



**SURVEY OF SUBSTANCE USE AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE
STREETS OF PHNOM PENH**

CARRIED OUT BY THE STAFF OF MITH SAMLANH

August 2006

Supported by:



Ministère de la Santé
Kampuchea



Important Remarks

This report covers substance use among street children and vulnerable youth in Phnom Penh only. Since the authors focused solely on this group and addressed neither the situation among other youth groups such as gangs (e.g. Bong Thom), children attending school, college students, etc., nor that among adult populations, this report reflects only a part of drug use situation as a whole in Cambodia. It would therefore be unjustified and inaccurate to use this survey to scapegoat street children and vulnerable youth for drug use in the greater Cambodian context, as has been the general trend.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This survey was made possible thanks to the contributions of the following hard working individuals in the Mith Samlanh Teams:

Life Skills Team: Man Phally (Team Leader), Cham Soeun, Sit Rin, Rey Somaly, Chab Choun Sovanna, Ly Sunny, Tol Bunheng, Mono Sopheap, Tweuk Chanlyda and Phoung Vanny

Outreach Team: Keo Sophorn (Team Leader), Nao Phalla, Sok Sopheun, Mak Rithy, Sorn Sakun, Tuy Puthea, Khon Sieha, Rin Sophannary, Son Sopheap, Than Pexther, and Ky Rith.

Drug Team: Ouch Path Akhmatak (Team Leader), Nov Puthy, Choeun Bunroeun, Bo Raksa, Thim Sotheara, Soun Srey Mom Thida, Hong Sovann, Try Sean, Hak Raksmeay, Im Sakacda and Vong Pheakyny

Placement Team: Im Sreypao (Team Leader), Long Phearun, Toun Dany, Eung Vanny, Seng Sokthea, Srey Sokha, and Peng Bunthan

HIV/AIDS Team: Louch Pov (Team Leader), San Vutha, Im Yaren, Seng Srey, and Chhim Manin

Child Rights Team: Dum Chanthida (Team Leader), Sen Seny, Chey Phalla

ICS Team: Dak Ngeng (Team Leader), San Oudom, Yi Somaly, Teng Chan Theany

Boarding House: By Vutha (Team Leader) and Yim Sothirthea

Safe Migration Team: Kong Sathia (Team Leader) Heang Sophal, Keang Sok Na, Chim Sinith, Khim Soley and Ly Da

Special thanks to Man Phally for their coordination efforts.

With technical support provided by Mr. Sébastien Marot, Mr. David Harding

METHODOLOGY

This survey was carried out in August 2006, with three groups of children:

- Children/youth living alone and unsupported on the streets of Phnom Penh,
- Children/youth of street living families,
- Children/youth living in the community and working on the streets.

The questionnaire was designed to provide total anonymity to the participating children (no names or exact locations were recorded). The information gathered included: age and gender, the number and types of substances used, methods of intake, and an additional question regarding selling blood.

All comments and conclusions are based upon comparisons with previous surveys from October 1999, June 2000, June 2001, October 2002, April 2004, and 2005 in order to monitor trends and the evolution of substance use culture. There are no comparisons with any information collected in 2003 as the target population was strongly affected by the National Elections that occurred in July and the resulting anxieties regarding personal security. In order to ensure accurate comparison with previous surveys, the same categories of substances are defined: Glue, Methamphetamine (yama) ingested or smoked, Injection (including heroin, and methamphetamine), medicines (Valium, Reduxen, etc.), Alcohol and 'Other' (cannabis, cocktails- medicine mixed with alcohol-, gasoline, etc.). This Survey excluded cigarettes.

One change to previous surveys is the inclusion of crystal methamphetamine or 'ice' within the methamphetamine group due to the increased use of this substance since the previous survey.

Street living children/youth are separated into three categories to reflect differing lifestyles. The first category is children living unsupported on the streets; the second is children of street-living families; and the third is children and youth working on the streets and returning home on a daily or regular basis.

In 2006, the 'Types of Substances Used' section specifies the various substances injected intravenously. Surveys prior to 2004 only describe non-specific 'injecting drug use.' Additionally, the same section lists known intake methods for each substance used such as, injection, smoking/'chasing', inhaling etc.

There have been changes to the survey methodology over 2005.

The survey was carried out by staff of the Mith Samlanh Drug, and Outreach Teams on the streets, with staff of Life Skill and Reintegration teams working with young people in the community.

The survey was carried out in one day to avoid duplication, since the target population can be extremely mobile.

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THE TARGET GROUP

Total Street Children/Youth (Table A)

Tables B, C, D combined

Aged	0-8Years	9-11 Years	12-15Years	16-18Years	19-25Years	Total
BOYS	80 (60.2%)	151 (64.3%)	387 (63.3%)	248 (79%)	435 (84.5%)	1301 (72%)
GIRLS	53 (39.8%)	84 (35.7%)	224 (36.7%)	66 (21%)	80 (15.5%)	507 (28%)
TOTAL	133 (7.4%)	235 (13%)	611 (33.8%)	314 (17.4%)	515 (28.5%)	1808 (100%)

Total Lone Street Living Children/Youth (Table B)

Aged	0-8Years	9-11 Years	12-15Years	16-18Years	19-25Years	Total
BOYS	7 (77.8%)	19 (79.2%)	75 (82.4%)	95 (95%)	234 (86.3%)	430 (86.9%)
GIRLS	2 (22.2%)	5 (20.8%)	16 (17.6%)	5 (5%)	37 (13.7%)	65 (13.1%)
TOTAL	9 (1.8%)	24 (4.8%)	91 (18.4%)	100 (20.2%)	271 (54.7%)	495(27.4%)

Total Street living with Family Children/Youth (Table C)

Aged	0-8Years	9-11 Years	12-15Years	16-18Years	19-25Years	Total
BOYS	32 (49.2%)	40 (61.5%)	68 (62.4%)	30 (73.2%)	29 (85.3%)	199 (63.4%)
GIRLS	33 (50.8%)	25 (38.5%)	41 (37.6%)	11 (26.8%)	5 (14.7%)	115 (36.6%)
TOTAL	65 (20.7%)	65 (20.7%)	109 (34.7%)	41 (13.1%)	34 (10.8%)	314 (17.4%)

Total Street Working Children/Youth (Table D)

Aged	0-8Years	9-11 Years	12-15Years	16-18Years	19-25Years	Total
BOYS	41 (69.5%)	92 (63%)	244 (59.4%)	123 (71.1%)	172 (81.9%)	672 (67.2%)
GIRLS	18 (30.5%)	54 (37%)	167 (40.6%)	50 (28.9%)	38 (18.1%)	327 (32.7%)
TOTAL	59 (5.9%)	146 (14.6%)	411 (41.1%)	173 (17.3%)	210 (21%)	999 (55.2%)

Comments

The total number of street children and youth interviewed for this survey was lower than in 2005. Street children and youth are becoming progressively more difficult to reach due to greater intolerance of street people as a whole from the Municipal authorities, the removal of the Tonle Bassac squatter area and relocation of its population (many street working children lived in this area), and increased police activity towards substance using populations. Despite this, the age ranges and gender breakdowns are comparable with previous surveys and strongly suggest that the results provide a representative view of substance use within the population of street children and youth in Phnom Penh.

Notably, the number of girls interviewed in 2006 increased by almost 2% over 2005, and represents a continuation of this trend. This increase is predominately in the youngest age range within the street living family and street working populations (girls living alone on the streets as a group have decreased over 2005).

Regarding lone street children and youth:

- The total lone street living population has remained stable over 2005, but the number of girls across all age ranges (and particularly in the youngest groups) has decreased.
- Age ranges have remained stable over 2005, though it is noted that the 16-18 age range has decreased by 4%, while the eldest (19-24 years) group has increased by 5%.

Regarding street living family children and youth:

- The composition of the street living family children and youth group is generally comparable in age and gender make up to previous years, though it is important to note that the youngest (0-8) age group has increased by over 5% (noted increase in girls) over 2005.

Regarding street working children and youth:

- The number of girls working on the streets has increased in all age ranges by 4.5% over 2005; otherwise the figures are comparable to previous surveys.

Use and Multiple Use of Substances within the Total Target Population (Table E)

Tables I, J, M combined

	Sex	0-8Years	9-11 Years	12-15Years	16-18Years	19-25Years	Total
Using Substances (Total)	Boys	1 (100%)	27 (81.8%)	131 (94.9%)	154 (95.1%)	407 (85.5%)	720 (88.9%)
	Girls	-	6 (18.2%)	7 (5.1%)	8 (4.9%)	69 (14.5%)	90 (11.1%)
	Total	1 (0.1%)	33 (4.1%)	138 (17%)	162 (20%)	476 (58.8%)	810 (44.8%)
Using 1 Substance	Boys	1 (100%)	17 (81%)	92 (93.9%)	57 (93.4%)	123 (74.5%)	290 (83.8%)
	Girls	-	4 (19%)	6 (6.1%)	4 (6.6%)	42 (25.5%)	56 (16.2%)
	Total	1 (0.3%)	21 (6.1%)	98 (28.3%)	61 (17.6%)	165 (47.7%)	346 (42.7%)
Using 2 Substances	Boys	-	8 (80%)	27 (100%)	60 (95.2%)	153 (90%)	248 (91.9%)
	Girls	-	2 (20%)	-	3 (4.8%)	17 (10%)	22 (8.1%)
	Total	-	10 (3.7%)	27 (10%)	63 (23.3%)	170 (63%)	270 (33.3%)
Using 3 Substances	Boys	-	2 (100%)	8 (88.9%)	32 (97%)	91 (92.9%)	133 (93.7%)
	Girls	-	-	1 (11.1%)	1 (3%)	7 (7.1%)	9 (6.3%)
	Total	-	2 (1.4%)	9 (6.3%)	33 (23.2%)	98 (69%)	142 (17.5%)
Using 4 Substances	Boys	-	-	4 (100%)	4 (100%)	28 (90.3%)	36 (92.3%)
	Girls	-	-	-	-	3 (9.7%)	3 (7.7%)
	Total	-	-	4 (10.3%)	4 (10.3%)	31 (79.5%)	39 (4.8%)
Using 5 Substances	Boys	-	-	-	1 (100%)	11 (100%)	12 (100%)
	Girls	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	1 (8.3%)	11 (91.7%)	12 (1.5%)
Using 6 Substances	Boys	-	-	-	-	1 (100%)	1 (100%)
	Girls	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	1 (100%)	1 (0.2%)

Comparison Between Drug Users and Non Drug Users



Multiple Substances use

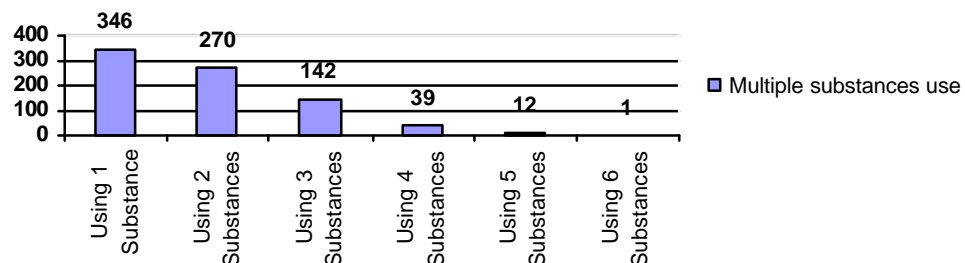


Table F			Target Group			
			Street living	Street Family	Street Working	Total
Sex	Male	Non Users	15 (3.5%)	127 (63.8%)	439 (65.3%)	581 (44.7%)
		Drug Users	415 (96.5%)	72 (36.2%)	233 (34.7%)	720 (55.3%)
		Total	430 (33.1%)	199 (15.3%)	672 (51.7%)	1301 (100%)
	Female	Non Users	10 (15.4%)	111 (96.5%)	296 (90.5%)	417 (82.2%)
		Drug Users	55 (84.6%)	4 (3.5%)	31 (9.5%)	90 (17.8%)
		Total	65 (12.8%)	115 (22.7%)	327 (64.5%)	507 (100%)
Totals		Non Users	25 (5.1%)	238 (75.8%)	735 (73.6%)	998 (55.2%)
		Drug Users	470 (94.9%)	76 (24.2%)	264 (26.4%)	810 (44.8%)
		Total target populations	495 (27.4%)	314 (17.4%)	999 (55.3%)	1808 (100%)

Comments

The total use of substances within the target population has decreased by 1.56% over 2005. However, since 2004 the general trend of use within approximately half street child/youth population continues. This overall reduction might be due to increased incarceration of street substance users, an increase in the cost of (illicit) substances during the first half of the year, as well as the positive impact of Mith Samlanh prevention, harm reduction, and treatment programs and an increase in NGO activities reaching substance users (and those at risk of becoming substance users) as a whole.

The use of substances in the youngest age ranges has decreased, and is a reverse in the developing trend of substance use among very young children. This might be attributable to improved prevention activity and increased awareness of the downsides of substance use, as well as increased cost.

Substance use has continued to increase in the older age range (19-24 years) by 8.16% over 2005. This suggests that longer term substance use issues (dependences) are becoming strongly established (borne out by other evidence), as the culture continues to develop.

Substance use among females has increased slightly over 2005, and maintains a continuing trend of increasing substance use among girls, in both the younger and oldest age ranges.

Use of multiple substances has increased significantly over 2005 (16.74%), and high multiple use (0.94% rise in the regular use of 5 substances) in particular. This suggests a significant increase in chaotic substance use, which is a significant danger. One contributing factor in this situation may be the considerable rise in the cost of more common illicit substances (methamphetamine, heroin, etc.) during the first half of 2006. This price jump may be leading to consequences such as users seeking a range of alternative substances (Solvents, Glue, Pharmacy drugs) to attempt to meet their substance use needs and also the growth of combination drug use, also a very risky practice.

The increase in the level of multiple substance use appears to be exclusive to older males (particularly in the oldest age range), as the level of multiple substances among girls has decreased over 2005, as has multiple substance use in the 0-11 age range.

Types of Substances Used, and Methods of Intake within the Target Population (Table G)

Total Street Children and Youth Using Substances (Tables K,L,N combined)

Substances/behaviors		Sex	Age range					Total				
			0-8 years	9-11 years	12-15 years	16-18 years	19-25 years					
Glue (Solvents)		Male	2 (100%)	17 (85%)	100 (91.7%)	82 (93.2%)	114 (91.2%)	315 (91.6%)				
		Female	-	3 (15%)	9 (8.3%)	6 (6.8%)	11 (8.8%)	29 (8.4%)				
		Total	2 (0.6%)	20 (5.8%)	109 (31.7%)	88 (25.6%)	125 (36.3%)	344 (42.5%)				
Methamphetamine use (Yama)		Inject		Male	-	-	-	-	-			
		Inject		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-		
		Inject		Total	-	-	-	-	-	-		
		Smoke		Male	-	8 (88.9%)	36 (90%)	92 (95.8%)	240 (87%)	376 (89.1%)		
				Female	1 (100%)	1 (11.1%)	4 (10%)	4 (4.2%)	36 (13%)	46 (10.9%)		
				Total	1 (0.2%)	9 (2.1%)	40 (9.5%)	96 (22.7%)	276 (65.4%)	422 (98.8%)		
		Swallow		Male	-	-	-	1 (100%)	4 (100%)	5 (100%)		
				Female	-	-	-	-	-	-		
				Total	-	-	-	1 (20%)	4 (80%)	5 (1.2%)		
Total Methamphetamine (Yama)		Male	-	8 (88.9%)	36 (90%)	93 (95.9%)	244 (87.1%)	381 (89.2%)				
		Female	1 (100%)	1 (11.1%)	4 (10%)	4 (4.1%)	36 (12.9%)	46 (10.8%)				
		Total	1 (0.2%)	9 (2.1%)	40 (9.4%)	97 (22.7%)	280 (65.6%)	427 (60.4%)				
Crystal Methamphetamine (Yama Ice)		Snort		Male	-	-	-	2 (100%)	2 (100%)	4 (100%)		
				Snort		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Snort		Total	-	-	-	2 (50%)	2 (50%)	4 (1.4%)
		Inject		Male	-	-	-	1 (100%)	3 (100%)	4 (100%)		
				Inject		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
				Inject		Total	-	-	-	1 (25%)	3 (75%)	4 (1.4%)
		Smoke		Male	-	3 (75%)	14 (87.5%)	61 (98.4%)	179 (95.2%)	257 (94.8%)		
				Female	1 (100%)	1 (25%)	2 (12.5%)	1 (1.6%)	9 (4.8%)	14 (5.2%)		
				Total	1 (0.4%)	4 (1.5%)	16 (5.9%)	62 (22.9%)	188 (69.4%)	271 (97.1%)		
Total Crystal Methamphetamine (Ice)		Male	-	3 (75%)	14 (87.5%)	64 (98.5%)	184 (95.3%)	265 (95%)				
		Female	1 (100%)	1 (25%)	2 (12.5%)	1 (1.5%)	9 (4.7%)	14 (5%)				
		Total	1 (0.4%)	4 (1.4%)	16 (5.7%)	65 (23.3%)	193 (69.2%)	279 (39.6%)				
Total Amphetamine Use (Yama+ Ice)		Male	-	11 (84.6%)	50 (89.2%)	157 (96.9%)	428 (90.4%)	646 (91.5%)				
		Female	2 (100%)	2 (15.4%)	6 (10.8%)	5 (3.1%)	45 (9.6%)	60 (8.5%)				
		Total	2 (0.2%)	13 (1.8%)	56 (7.9%)	162 (22.9%)	473 (67.2%)	706 (87.1%)				
Heroin		Inject		Male	-	-	2 (100%)	10 (83.3%)	74 (88.1%)	86 (87.8%)		
				Inject		Female	-	-	-	2 (16.7%)	10 (11.9%)	12 (12.2%)
				Inject		Total	-	-	2 (2%)	12 (12.2%)	84 (85.7%)	98 (67.6%)
		Smoke		Male	-	-	1 (100%)	4 (100%)	40 (95.2%)	45 (95.7%)		
				Smoke		Female	-	-	-	-	2 (4.8%)	2 (4.3%)
				Smoke		Total	-	-	1 (2.1%)	4 (8.5%)	42 (89.4%)	47 (32.4%)
Total Heroin Use		Male	-	-	3 (100%)	14 (87.5%)	114 (90.5%)	131 (90.3%)				
		Female	-	-	-	2 (12.5%)	12 (9.5%)	14 (9.7%)				
		Total	-	-	3 (2.1%)	16 (11%)	126 (86.9%)	145 (17.9%)				
Ketamine		snort		Male	-	2 (100%)	4 (100%)	2 (100%)	9 (81.8%)	17 (89.5%)		
				snort		Female	-	-	-	-	2 (18.2%)	2 (10.5%)
				snort		Total	-	2 (10.5%)	4 (21.1%)	2 (10.5%)	11 (57.9%)	19 (67.9%)
		Swallow		Male	-	-	-	2 (100%)	5 (83.3%)	7 (77.8%)		
				Swallow		Female	-	-	1 (100%)	-	1 (16.7%)	2 (22.2%)
				Swallow		Total	-	-	1 (11.1%)	2 (22.2%)	6 (66.7%)	9 (32.1%)
Total Ketamine Use		Male	-	2 (100%)	4 (80%)	4 (100%)	14 (82.4%)	24 (85.7%)				
		Female	-	-	1 (20%)	-	3 (17.6%)	4 (14.3%)				
		Total	-	2 (7.1%)	5 (17.9%)	4 (14.3%)	17 (60.7%)	28 (3.5%)				
Cannabis		Male	-	-	4 (100%)	17 (100%)	58 (90.6%)	79 (92.9%)				
		Female	-	-	-	-	6 (9.4%)	6 (7.1%)				
		Total	-	-	4 (4.7%)	17 (20%)	64 (75.3%)	85 (10.5%)				
Alcohol		Male	-	2 (100%)	28 (90.3%)	48 (90.6%)	136 (87.7%)	214 (88.8%)				
		Female	-	-	3 (9.7%)	5 (9.4%)	19 (12.3%)	27 (11.2%)				
		Total	-	2 (0.8%)	31 (12.9%)	53 (22%)	155 (64.3%)	241 (29.8%)				
Pharmaceuticals		Male	-	1 (100%)	6 (100%)	11 (91.7%)	19 (73.1%)	37 (82.2%)				
		Female	-	-	-	1 (8.3%)	7 (26.9%)	8 (17.8%)				
		Total	-	1 (2.2%)	6 (13.3%)	12 (26.7%)	26 (57.8%)	45 (5.6%)				
Unidentified substances		Male	-	-	-	-	2 (100%)	2 (100%)				
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-				
		Total	-	-	-	-	2 (100%)	2 (0.2%)				
Combination substance use		Male	-	2 (100%)	3 (100%)	17 (94.4%)	75 (91.5%)	97 (92.4%)				
		Female	-	-	-	1 (5.6%)	7 (8.5%)	8 (7.6%)				
		Total	-	2 (1.9%)	3 (2.9%)	18 (17.1%)	82 (78.1%)	105 (13%)				
Blood Selling		Male	-	-	1 (100%)	11 (91.7%)	52 (96.3%)	64 (95.5%)				
		Female	-	-	-	1 (8.3%)	2 (3.7%)	3 (4.5%)				
		Total	-	-	1 (1.5%)	12 (17.9%)	54 (80.6%)	67 (8.3%)				

Comments

Solvents (Glue):

The level of glue use has increased over 2005 by 9.08%. This is a reverse in a trend starting in 1999 of gradually decreasing glue use as it has moved from mainstream (98.6%, 1999) to gateway (33.42%, 2005). Glue use has increased only in the oldest age range, which previously had seen the most profound reduction as youth moved to illicit substances such as methamphetamine and heroin. Glue use had been maintained in the target population within the youngest age ranges previously.

The increase in glue use is in line with previous comments regarding the increase in multiple substance use (in the eldest male population), and with the situation of increasing costs of illicit substances (methamphetamines, heroin) in the first half of 2006. It appears that as certain favored illicit substances have become less affordable on a regular basis, users have been purchasing glue to supplement their drug use. This is a significant concern as multiple substance use can have profound effects upon physical and mental health, and increases the chance of overdose.

Amphetamine Type Substances:

Methamphetamine use has strongly increased over 2005 by 25.6%. This is the highest increase in methamphetamine use since it appeared on the streets in 2002 (it was first identified in 2000). That strong establishment of crystal Methamphetamine ('Ice') on the streets in 2002—it had drifted in and out of circulation over previous years—might be one contributing factor to this dramatic increase. The generally chaotic nature of use due to costs and supply of illicit substances must also be considered as a factor here in a similar way to solvent use.

The increase in Methamphetamine in boys is centered on the oldest age range (19-24 years). Use among females has remained similar to 2005, but has become increasingly centered on the teenage age range (11-19 years).

Injecting of methamphetamines accounts for 1.4% of total amphetamine use and crystal is now used exclusively in this manner. Smoking or 'chasing' however remains by far the most common intake method.

Heroin:

According to the survey, heroin use is down for the first time since it was established on the streets in 2000. It is difficult to say if this suggests a true picture of Heroin use generally as a focus on work with (particularly injecting) Heroin users on the streets by Mith Samlanh and other organizations might have contributed to the reduction. Authority pick ups of substance users might also have impacted this population. Additionally, anxiety regarding authority crackdowns has made injecting Heroin users in particular, increasingly difficult to reach. The increase in the cost of Heroin on the streets might also have impacted the reported numbers and lead to changes in substance use behaviors.

Heroin use has been most common in the oldest (19-24 years) age group in males since first recorded on the streets in 2000, and has increased in this age group by 9.7% over 2005.

Heroin use has also increased among females, once again most notably in the oldest age range (19-24 years).

Despite the reported small reduction in heroin use, it is important to note that injecting (which overtook chasing as the most frequent intake method in 2005) has continued its

upward trend, though more slowly than in previous years. Injecting heroin use in 2006 is noted at 67.6% compared with 66.2% in 2005.

Injecting heroin use has more than doubled in the female heroin using population from 4.83% in 2005 to 12.2%, and maintains an ongoing trend.

Ketamine:

Ketamine use has more than doubled over 2005 (1.23%). It now accounts for 3.5% of the total substance use within the street child/youth population and is beginning to impact younger age groups particularly those 8-15 years old. It is possible that costs of other illicit substances such as heroin have changed behaviors leading to higher Ketamine use and increased combination use.

Cannabis:

Previously, cannabis use has been relatively limited among street children and youth and most often associated with mixing with Heroin to smoke. However, its use has doubled since 2005. Though the level of Cannabis use has remained stable within the 19-24 age range, it has established itself strongly within the 12-15 age range. This suggests that it is becoming a 'gateway' substance. It is possible that younger children (as a potentially lower income group) are accessing cannabis as an alternative to increasingly less affordable Methamphetamine.

Alcohol:

Alcohol use has been less popular within the street child/youth population but has slowly been increasing year on year to reach 12.5% of the total substance use in 2005. The figures for 2006 however, show a major change in this trend. Alcohol use has increased significantly to 29.8% of total substance use and therefore has become established as one of the major mind altering substances consumed on the street.

Alcohol's easy access and availability at a time when illicit substances such as heroin and methamphetamines have become increasingly less affordable are possible reasons for this behavior change. Alcohol use is now clearly part of the multiple use culture that has accelerated since 2005. While alcohol use has actually reduced in the oldest age ranges and has established itself strongly within the younger age groups. It appears that younger children and youth who previously would have moved into methamphetamine use are turning to alcohol as a more affordable alternative, especially as they generally have lower income capacity than older youth.

It is also important to note that alcohol use has almost doubled within the female population over 2005.

Pharmaceuticals:

Use of pharmaceutical drugs for recreation has varied considerably since 1999 but has always remained a relatively limited area of the substance use culture, most often part of combination use (mixing and injecting Ropam with Heroin for example).

In line with other changes within the substance using culture, Pharmaceuticals—sedatives such as minor tranquilizers and anxiolytics are most often identified—have almost doubled in use over 2005, and now account for 5.6% of total substance use. Interestingly, pharmaceutical use has increased within the male population while in the female population (that has shown high levels of use previously) pharmaceutical use has halved.

Unidentified Substances:

Identification of substances has improved over 2005. Unidentified substances account for 0.2% of total substance use.

Combination Substance Use:

In line with increases in multiple uses and use of substances that can be mixed with Heroin and Methamphetamine, combination use has increased by 3 times over 2005, and is now at 13%, most notably in the 16-19 years age group.

This is a significant issue as the increased danger for physical health (including overdose) and mental health can be significant. Mixing Heroin with other substances in particular is highly concerning.

Blood Selling:

Despite efforts to regulate and license blood selling, increasing numbers of street youth continue to sell blood to unregulated brokers as a lucrative means to generate income.

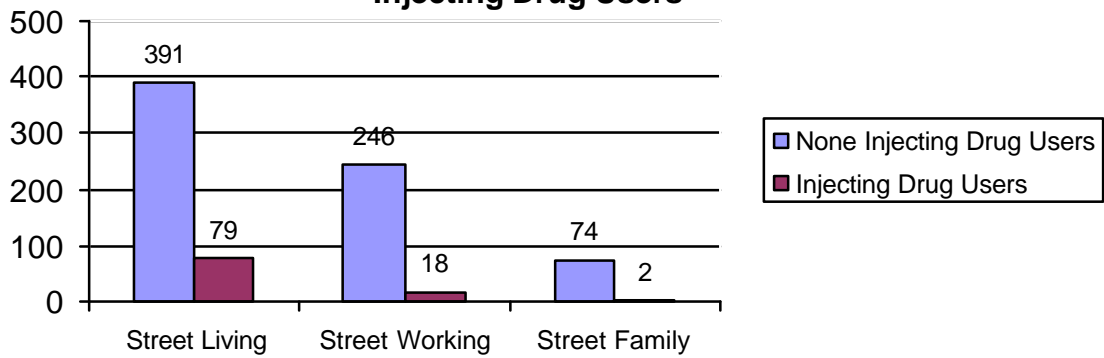
In view of the significant numbers of substance using street children and youth on the streets, it is no surprise that the survey shows significant selling in this group. With the risk of HIV infection associated with intravenous substance use in particular, there is an opportunity for that risk to be carried over to the people receiving blood from unregulated brokers.

The numbers of youth expressing that they sell their blood within the total substance using street child/youth population has risen by 1.28% (from 7.02% in 2005 to 8.3% in 2006). Demographics for age and gender remain similar to 2005.

Comparison of Injecting and Non-Injecting Practices Within the Total Target Population (Table H)

			Target Group			
			Street living	Street Family	Street Working	Total
Sex	Male	Non Injecting Drug Users	345 (83.1%)	70 (97.2%)	218 (93.6%)	633 (87.9%)
		Injecting Drug Users	70 (16.9%)	2 (2.8%)	15 (6.4%)	87 (12.1%)
		Total	415 (57.6%)	72 (10%)	233 (32.4%)	720 (100%)
	Female	Non Injecting Drug Users	46 (83.6%)	4 (100%)	28 (90.3%)	78 (86.7%)
		Injecting Drug Users	9 (16.4%)	-	3 (9.7%)	12 (13.3%)
		Total	55 (61.1%)	4(4.4%)	31 (34.4%)	90 (100%)
Totals		Non Injecting Drug Users	391 (83.2%)	74 (97.4%)	246 (93.2%)	711 (87.8%)
		Injecting Drug Users	79 (16.8%)	2 (2.6%)	18 (6.8%)	99 (12.2%)
		Total of Drug Users	470 (58%)	76 (9.4%)	264 (32.6%)	810 (100%)

The Comparison of None Injecting Drug Users and Injecting Drug Users



Comments

Injecting Substance Use:

Injecting substance use has grown by an average of 4 to 5% per year within the population of substance using street youth since this practice began to be established in 2000. The figures for 2006 represent a major change in this pattern as it indicates injecting practices within 12.2% of the substance using population, a reduction of 1.7% over 2005 (13.9%).

It is important to note a number of factors that might have contributed to these figures:

- 1) Mith Samlanh harm reduction behavior change and treatment programs are well established
- 2) Other organizations are now providing harm reduction behavior change awareness to injecting substance users
- 3) The establishment of a Municipality run drug center has resulted in a significant increase of detentions of substance users, including intravenous users.
- 4) Substance users, and intravenous users are becoming increasingly difficult to reach as they have become more mobile and scattered due to anxiety about authorities actions
- 5) Municipality has become generally less tolerant of street populations in the center of the city
- 6) A major squatter area (Tonle Bassac) where a significant number of injecting users were located was cleared and residents relocated, resulting in injecting and non injecting users to become more scattered throughout the city and therefore more difficult to reach.
- 7) The cost of illicit substances including the most commonly injected substance, Heroin, increased significantly during the first half of 2006

There have been several impacts on the substance using population as the culture has developed since 1999, but a number of factors including Mith Samlanh's effectiveness in reaching and increasingly hard to reach population, especially intravenous substance users, appear to have affected reported patterns of use strongly in 2006.

Injecting substance use among females has more than doubled over 2005 and now stands at 13.3% of the total female substance using population, which is directly in line the increase in heroin use within this population. This development gives a strong indication as to the real current situation with intravenous substance use, as opposed to the overall figures, and indicates that Authority actions and their effects are a key consideration as female Intravenous users are much less likely to be detained. Injecting drug use continues to be centered on the street living population though a number of street working females are also injecting.

Use and Multiple Use of Substances Within The Lone Street Child and Youth Population (Table I)

	Sex	0-8Years	9-11 Years	12-15Years	16-18Years	19-25Years	Total
Using Substances (Total)	Boys	1 (100%)	11 (84.6%)	68 (95.8%)	82 (97.6%)	253 (84.1%)	415 (88.3%)
	Girls	-	2 (15.4%)	3 (4.2%)	2 (2.4%)	48 (15.9%)	55 (11.7%)
	Total	1 (0.2%)	13 (2.8%)	71 (15.1%)	84 (17.9%)	301 (64%)	470 (94.9%)
Using 1 Substance	Boys	1 (100%)	10 (90.9%)	50 (96.2%)	26 (92.9%)	70 (68%)	157 (80.5%)
	Girls	-	1 (9.1%)	2 (3.8%)	2 (7.1%)	33 (32%)	38 (19.5%)
	Total	1 (0.5%)	11 (5.6%)	52 (26.7%)	28 (14.4%)	103 (52.8%)	195 (41.5%)
Using 2 Substances	Boys	-	1 (50%)	11 (100%)	30 (100%)	83 (92.2%)	125 (94%)
	Girls	-	1 (50%)	-	-	7 (7.8%)	8 (6%)
	Total	-	2 (1.5%)	11 (8.3%)	30 (22.6%)	90 (67.7%)	133 (28.2%)
Using 3 Substances	Boys	-	-	5 (83.3%)	23 (100%)	69 (93.2%)	97 (94.2%)
	Girls	-	-	1 (16.7%)	-	5 (6.8%)	6 (5.8%)
	Total	-	-	6 (5.8%)	23 (22.3%)	74 (71.8%)	103 (22%)
Using 4 Substances	Boys	-	-	2 (100%)	2 (100%)	22 (88%)	26 (89.7%)
	Girls	-	-	-	-	3 (12%)	3 (10.3%)
	Total	-	-	2 (6.9%)	2 (6.9%)	25 (86.2%)	29 (6.1%)
Using 5 Substances	Boys	-	-	-	1 (100%)	8 (100%)	9 (100%)
	Girls	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	1 (11.1%)	8 (88.9%)	9 (2%)
Using 6 Substances	Boys	-	-	-	-	1 (100%)	1 (100%)
	Girls	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	1(100%)	1 (0.2%)

Within Children and Youth of Street Living families (Table J)

	Sex	0-8Years	9-11 Years	12-15Years	16-18Years	19-25Years	Total
Using Substances (Total)	Boys	-	3 (100%)	25 (96.2%)	17 (89.5%)	27 (96.4%)	72 (94.7%)
	Girls	-	-	1 (3.8%)	2 (10.5%)	1 (3.6%)	4 (5.3%)
	Total	-	3 (3.9%)	26 (34.2%)	19 (25%)	28 (36.8%)	76 (24.2%)
Using 1 Substance	Boys	-	2 (100%)	17 (94.4%)	9 (100%)	9 (90%)	37 (94.9%)
	Girls	-	-	1 (5.6%)	-	1 (10%)	2 (5.1%)
	Total	-	2 (5.1%)	18 (46.2%)	9 (23.1%)	10 (25.6%)	39 (51.3%)
Using 2 Substances	Boys	-	1 (100%)	7 (100%)	7 (77.8%)	14 (100%)	29 (93.5%)
	Girls	-	-	-	2 (22.2%)	-	2 (6.5%)
	Total	-	1 (3.2%)	7 (22.6%)	9 (29%)	14 (45.2%)	31 (40.8%)
Using 3 Substances	Boys	-	-	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	-	2 (100%)
	Girls	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	1 (50%)	1 (50%)	-	2 (2.6%)
Using 4 Substances	Boys	-	-	-	-	1 (100%)	1 (100%)
	Girls	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	1 (100%)	1 (1.3%)
Using 5 Substances	Boys	-	-	-	-	3 (100%)	3 (100%)
	Girls	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	3 (100%)	3 (4%)
Using 6 Substances	Boys	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Girls	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-

Comments

Within the street living population substance use is strongly focused on lone street living children and youth. It accounts for 94.9% of substance use within this population and 58% of substance use within the total street population using substances. The high level of regular substance use within the lone population has grown steadily since 1999 and has continued this trend (by 3%) into 2006. Lone street children remain the highest risk group for substance use. Highest risk factors include multiple substance use, injecting, use within younger age ranges, and use within the female population.

Substance use within the street family children population, which has been relatively low in the past compared with the lone living and street working populations, has more than doubled over 2006, and patterns of use, including substances used and intake methods, have altered significantly over 2005. The increase in use and multiple use has focused exclusively on the oldest age range, and in males particularly (reflecting a trend across the entire target population), while substance use within the younger age ranges has reduced. The number of females using substances in this population has decreased over 2005, and has reversed a slowly developing trend.

Multiple use of substances has increased dramatically over 2005 (by 32.7%), most notably in the use of 2 substances, but also within the higher multiples. Once again this reflects a trend throughout the entire target group.

Children and Youth Living Alone on the Streets

Types of substances used and methods of intake. (Table K)

Substances/behaviors		Sex	Age range					Total
			0-8 years	9-11 years	12-15 years	16-18 years	19-25 years	
Glue (Solvents)		Male	1 (100%)	5 (83.3%)	51 (92.7%)	47 (97.9%)	75 (92.6%)	179 (93.7%)
		Female	-	1 (16.7%)	4 (7.3%)	1 (2.1%)	6 (7.4%)	12 (6.3%)
		Total	1 (0.5%)	6 (3.1%)	55 (28.8%)	48 (25.1%)	81 (42.4%)	191 (40.6%)
Methamphetamine use (Yama)	Inject	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Smoke	Male	-	1 (50%)	13 (81.3%)	55 (98.2%)	145 (86.8%)	214 (88.8%)
		Female	-	1 (50%)	3 (18.8%)	1 (1.8%)	22 (13.2%)	27 (11.2%)
		Total	-	2 (0.8%)	16 (6.6%)	56 (23.2%)	167 (69.3%)	241 (100%)
	Swallow	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Methamphetamine (Yama)		Male	-	1 (50%)	13 (81.3%)	55 (98.2%)	145 (86.8%)	214 (88.8%)
		Female	-	1 (50%)	3 (18.8%)	1 (1.8%)	22 (13.2%)	27 (11.2%)
		Total	-	2 (0.8%)	16 (6.6%)	56 (23.2%)	167 (69.3%)	241 (59.9%)
Crystal Methamphetamine (Yama Ice)	Snort	Male	-	-	-	-	1 (100%)	1 (100%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	-	1 (100%)	1 (0.6%)
	Inject	Male	-	-	-	-	3 (100%)	3 (100%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	-	3 (100%)	3 (1.9%)
	Smoke	Male	-	-	7 (77.8%)	34 (97.1%)	108 (96.4%)	149 (94.9%)
		Female	-	1 (100%)	2 (22.2%)	1 (2.9%)	4 (3.6%)	8 (5.1%)
		Total	-	1 (0.6%)	9 (5.7%)	35 (22.3%)	112 (71.3%)	157 (97.5%)
Total Crystal Methamphetamine (Yama Ice)		Male	-	-	7 (77.8%)	34 (97.1%)	112 (96.6%)	153 (95%)
		Female	-	1 (100%)	2 (22.2%)	1 (2.9%)	4 (3.4%)	8 (5%)
		Total	-	1 (0.6%)	9 (5.6%)	35 (21.7%)	116 (72%)	161 (40.1%)
Total Amphetamine Use (Yama+Yama Ice)		Male	-	1 (33.3%)	20 (80%)	89 (97.8%)	257 (90.8%)	367 (91.2%)
		Female	-	2 (66.4%)	5 (20%)	2 (2.2%)	26 (9.2%)	35 (8.8%)
		Total	-	3 (0.7%)	25 (6.2%)	91 (22.6%)	283 (70.5%)	402 (81.2%)
Heroin	Inject	Male	-	-	-	8 (88.9%)	62 (88.6%)	70 (88.6%)
		Female	-	-	-	1 (11.1%)	8 (11.4%)	9 (11.4%)
		Total	-	-	-	9 (11.4%)	70 (88.6%)	79 (76%)
	Smoke	Male	-	-	-	2 (100%)	21 (91.3%)	23 (92%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	2 (8.7%)	2 (8%)
		Total	-	-	-	2 (8%)	23 (92%)	25 (24%)
Total Heroin Use		Male	-	-	-	10 (90.9%)	83 (89.2%)	93 (89.4%)
		Female	-	-	-	1 (9.1%)	10 (10.8%)	11 (10.6%)
		Total	-	-	-	11 (10.6%)	93 (89.4%)	104 (22.1%)
Ketamine	snort	Male	-	2 (100%)	4 (100%)	2 (100%)	5 (83.3%)	13 (92.9%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	1 (16.7%)	1 (7.1%)
		Total	-	2 (14.3%)	4 (28.6%)	2 (14.3%)	6 (42.9%)	14 (73.7%)
	Swallow	Male	-	-	-	2 (100%)	2 (100%)	4 (80%)
		Female	-	-	1 (100%)	-	-	1 (20%)
		Total	-	-	1 (20%)	2 (40%)	2 (40%)	5 (26.3%)
Total Ketamine Use		Male	-	2 (100%)	4 (80%)	4 (100%)	7 (87.5%)	17 (89.5%)
		Female	-	-	1 (20%)	-	1 (12.5%)	2 (10.5%)
		Total	-	2 (10.5%)	5 (26.3%)	4 (21.1%)	8 (42.1%)	19 (3.8%)
Cannabis		Male	-	-	2 (100%)	11 (100%)	39 (95.1%)	52 (96.3%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	2 (4.9%)	2 (3.7%)
		Total	-	-	2 (3.7%)	11 (20.4%)	4 (75.9%)	54 (11.5%)
Alcohol		Male	-	-	1 (100%)	18 (100%)	71 (91%)	100 (93.5%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	7 (9%)	7 (6.5%)
		Total	-	-	11 (10.3%)	18 (16.8%)	78 (72.9%)	107 (22.8%)
Pharmaceuticals		Male	-	-	-	5 (100%)	15 (83.3%)	20 (87%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	3 (16.7%)	3 (13%)
		Total	-	-	-	5 (21.7%)	18 (78.3%)	23 (4.9%)
Unidentified substances		Male	-	-	-	-	2 (100%)	2 (100%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	-	2 (100%)	2 (0.4%)
Combination substance use		Male	-	-	1 (100%)	8 (100%)	51 (94.4%)	60 (95.2%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	3 (5.6%)	3 (4.8%)
		Total	-	-	1 (1.6%)	8 (12.7%)	54 (85.7%)	63 (13.4%)
Blood Selling		Male	-	-	-	6 (100%)	40 (97.6%)	46 (97.9%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	1 (2.4%)	1 (2.1%)
		Total	-	-	-	6 (12.8%)	41 (87.2%)	47 (10%)

Children and Youth of Street Living Families

Types of substances used and methods of intake. (Table L)

Substances/behaviors		Sex	Age range					Total
			0-8 years	9-11 years	12-15 years	16-18 years	19-25 years	
Glue (Solvents)		Male	-	3 (100%)	18 (90%)	9 (81.8%)	10 (100%)	40 (90.9%)
		Female	-	-	2 (10%)	2 (18.2%)	-	4 (9.1%)
		Total	-	3 (6.8%)	20 (45.5%)	11 (25%)	10 (22.7%)	44 (57.9%)
Methamphetamine use (Yama)	Inject	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Smoke	Male	-	1 (100%)	11 (100%)	9 (81.8%)	17 (94.4%)	38 (92.7%)
		Female	-	-	-	2 (18.2%)	1 (5.6%)	3 (7.3%)
		Total	-	1 (2.4%)	11 (26.8%)	11 (26.8%)	18 (43.9%)	41 (100%)
	Swallow	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Methamphetamine (Yama)		Male	-	1 (100%)	11 (100%)	9 (81.8%)	17 (94.4%)	38 (92.7%)
		Female	-	-	-	2 (18.2%)	1 (5.6%)	3 (7.3%)
		Total	-	1 (2.4%)	11 (26.8%)	11 (26.8%)	18 (43.9%)	41 (29.2%)
Crystal Methamphetamine (Yama Ice)	Snort	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Inject	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Smoke	Male	-	-	-	6 (100%)	9 (100%)	15 (100%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	6 (40%)	9 (60%)	15 (100%)
Total Crystal Methamphetamine (Yama Ice)		Male	-	-	-	6 (100%)	9 (100%)	15 (70.8%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	6 (40%)	9 (60%)	15 (70.8%)
Total Amphetamine Use (Yama+Yama Ice)		Male	-	1 (100%)	11 (100%)	15 (88.2%)	26 (96.2%)	53 (94.6%)
		Female	-	-	-	2 (11.8%)	1 (3.8%)	3 (5.4%)
		Total	-	1 (1.8%)	11 (19.6%)	17 (30.3%)	27 (48.3%)	56 (17.8%)
Heroin	Inject	Male	-	-	1 (100%)	-	1 (100%)	2 (100%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	1 (50%)	-	1 (50%)	2 (33.3%)
	Smoke	Male	-	-	-	1 (100%)	3 (100%)	4 (100%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	1 (4%)	3 (12%)	4 (66.7%)
Total Heroin Use		Male	-	-	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	4 (100%)	6 (100%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	1 (16.7%)	1 (16.7%)	4 (66.7%)	6 (7.9%)
Ketamine	snort	Male	-	-	-	-	1 (100%)	1 (100%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	-	1 (7.1%)	1 (50%)
	Swallow	Male	-	-	-	-	1 (100%)	1 (100%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	-	1 (100%)	1 (50%)
Total Ketamine Use		Male	-	-	-	2 (100%)	2 (100%)	
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	
		Total	-	-	-	2 (100%)	2 (2.6%)	
Cannabis		Male	-	-	-	-	3 (100%)	3 (100%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	-	3 (100%)	3 (3.9%)
Alcohol		Male	-	-	2 (100%)	3 (100%)	9 (100%)	14 (100%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	2 (14.3%)	3 (21.4%)	9 (64.3%)	14 (18.4%)
Pharmaceuticals		Male	-	-	1 (100%)	-	-	1 (100%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	1 (100%)	-	-	1 (1.3%)
Unidentified substances		Male	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Combination substance use		Male	-	-	-	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	2 (100%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	1 (50%)	1 (50%)	2 (2.6%)
Blood Selling		Male	-	-	-	-	2 (100%)	2 (100%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	-	2 (100%)	2 (2.6%)

Comments

Solvents (Glue):

Glue use has increased by one third in the lone population over 2005 and represents the largest increase in use within the whole target population. This is occurring most notably in the oldest age range (19-24 years) in males. Glue use in younger age ranges, which has maintained at a generally high but gradually reducing level since 1999, has continued to decrease.

Glue use has increased in children of street family's population by 7.4% over 2005, and is a reverse in the yearly trend. Use has grown particularly in the 12-15 and 19-23 age ranges in males.

Amphetamine Type Substances:

Amphetamine use has seen the highest levels within the lone population since establishing in 2000, and has continued to increase in 2006 (by 7.6%) to 81.2% of all substance use. Use has reduced in the female population (reversing a gradually developing trend), while use has grown most noticeably in the oldest age range.

Crystal Methamphetamine use is recorded for the first time in 2006 and represents 40% of all Methamphetamine use. Its increase in popularity has no doubt fuelled the increase in Methamphetamine use generally.

In the street family children group, Methamphetamine use has decreased by 30.6% over 2005 and represents a major trend reversal over 2005, which saw an increase in use of 23.4% over 2004.

Heroin:

Heroin use has reduced within the lone population for the first time since establishing in 2000, but injecting within the Heroin using group has increased significantly in both males and females and is now strongly established as the prime mode of intake.

Heroin use within the street family children and youth group had previously been extremely low (1.3%, 2005), but has multiplied 7 times, and now stands at 7.9%, of which one third of users are injecting. Heroin use remains exclusively male in this group.

Ketamine:

Ketamine has more than doubled in its use over 2005 in the lone population, and has established for the first time in the street family group.

Cannabis:

Cannabis use has almost doubled in use over 2005 in the lone population and maintains a gradual upward trend, and has tripled in use in the street family children group.

Alcohol:

Alcohol use has grown gradually throughout the years in the lone population, but its growth of 9.6% over 2005 is the highest increase in use since reporting began in 1999. It now represents 22.8% of all substance use and is moving in to the mainstream of the culture.

Alcohol use has been established within the street family children group for a number of years, and its upward trend has continued by 7% over 2005. Alcohol use is a major mind altering substance used within this population and linked to use and access within the family network (parents, etc). It is currently exclusive to males.

Pharmaceuticals:

Pharmaceutical use has increased marginally over 2005 in the lone group, but has reduced in the female population. Pharmaceutical use has remained at the same level (1.3%) within the street family group.

Unidentified substances:

Substances not identified via descriptions from interviewees represent 0.4% of total substance use within the lone group, while 100% identification occurred in the street family group.

Combination Substance Use:

The mixing of substances for use has more than doubled over 2005 in the lone group, and reflects a trend across the whole substance using population. Mixed use has appeared for the first time in the street family group with a frequency among substance users of 2.6%.

Blood Selling:

Blood selling has decreased in this group over 2005, but lone street youth continue to be most likely to sell blood within the overall target population.

Only 2 youths, representing 2.6% of the substance using street family group, disclosed blood selling to generate income.

Street Working Children and Youth

Street Working Children/youth in regular contact with home/family (Table M)

	Sex	0-8Years	9-11 Years	12-15Years	16-18Years	19-25Years	Total
Using Substances (Total)	Boys	-	13 (76.5%)	38 (92.7%)	55 (93.2%)	127 (86.4%)	233 (88.3%)
	Girls	-	4 (23.5%)	3 (7.3%)	4 (6.8%)	20 (13.6%)	31 (11.7%)
	Total	-	17 (6.4%)	41 (15.5%)	5 (22.3%)	147 (55.7%)	264 (26.4%)
Using 1 Substance	Boys	-	5 (62.5%)	25 (89.3%)	22 (91.7%)	44 (84.6%)	96 (85.7%)
	Girls	-	3 (37.5%)	3 (10.7%)	2 (8.3%)	8 (15.4%)	16 (14.3%)
	Total	-	8 (7.1%)	28 (25%)	24 (21.4%)	52 (46.4%)	112 (42.4%)
Using 2 Substances	Boys	-	6 (85.7%)	9 (100%)	23 (95.8%)	56 (84.8%)	94 (88.7%)
	Girls	-	1 (14.3%)	-	1 (4.2%)	10 (15.2%)	12 (11.3%)
	Total	-	7 (6.6%)	9 (8.5%)	24 (22.6%)	66 (62.3%)	106 (40.1%)
Using 3 Substances	Boys	-	2 (100%)	2 (100%)	8 (88.9%)	22 (91.7%)	34 (91.9%)
	Girls	-	-	-	1 (11.1%)	2 (8.3%)	3 (8.1%)
	Total	-	2 (5.4%)	2 (5.4%)	9 (24.3%)	24 (64.9%)	37 (14%)
Using 4 Substances	Boys	-	-	2 (100%)	2 (100%)	5 (100%)	9 (100%)
	Girls	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	2 (22.2%)	2 (22.2%)	5 (55.6%)	9 (4%)
Using 5 Substances	Boys	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Girls	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Using 6 Substances	Boys	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Girls	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-

Comments:

Substance use is shown to have almost halved over 2005 (when at 49.78%), and stands at 26.4% of the street working children and youth population. Reductions are apparent in every age group except the oldest age group.

The level of substance use within the female population has increased over 2005.

The factors mentioned previously in this report that have prompted major changes in substance use behavior and access to substance using youth has had a major effect on results in this group.

Street Working Children and Youth

Types of substances used and method of intake (Table N)

Substances/behaviors		Sex	Age range					Total
			0-8 years	9-11 years	12-15 years	16-18 years	19-25 years	
Glue (Solvents)		Male	1 (100%)	9 (81.8%)	31 (91.2%)	26 (89.7%)	29 (85.3%)	96 (88.1%)
		Female	-	2 (18.2%)	3 (8.8%)	3 (10.3%)	5 (14.7%)	13(11.9%)
		Total	1 (0.9%)	11 (10.1%)	34 (31.2%)	29 (26.6%)	34 (31.2%)	109 (41.3%)
Methamphetamine use (Yama)	Inject	Male	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Smoke	Male	-	6 (100%)	12 (92.3%)	28 (96.6%)	78 (85.7%)	124 (88.6%)
		Female	1 (100%)	-	1 (7.7%)	1 (3.4%)	13 (14.3%)	16(11.4%)
		Total	1 (0.7%)	6 (4.3%)	13 (9.3%)	29 (20.7%)	91 (65%)	140 (96.6%)
	Swallow	Male	-	-	-	1 (100%)	4 (100%)	5 (100%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	1 (20%)	4 (80%)	5 (3.4%)
Total Methamphetamine (Yama)		Male	-	6 (100%)	12 (92.3%)	29 (96.7%)	82 (86.3%)	129 (89%)
		Female	1 (100%)	-	1 (7.7%)	1 (3.3%)	13 (13.7%)	16 (11%)
		Total	1 (0.7%)	6 (4.1%)	13 (9%)	30(20.7%)	95 (65.5%)	145 (58.4%)
Crystal Methamphetamine (Yama Ice)	Snort	Male	-	-	-	2 (100%)	1 (100%)	3 (100%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	2 (66.7%)	1 (33.3%)	3 (2.9%)
	Inject	Male	-	-	-	1 (100%)	-	1 (100%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	1 (100%)	-	1 (1%)
	Smoke	Male	-	3 (100%)	7 (100%)	21 (100%)	62 (92.5%)	93 (93.9%)
		Female	1 (100%)	-	-	-	5 (7.5%)	6 (6.1%)
		Total	1 (1%)	3 (3%)	7 (7.1%)	21 (21.2%)	67 (67.7%)	99 (96.1%)
Total Crystal Methamphetamine (Yama Ice)		Male	-	3 (100%)	7 (100%)	24 (100%)	63 (92.6%)	97 (94.2%)
		Female	1 (100%)	-	-	-	5 (7.4%)	6 (5.8%)
		Total	1 (1%)	3 (2.9%)	7 (6.8%)	24 (23.3%)	68 (66%)	103 (41.6%)
Total Amphetamine Use (Yama+Yama Ice)		Male	-	9 (100%)	19 (95%)	53 (98.1%)	145 (88.9%)	226 (91.1%)
		Female	2 (100%)	-	1 (5%)	1 (1.9%)	18 (11.1%)	22 (8.9%)
		Total	2 (0.8%)	9 (3.6%)	20 (8%)	54 (21.7%)	163 (65.9%)	248 (24.8%)
Heroin	Inject	Male	-	-	1 (100%)	2 (66.7%)	11 (84.6%)	14 (82.4%)
		Female	-	-	-	1 (33.3%)	2 (15.4%)	3 (17.6%)
		Total	-	-	1 (5.9%)	3 (17.6%)	13 (76.5%)	17 (48.6%)
	Smoke	Male	-	-	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	16 (100%)	18 (100%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	1 (5.6%)	1 (5.6%)	16 (88.9%)	18 (51.4%)
Total Heroin Use		Male	-	-	2 (100%)	3 (75%)	27 (93.1%)	32 (91.4%)
		Female	-	-	-	1 (25%)	2 (6.9%)	3 (8.6%)
		Total	-	-	2 (5.7%)	4 (11.4%)	29 (82.9%)	35 (13.3%)
Ketamine	snort	Male	-	-	-	-	3 (75%)	3 (75%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	1 (25%)	1 (25%)
		Total	-	-	-	-	4 (100%)	4 (57.1%)
	Swallow	Male	-	-	-	-	2 (66.7%)	2 (66.7%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	1 (33.3%)	1 (33.3%)
		Total	-	-	-	-	3 (100%)	3 (42.9%)
Total Ketamine Use		Male	-	-	-	-	5(71.4%)	5 (71.4%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	2 (28.6%)	2 (28.6%)
		Total	-	-	-	-	7 (100%)	7 (2.7%)
Cannabis		Male	-	-	2 (00%)	6 (100%)	16 (80%)	24 (85.7%)
		Female	-	-	-	-	4 (20%)	4 (14.3%)
		Total	-	-	2 (7.1%)	6 (21.4%)	20 (71.4%)	28 (10.6%)
Alcohol		Male	-	2 (100%)	15 (83.3%)	27 (84.4%)	56 (82.4%)	100 (83.3%)
		Female	-	0(0%)	3 (16.7%)	5 (15.6%)	12 (17.6%)	20 (16.7%)
		Total	-	2 (1.7%)	18 (15%)	32 (26.7%)	68 (56.7%)	120 (45.5%)
Pharmaceuticals		Male	-	1 (100%)	5 (100%)	6 (85.7%)	4 (50%)	16 (76.2%)
		Female	-	0(0%)	-	1 (14.3%)	4 (50%)	5 (23.8%)
		Total	-	1 (4.8%)	5 (23.8%)	7 (33.3%)	8 (38.1%)	21 (8%)
Unidentified substances		Male	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Female	-	-	-	-	-	-
		Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Combination substance use		Male	-	2 (100%)	2 (100%)	8 (88.9%)	23 (85.2%)	35 (87.5%)
		Female	-	-	-	1 (11.1%)	4 (14.8%)	5 (12.5%)
		Total	-	2 (5%)	2 (5%)	9 (22.5%)	27 (67.5%)	40 (15.2%)
Blood Selling		Male	-	-	1 (100%)	5 (83.3%)	10 (90.9%)	16 (88.9%)
		Female	-	-	-	1 (16.7%)	1 (9.1%)	2 (11.1%)
		Total	-	-	1 (5.6%)	6 (33.3%)	11 (61.1%)	18 (6.8%)

Comments

Solvents (Glue):

Glue use in this population has increased by 7.6% over 2005, a reversal in the trend of a gradual move away from glue to Methamphetamine use over previous years. Glue use has increased in most age ranges but has more than doubled in the oldest age group, again a major trend reversal.

Glue use has also more than doubled in the female population across all age ranges. As with males, the greatest increase is in the oldest age group.

Methamphetamine:

Methamphetamine use has halved in this population group over 2005, once again a major trend reversal over previous years. It appears that much of the reduction in methamphetamine use has been compensated by increases in other substances (often multiple uses).

Methamphetamine use has continued to increase in the oldest age group (by 6.72 over 2005), but in all other age groups has reduced significantly which suggests a financial element to the situation as Methamphetamine use increased in price significantly in the first half of 2006.

Methamphetamine use has reduced overall in the female population, though it has increased in the oldest age range. Of particular concern is that it has appeared in the youngest age range of females for the first time.

Heroin:

Heroin use has remained comparative in use over 2005. Use has become more concentrated in the oldest age range. Its appearance within the 12-15 age range is concerning.

Heroin use has become more prevalent in the female population, particularly in the oldest age range.

Injecting Heroin use is reported to have reduced by 19% over 2005 (a major trend reversal), though it has increased in the oldest age range.

Injecting among female Heroin users has increased by a factor of 8 plus over 2005, and is of significant concern.

Ketamine:

Ketamine use has increased by two-thirds over 2005, but remains a substance in limited use at this time.

Cannabis:

Cannabis use has doubled over 2005, and has increased across all age ranges.

Alcohol:

Use of Alcohol has increased by more than three times over 2005 and has now become a significant mind altering substance used by street working children and youth (45% of substance use within this population is now Alcohol).

The increase in Alcohol consumption has factored around the 9-19 age range and has actually reduced in the oldest age group generally, though it has grown significantly in the oldest age range in females.

Alcohol use among females has increased from 5.77% comparative use in 2005, to 16.7% in 2006.

Pharmaceuticals:

Pharmaceutical drug abuse has increased by 2.5 times over 2005 and now stands at 8% of all substance use. Pharmaceuticals appear most likely to be used within this population group, though it has reduced significantly in the female population.

Unidentified Substances:

All substances described by this population were identified by interviewers.

Combination Substance Use:

Combination use of substances has increased by 5 times over 2005 and reflects major behavior changes in substance use over 2005. Combination use has become particularly prevalent in the older male and female age ranges.

Blood selling:

The selling of blood for income has increased in this population over 2005.

Conclusions

The results of this 2006 survey strongly indicate major behavior changes activity within the substance use culture. A range of factors have come in to play that can have contributed to these changes, such as the significant increase in the cost of illicit substances.

The increase in cost of substances such as Methamphetamine and Heroin has lead to significant levels of multiple uses as users have sought alternative substances to attempt to meet their needs. The increase in Glue use, which had previously steadily decreased from its overwhelming dominance in 1999, is a graphic example of substance using youth reaching out for a cheaper and more readily available substance as preferred substances have become less consistently available to them. Alcohol use has also moved into the mainstream for the first time with street children and youth, possibly for the same reasons.

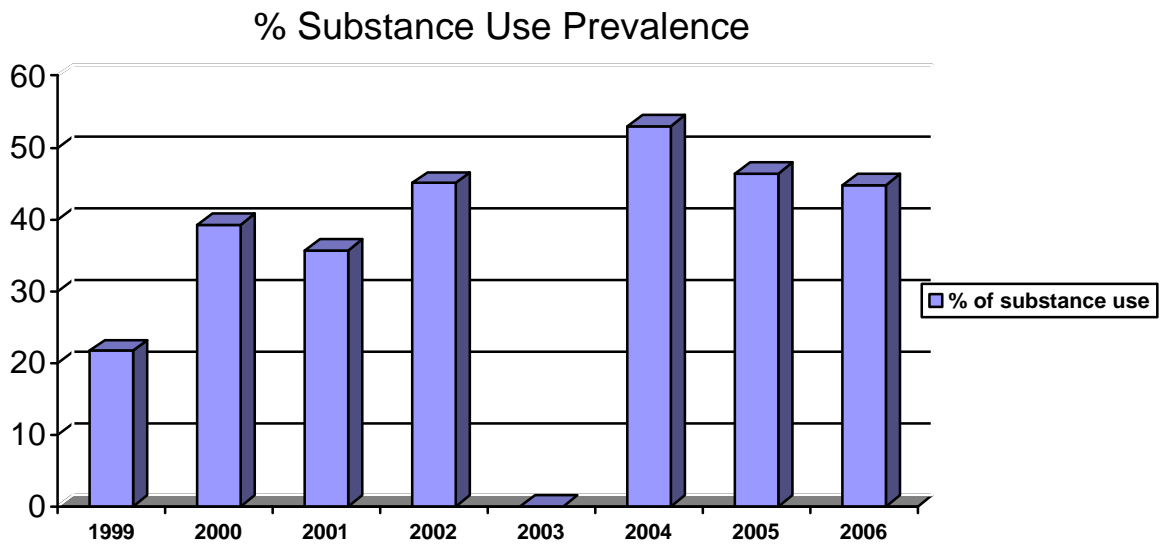
The reduced affordability and therefore use of substances such as Heroin has lead to intake method changes that have the potential to reduce risk, such as less injecting. However, the increased costs might also have lead to increased needle/syringe sharing as users have prioritized drug purchase over new needles and syringes and personal safety. Therefore the need to make new needles and syringes more available has potentially become more necessary.

The increase in substance use in certain areas with younger children and with female populations is a concern and it is vital to reach these groups with effective prevention initiatives.

The significant activities of the Authorities against street people, and in particular substance using street people has also had a potential effect on substance use behavior and the results of this survey (injecting use in particular) and contributed to its unpredictability. Of greater concern is the anxiety of drug users due to fear of incarceration and the resulting difficulty to reach this already hard-to-reach population.

Appendix I

Prevalence of Substance Use from 1999



Appendix II

Substance Type prevalence since 2004

