

# Montreal CCENDU Report

## Highlights 2004<sup>1</sup>

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This is the fifth report developed for the Montreal site, the last being in 2000. In Montreal, 20-24 year olds were the highest risk group for alcohol dependency, at 5.8%. In this age group, 8.4% of men had a high risk of alcohol dependency, making them a priority target for intervention.

#### Prevalence

In 2001, 2% of Montrealers had a high risk of alcohol dependency, putting them above the provincial average (1.5%). In Montreal, 20-24 years old were the highest risk group, at 5.8%. In this age group, 8.4% of men had a high risk of alcohol dependency, making them a priority target for intervention. The 20 to 24 year olds are the age group that drinks excessively the most (five glasses or more per occasion) at a percentage of 65.6% (75.3% for men and 57% for women). Nearly half of Montreal's street kids (46.7%) are probably alcoholics, a very high percentage compared to all Montreal young people, 5% of whom have a risk of alcohol dependency (15 to 24 year olds). Almost all (96%) of Montreal's street kids use drugs.

#### Enforcement

The number of arrests made by the *Service de police de la ville de Montréal* (SPVM) for drinking and driving dropped steadily from 2,740 in 2000 to 2,300 in 2003. There was also a decline in the number of indictments. Cannabis alone represents more than half of the arrests in Montreal for possession of narcotics (1,371 arrests out of a total of 2,033 in 2003). In Montreal, cannabis and cocaine represent more than three quarters of the arrests for narcotics trafficking. There is an upward trend in the number of detentions for possession of drugs, from 381 in 2000 to 453 in 2003.

#### Treatment

On average in 2002 and 2003, one-third of clients in alcohol and drug abuse treatment centres reported that it was their alcohol use that made them seek treatment; another third reported it was their illicit drug use, and the

last third, their multiple addictions. From 1999 to 2002, the number of clients in methadone maintenance programs has increased in Montreal and these programs include twice as many men as women.

#### Morbidity

Every year, there are nearly 11,500 hospitalizations in Montreal for diagnoses (primary and secondary) connected with psychotropic substance use: (8,000 for alcohol, 2,000 for illicit drugs and 1,500 for licit/illicit drugs).

#### Mortality

Approximately 550 deaths in Montreal are directly attributable to psychotropic substance use, not including car accident deaths (253 for alcohol, 117 for illicit drugs and 178 for licit/illicit drugs). Of all the Montreal drivers killed in car accidents, whose blood-alcohol level the coroner had analyzed, nearly one-third had consumed alcohol and 27% had a blood-alcohol level above the legal limit. In Montreal, cocaine is the most frequently identified substance in cases of fatal accidental drug poisoning, at 76%, followed by heroin or morphine (53%). According to available data, the number of cases has been dropping since the introduction of special programs.

#### HIV/AIDS /Hep C

In Montreal, it is estimated that one person in five with HIV or AIDS uses injection drugs. The number of visits to sterile injection equipment access centres in Montreal increased by nearly 25% in the last five years, from about 50,000 to about 62,000, while the number of syringes distributed free of charge went from about 770,000 to 790,000. Finally, the percentage

of syringes recovered at sterile injection equipment access centres in Montreal dropped 11.1%, from 86.4% of syringes recovered in 1999 to 75.3% in 2003.



<sup>1</sup> Source: Vaugois, P. (2004). Portrait de la consommation de psychotropes à Montréal. Montréal: Comité permanent de lutte à la toxicomanie.

Full report on the CPLR website:  
[http://www.cplt.com/publications/Portrait de la consommationVFW.pdf](http://www.cplt.com/publications/Portrait%20de%20la%20consommationVFW.pdf)