents like the idea of decriminalizing small quantities of drugs and considering drug users as sick people instead of criminals.

	Top 2(% Very good idea +% good idea) or (%Definitely yes +%probably yes)		Bottom 2(% Very bad idea +% bad idea) or (%Definitely not +% probably not)	
	% of respondents	Confidence of Interval	% of respondents	Confidence of Interval
Overall opinion	44%	40%<f<48%	36%	32%<f<39%
Decriminalise small quantity of drug	40%	36%<f<44%	22%	19%<f<25%
Drug users are considered as sick people	45%	41%<f<49%	23%	19%<f<26%
Adopt Portugal concept in Mauritius	40%	36%<f<44%	22%	19%<f<25%
Adopting this concept will decrease drug consumption in Mauritius	41%	37%<f<45%	26%	23%<f<30%
Adopting this concept will decrease drug dealers in Mauritius	40%	36%<f<44%	28%	24%<f<31%



Concept Portugal: Likes and dislikes

The major appeal lies in the fact that it does not consider drug addicts to be criminals or dangerous. Instead they are regarded as being sick people who need help to overcome their addictions.

However, main reason for not supporting this concept pertain to the decriminalisation of **all** drugs as this will lead to an over-consumption of drug, and young people may be encouraged to try them. And at the end, it may lead to an increase in social problems (theft, violence).

Like about the concept		Dislike about the concept	
Medical centres helps drug addict to overcome their addiction	37%	The decriminalization of all drugs	39%
Drug addicts are considered as sick people, not as criminals	16%	Encourage drug addict to consume more drugs	12%
Decrease in consumption of drugs	11%	Drug addict should not be considered as sick people	12%
Drug addicts are sent to rehabilitation centre	10%	Increase in consumption of drugs	10%
A decrease in drug addict due to decriminalisation	8%	Youngsters may be encouraged to try drugs	5%
The decriminalisation of drugs (for small quantity)	8%	Increase in social problems	3%
Prevent people from getting AIDS	3%	Drug dealers & drug addict won't go to prison	3%
Crime rate has been reduced	2%	Need to differentiate between different types of drugs	2%
Positive concept	2%	Crime rate may increase	1%
Prevent drug addict from being imprisoned	2%	A cost for the government, who will need to cater for drug addicts	1%
Less social problems	2%		
There is no fine to pay due to decriminalisation	1%		
Consume drug freely (without fear of being arrested)	1%		
Helps to decrease drug dealers	1%		

Concept Portugal (1)

There was a consensus that it's a new way to deal with drug addicts. But when it comes to adopt the concept in Mauritius, different views are shared by participants.

Positive aspects of the concept:

- **Awareness of this practice in Portugal:** Some of them are aware of the Portugal practice and appreciate the outcome of the tested concept, that is, a decrease in drug consumers.
- **Give another chance to change:** The idea of no more considering drug users as criminals but as sick people since consumers of drug are victims and shall have the adequate support from the society is appealing. The Law shall allow for 3 chances by sending consumers to medical centres, above this corrective measures shall be taken.

*"bisin pas depenalise tous substance
illegal seulement Gandia li pour possible
et met banne limite si plus ki 3 fois,
prend banne sanctions".*

- **Not tagging drug user as a criminal:** Someone who consumes Gandia/Marijuana, cannot be mixed with a murderer or a rapist. The offences are different since a marijuana user has not caused any harm to any individual and the fact he is sent to the prison, he is tagged for life as a criminal. At the end, the marijuana user who was not a heavy user becomes one in order to escape from the harsh reality.

*"li pane touye personne li, kifer bisin met li
ensam ek banne criminel ou violeur. Enplus sa
dimune la pour ena ene tag a vie lor li ki lin
deja fer prison parey couma ene criminelle"*

Concept Portugal (2)

Negative aspects of the concept:

- **High abuse of the system:** Drug consumers will be used to the system, that is going to a cure medical center and once out , they will continue their routines similar as those who are actually taking methadone.

"Pour banne drogueur, prend la drogue c'est ene vice, zot pour kapave ale dans banne centre medical la pour ene ti moment apres kan sorti zot pour recontinuer avec la drogue, parey cuma ceki prend methadone

- **Will not work in Mauritius as the number of young consumers will increase:** it will increase the number of young drug users as there won't be any control.

"Banne jeune pour tenter pour essayer. Donc consommation de la drogue pour augmenter dans Maurice. »

- **Cannot depenalise all types of drugs:** We cannot adopt this concept in Mauritius as such as all drugs will be depenalised. Synthetic drugs are perceived as being more dangerous and depenalising all drugs will cause much harm to the society.

"Ene seule probleme ena dans sa concept la, c'est depenalisation de tous la drogue, pas kapave melandge tous la drogue ensam».

Concept Uruguay: Summary

The concept Uruguay was welcomed by 37% of the interviewed sample against 27% who mentioned that it's a very bad or bad idea. However when asked about the concept of registering with the government for the purchase of Gandia/Marijuana, only 27% of the sample mentioned that it is a very good/good idea. Yet 39% of the sample liked the idea of the government regulating sales.

	Top 2(% Very good idea +% good idea) or (%Definitely yes + %probably yes)		Bottom 2(% Very bad idea +% bad idea) or (%Definitely not + % probably not)	
	% of respondents	Confidence of Interval	% of respondents	Confidence of Interval
Overall opinion	37%	34%<f<41%	27%	23%<f<30%
Government registration	27%	23%<f<30%	22%	19%<f<25%
Government regulating sales	39%	35%<f<43%	25%	21%<f<28%
Adopt Uruguay concept in Mauritius	33%	29%<f<37%	29%	26%<f<33%
Adopting this concept will decrease drug consumption in Mauritius	37%	33%<f<41%	32%	28%<f<36%
Adopting this concept will decrease drug dealers in Mauritius	37%	33%<f<41%	32%	28%<f<36%



Concept Uruguay: Likes and dislikes

Overall, respondents who liked that concept believed that there will be less abuse, since it will be controlled by the government. As such, they think that under government control, there will be fewer drug dealers and there will be a record on the quantity of drugs consumed.

Meanwhile, those who did not adhere to the concept are against the legalisation of Gandia/Marijuana and feel that the government itself will become like a drug dealer. They also think that it will become easier for people to use drugs, and does not solve the problem of drug consumption.

Like about the concept	
It's controlled (by the government)	29%
Less drug dealers / less exploitation	16%
Control on drug quantity	14%
It's legal	12%
Control over drug users	8%
Prevent the black market	5%
Improves the economy	5%
Less synthetic drugs	4%
Lowers violence, crime and death rates	3%
Price control	3%
People will consume less	3%
Can control the quality of the drug	1%

Dislike about the concept	
Against the legalisation of Gandia/Marijuana	22%
The government becomes a drug dealer	16%
It will be easier for people to use drugs	15%
Because it is still drugs/not good for health	9%
It only benefits the government	6%
Bad image for the government	4%
Young people will be ruined	4%
Increase in level of corruption	3%
When they hit their quota limit they will look elsewhere	2%
Laws must be more severe	2%
People will still use drugs regardless	2%
Drug dealers will sell it cheaper	1%
Drug will still be in circulation/encourages drug use	1%
It won't work in the Mauritian context	1%
There will be no control	1%



Concept Uruguay

Overall, the Uruguay's concept was not a great success amongst participants. They mentioned that the government will be considered as a dealer also and this will indeed increase corruption in the country. They also added that this concept will never be adopted in Mauritius since the actual government is for 'repressive laws' and totally against drugs.

Positive aspects:

- **Government will be enriched:** the government is gaining money instead of losing this earning to the profit of big dealers.
- **Better control of drug consumers:** As they will have to register for consumption, there will be better control of the doses used

Negative aspects:

- **Bad image of Government:** They believed that the government is supposed to be a model and by selling drugs, a wrong message will be sent to the society. Therefore the government will lose all his integrity.
- **Drug traffic will increase:** Do not believe that this could stop trafficking and drug business in Mauritius due to high rate of corruption.
- **New businesses will be created:** Non drug users will register with the government and purchase their monthly dose and will sell it at a higher price to consumers who have already consumed their allowed dose.

Concept Netherlands: Summary

The concept of Netherlands was not a great success when exposed to respondents. One third of the sample welcomed the concept while 42% was rather passive.

	Top 2(% Very good idea +% good idea) or (%Definitely yes + %probably yes)		Bottom 2(% Very bad idea +% bad idea) or (%Definitely not + % probably not)	
	% of respondents	Confidence of Interval	% of respondents	Confidence of Interval
Overall opinion	33%	30%<f<37%	25%	22%<f<29%
Adopt Netherlands concept in Mauritius	27%	23%<f<30%	27%	23%<f<30%
Adopting this concept will decrease drug consumption in Mauritius	29%	25%<f<33%	31%	27%<f<35%
Adopting this concept will decrease drug dealers in Mauritius	30%	27%<f<34%	32%	28%<f<35%



Concept Netherland: Likes and dislikes

The attractiveness of this concept lies mainly in the decrease of drug dealings: this will in turn lead to decrease social problems and to a more prosperous country. They also liked the fact that consumers should be above 18 years old, because respondents believed that they will be discerning enough.

On the other hand, the challenges pertain to the fear that youngsters will get easier access to drugs, and they do not like the fact that it will be sold freely in coffee shops.

Like about the concept

Less hard drug dealing, hence prosperous country	32%
Will be easy and safe to buy Gandia/Marijuana	18%
Only those above 18 can buy	13%
More control by the government	8%
Illegal to buy and consume on the streets	5%
Way to control youth	3%
Less access to hard drugs	1%
Youth will not be influenced by hard drugs	1%
Gandia/Marijuana will not be sold on streets	1%
Differentiation between soft and hard drugs	1%
Gandia/Marijuana is not a hard drug	1%
Feel free to smoke	1%
Help persons to get out of hard drugs	1%

Dislike about the concept

Youngsters will be exposed to drugs	20%
Free and easy to buy in coffee shop	16%
I do not agree with decriminalisation	13%
Encouraging sale of Gandia/Marijuana, more persons will start smoking	6%
All drugs are bad	5%
Increase in drugs consumption leading to violence	3%
No more control	3%
Not good to sell Gandia/Marijuana like this	2%
Other drugs will be sold in these coffee shops	2%
Persons not working will steal to buy in these coffee shops	2%
As if buying in shops, markets...	1%
Smokers will increase	1%
Will be the same even after decriminalisation	1%

Netherlands concept

Overall, the Netherlands concept was not appealing to most participants. Most of them are already aware of the Netherlands practice and mentioned that this practice will lead to an increase in drug consumption in Mauritius. They also talked about corruption amongst shop owners and drug consumers which are not of the age to take drugs. Only the group 18-35 think that we can adopt this concept in Mauritius.

Positive aspects:

- **No accessibility to youngsters below 18:** They think that there will be more control of users in terms of age (less than 18 years will not be allowed to consume).
- **Only Marijuana/Gandia will be available:** There is a differentiation between Gandia/Marijuana and hard drugs where only Gandia/Marijuana is available in the coffee shops

Negative aspects:

- **High accessibility of Gandia/Marijuana:** Gandia/Marijuana will be too accessible and this will incite non users to test and consume.
- **Increase of Black market:** There will still be a black market in Mauritius and it will even increase if this concept is adopted in Mauritius
- **Against the idea of doing business:** Gandia/Marijuana should remain a sharing between friends and an artisanal production, it should not be a business.
- **No control of consumption:** There is no control over one's consumption, this may lead to an abuse.

Concept Colorado: Summary

The concept of Colorado was welcomed by 40% of the interviewed sample and only 20% mentioned that it's a very bad/bad idea.

The idea of paying tax and using the tax money to sensitise youngsters have been liked respectively by 44% and 48% of the interviewed sample. However when it comes to the adoption of this law in Mauritius the enthusiasm rate drops where only one third of the respondents think that we can adopt this concept in Mauritius.

	Top 2(% Very good idea +% good idea) or (%Definitely yes +%probably yes)		Bottom 2(% Very bad idea +% bad idea) or (%Definitely not +% probably not)	
	% of respondents	Confidence of Interval	% of respondents	Confidence of Interval
Overall opinion	40%	36%<f<44%	20%	17%<f<23%
Pay tax while purchasing Gandia/Marijuana	44%	36%<f<44%	17%	14%<f<20%
Use the Tax money for sensitization campaign of youngsters	48%	44%<f<52%	18%	15%<f<21%
Legalise Gandia/Marijuana for those above 21 years old as Alcohol	41%	37%<f<45%	24%	20%<f<27%
Adopt Colorado concept in Mauritius	32%	26%<f<36%	24%	20%<f<27%
Adopting this concept will decrease drug consumption in Mauritius	33%	30%<f<37%	28%	24%<f<31%
Adopting this concept will decrease drug dealers in Mauritius	36%	32%<f<40%	27%	23%<f<30%



Concept Colorado: Likes and dislikes

The advocates believe that at 21 years old, consumers are more mature and are hence able to take better decisions than those who are 18 years old. Moreover, they also believed that the tax imposed by the government will discourage people from buying and selling drugs, and in turn, it is expected that the crime and offence rate will decrease.

As for those who are against it, they do not agree with the legalisation itself and are adamant about the fact that drugs are harmful

Like about the concept	
21 is an appropriate age and less than 18 is not enough	30%
The tax levied and controlled by the government on sale will discourage persons from buying and selling	20%
Number of accidents, crimes and thefts decreased	14%
Will help fight transmissible diseases	12%
Help the economy of the country by increasing its revenue	11%
Awareness campaign for youngsters concerning drugs	8%
Less drug dealing	6%
It will decrease the number of drug takers	3%
Use on medical basis	3%
Positive concept	2%
Right to smoke Gandia/Marijuana	1%

Dislike about the concept	
Don't agree with drug legalisation	11%
Drugs are not good	9%
Profit making for government	8%
Greater opening on drug consumption	5%
Used as a profit making business	4%
Increase in larceny	3%
Legalize weed	3%
Not a good idea	3%
Drug business will continue	3%
cannot legalise drugs	3%
Detrimental to society	3%
Don't agree with drug related issues	3%
Paying tax not a solution	3%
Will continue to buy drugs anyways	3%

Concept Colorado

Overall the concept of Colorado was moderately welcomed by the participants. They liked the idea of allowing only those above 21 years to purchase since they think that they are more mature adults and can take wiser decisions. Moreover the idea of using the tax money to sensitize youngsters was also appreciated by most. The main barrier of the concept pertained to the Legalisation of Marijuana

Positive aspects:

- **Use tax money to sensitize youngsters:** Tax on drugs that support sensitization campaign.
- **Government will be enriched:** the government is gaining money instead of losing this earning to the profit of big dealers

Negative aspects:

- **Against the idea of legalising marijuana:** Usage must be well regulated, for example someone who drinks can't drive.
- **Increase of Black market:** There will still be side-businesses and it won't prevent people from using drugs
- **Too easy access to drugs:** Do not believe that youngsters under 21 will not be able to access drug: "they will do it through friends". They are against the idea of legalizing drugs.
- **Against the idea of doing a business:** Wherever there is a business, there will be corruption. Gandia/Marijuana should remain a sharing between friends and an artisanal production, should not be a business

Concept South East Asia: Summary

Overall the South East Asian law was not appealing. However 31% of the interviewed sample are for the repression law. About 30% of the interviewed sample would like to apply this law in Mauritius.

	Top 2(% Very good idea +% good idea) or (%Definitely yes +%probably yes)		Bottom 2(% Very bad idea +% bad idea) or (%Definitely not +% probably not)	
	% of respondents	Confidence of Interval	% of respondents	Confidence of Interval
Overall opinion	31%	28%<f<35%	27%	23%<f<30%
Adopt South Asian concept in Mauritius	29%	25%<f<32%	24%	20%<f<27%
Adopting this concept will decrease drug consumption in Mauritius	34%	30%<f<38%	22%	19%<f<26%
Adopting this concept will decrease drug dealers in Mauritius	35%	31%<f<39%	25%	22%<f<29%



Concept South East Asia : Likes and dislikes

The toughness of the law is the main reason why respondents like this concept. They believed that such a hard penalty will be effective in discouraging people from dealing in drugs. However, main dislike pertained to death penalty.

Like about the concept		Dislike about the concept	
Tough/appropriate laws	36%	Do not agree for death penalty, it will not solve the problem	42%
Corrective measure for drug dealers	9%	20 years of prison is too much for a drug taker	24%
Death penalty is better	7%	No improvement despite death penalty	23%
Death penalty for drug dealers	7%	Bad concept, nothing changed with it and nothing will change applying it	7%
Afraid of the severe laws	8%	Have to differentiate between soft and hard drugs	4%
Preventive measure	4%	Sometimes innocent persons are being killed	4%
People will be discouraged	4%	Increase in drug dealers and drug addicts	3%
Eradicate drugs	2%	No differentiation between drug dealers and drug takers	2%
Laws has no effect	1%	Many will lose their children	1%
Larceny will decrease	1%		
Big fines	1%		
Life imprisonment	1%		
Length of prison sentence	1%		



South East Asian concept

Overall, this concept was not greatly welcomed by participants. Several did not like the idea of death penalty. Some participants are adamant that this law is not a solution and added that 'repressive laws' are no more working in the world that's why new approaches are being taken. However, some participants believed that there is a need for severe laws mostly for dealers to discourage them to spoil our society. They proposed that instead of having death penalty, the culprit shall be condemned for life.

Positive aspects:

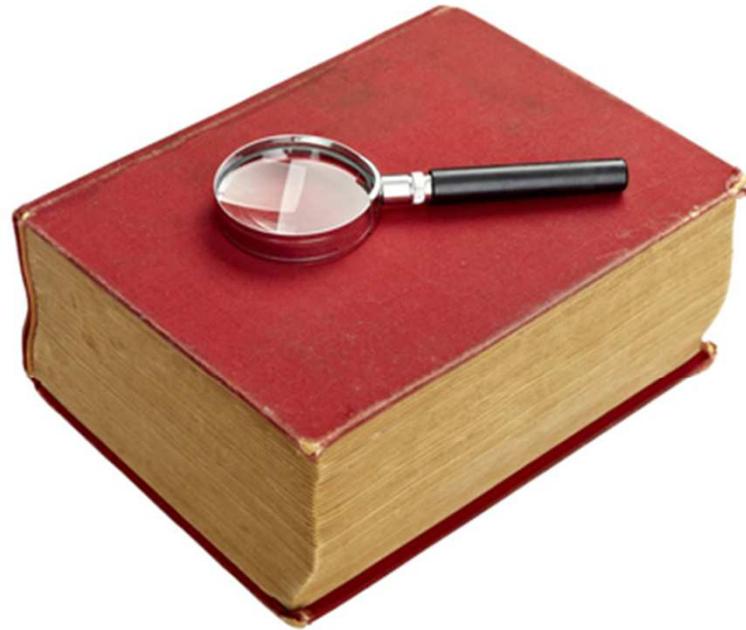
- **Could be a solution to heavy users:** Good sanction for dealers and it could be good for heavy consumers
- **Discourage dealers:** It could prevent foreigners to bring drugs in Mauritius

Negative aspects:

- **Will not work in Mauritius:** It will change nothing to the actual business and consumption
- **Do not like the concept at all:** Consumers are most of the time victims of dealers and shall not be condemned.

11

Appendix



Glossary of Terms

Decriminalisation	'Decriminalisation' is referred as the removal of criminal sanctions for possession of small quantities of currently illegal drugs for personal use, with optional use of civil or administrative sanctions. Under this definition of 'decriminalisation', possession of drugs remains unlawful and a punishable offence (albeit, not one that results in a criminal record).
Legalisation	Legalisation implies that the usage of drugs is not an offence by the law. People can grow, sell, and consume drugs without risking arrest or any other type of penalties, such as a criminal record, fine or an obligation to go to rehabilitation centres.
Prohibition	Prohibition aims to reduce and prevent the use and trafficking of drugs with strong legal sanctions, such as arrest and death penalties and aggressive interdiction of all related transactions, such as cultivation and sales.