

Substance Use and Gender Issues in the Americas



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Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)
Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID)



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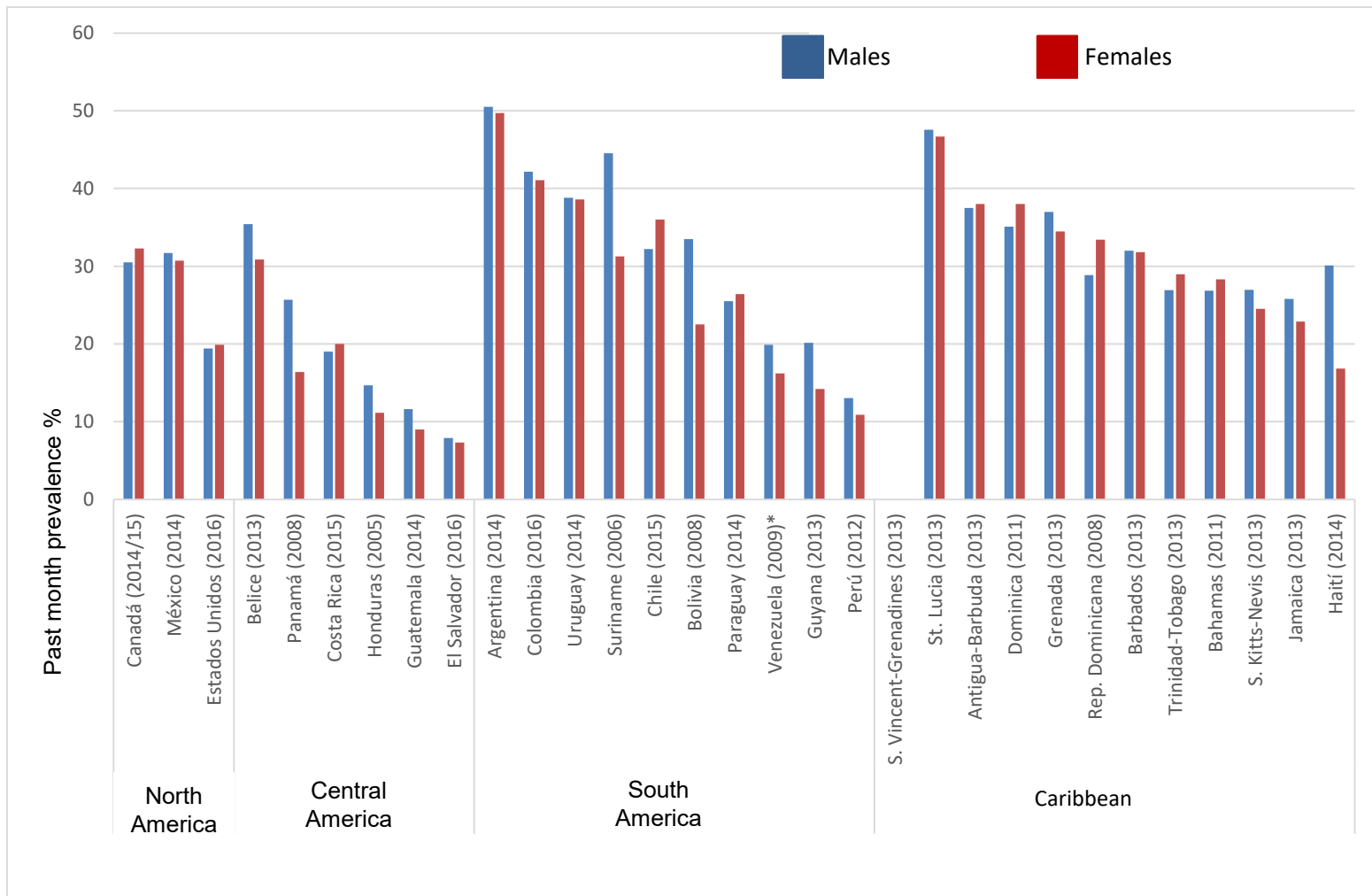
The Inter-American Observatory on Drugs (OID)

- The research and analysis branch of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD),
 - Technical commission of the Organization of American States (OAS)
- Mission to create a drug information system for the American Hemisphere that is reliable, valid and up-to-date.

Alcohol use among high school students has declined over time, however

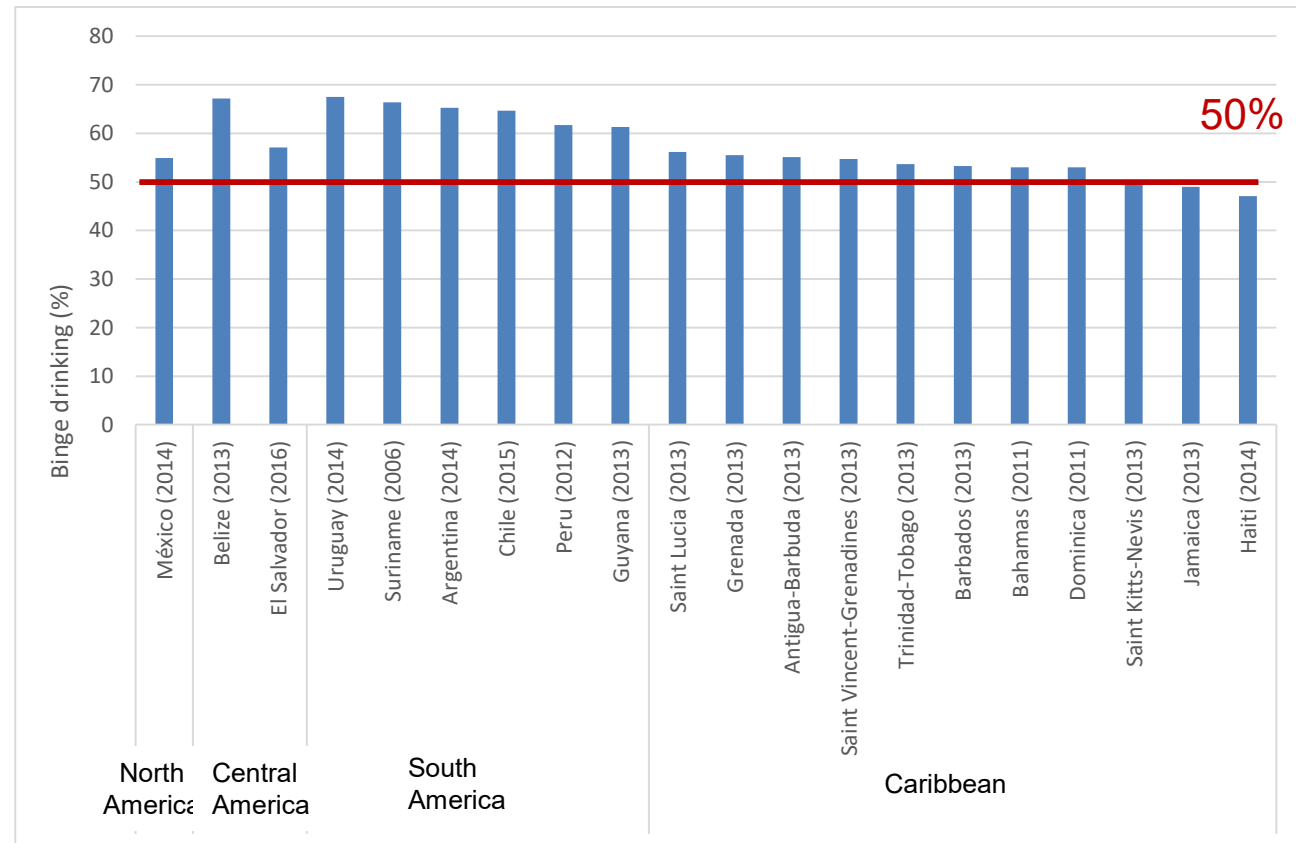
- In 21 of 31 countries, secondary school students 20% or more have used alcohol in the past month
- In 15 countries, more than 30% have
- Use among 8th graders
 - In 10 countries over 20% past month
 - In 3 countries over 30% of 8th graders
- Gender: Male and female prevalence similar in Latin America
- In approximately half of Caribbean countries, girls use alcohol at higher rates than boys

Past month prevalence of alcohol use among high school students by sex and by sub-region



Binge drinking

- Binge drinking: In 17 out of 20 countries that collect this data - 50% of high school students binge drink.
- In USA 54.6% of high school girls who used in the past month reported binge drinking.



Binge drinking = Past month users only, 5 drinks or more in a single setting (within the 2 weeks prior to survey).

Marijuana



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Past year prevalence of marijuana use in the general population (12-64 years), by sex



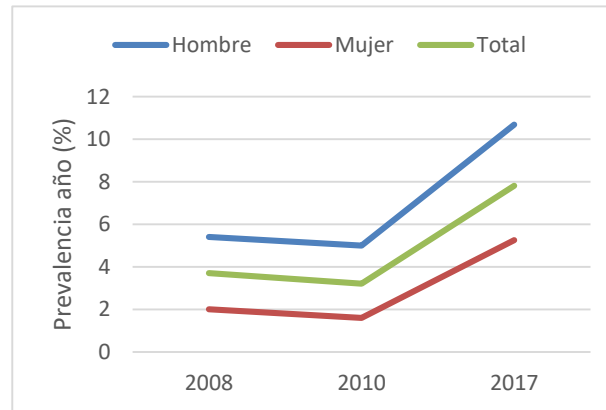
Males



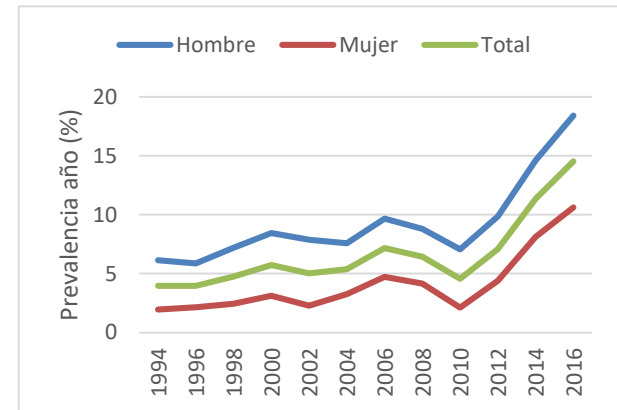
Females

- Increases in both males and females
- Use remains higher among males

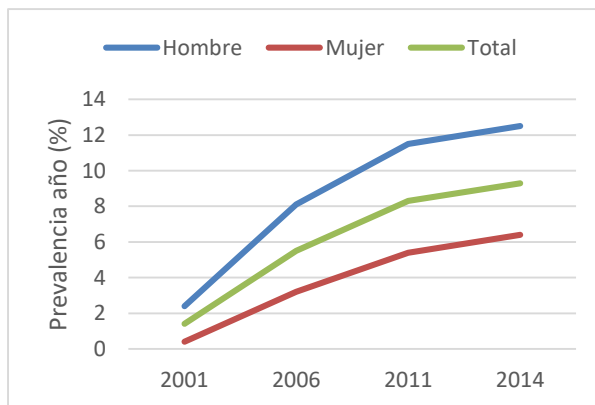
Argentina



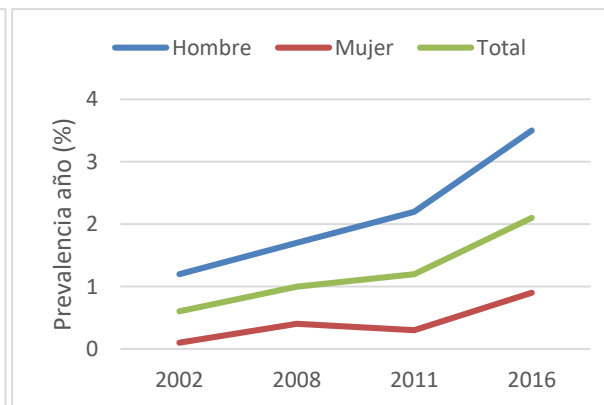
Chile



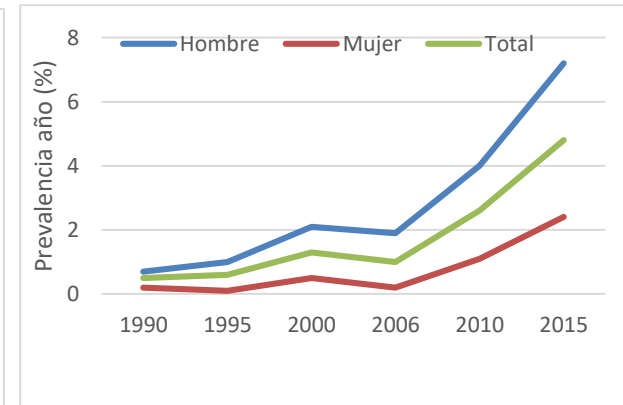
Costa Rica



Mexico



Uruguay



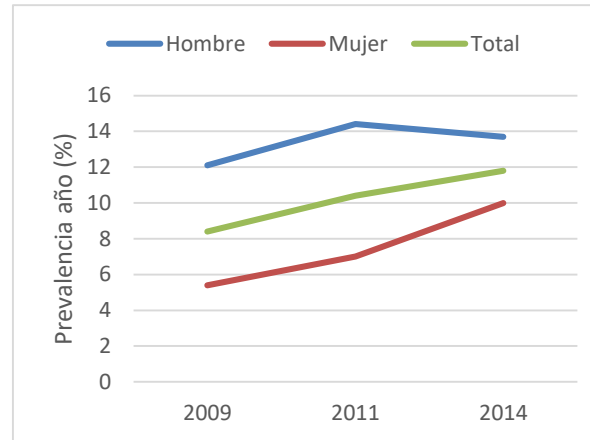
Past year prevalence of marijuana use among high school students



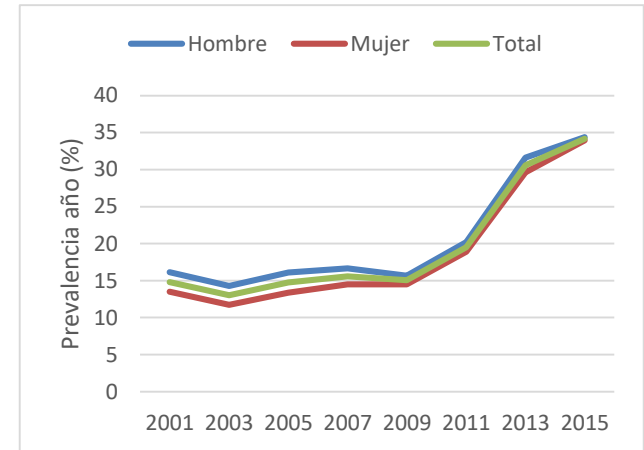
Note difference in scales

- Increases in both males and females
- Gender gap decreasing

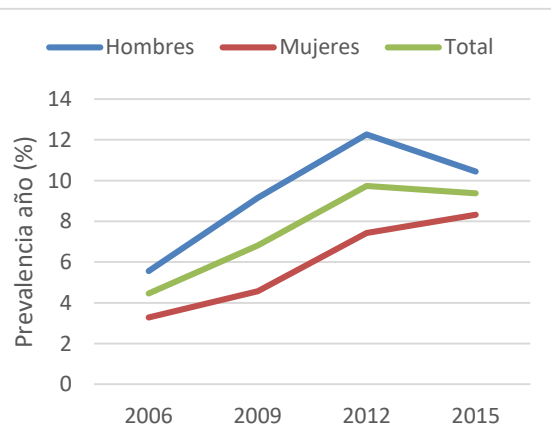
Argentina



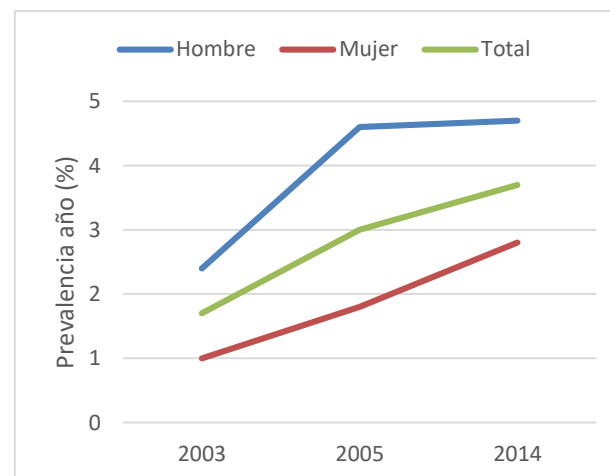
Chile



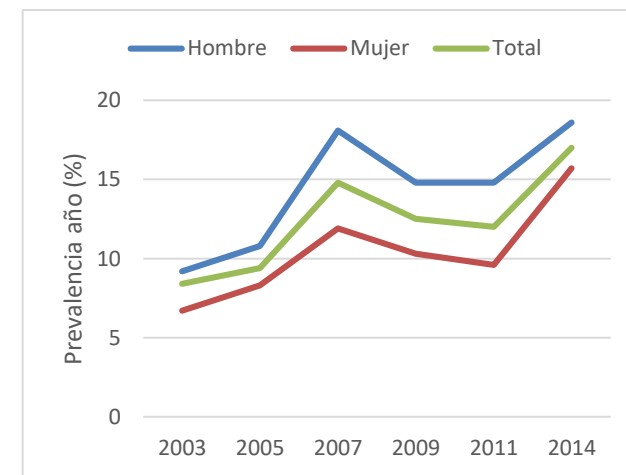
Costa Rica



Paraguay



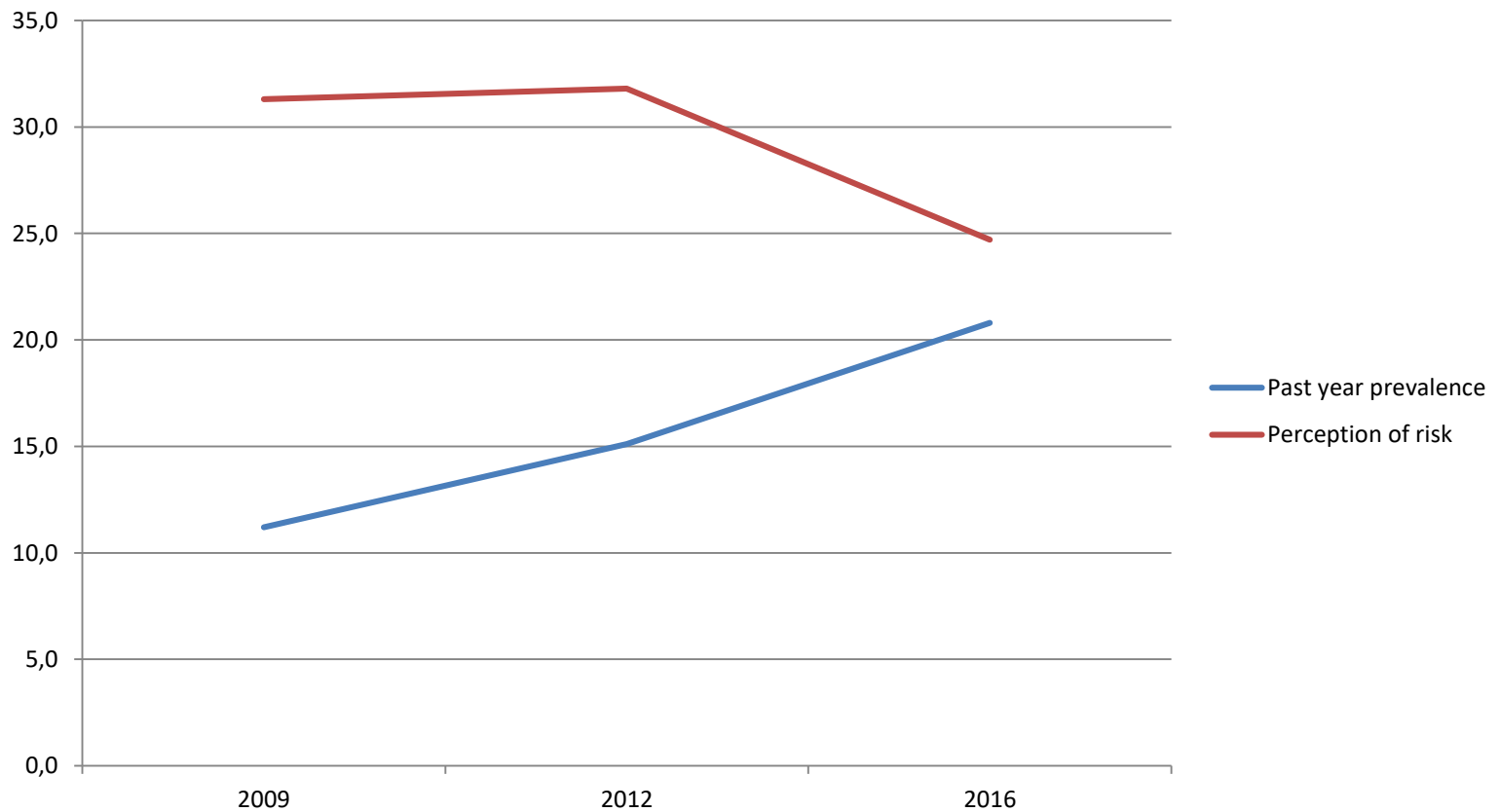
Uruguay



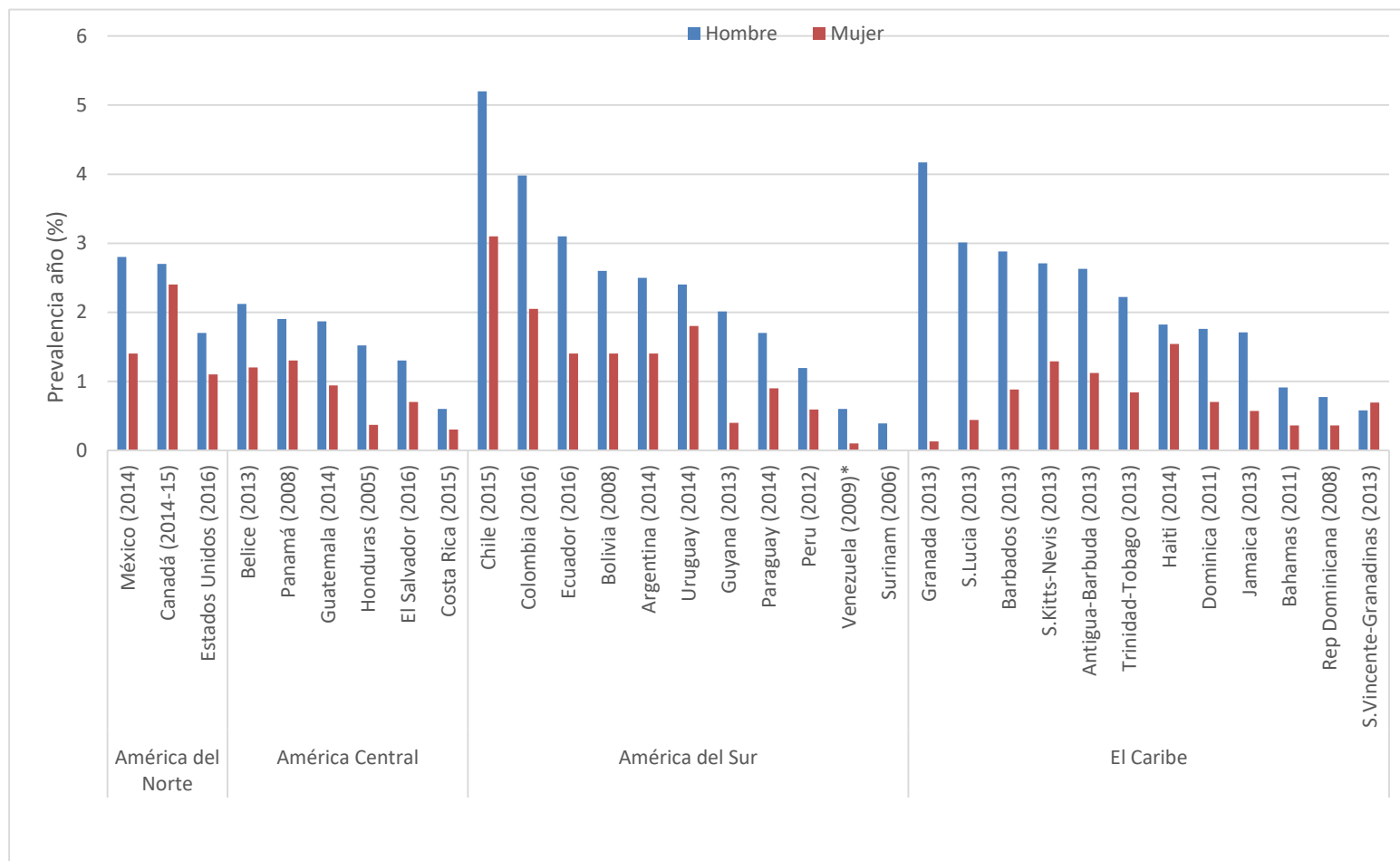


Perception of Risk

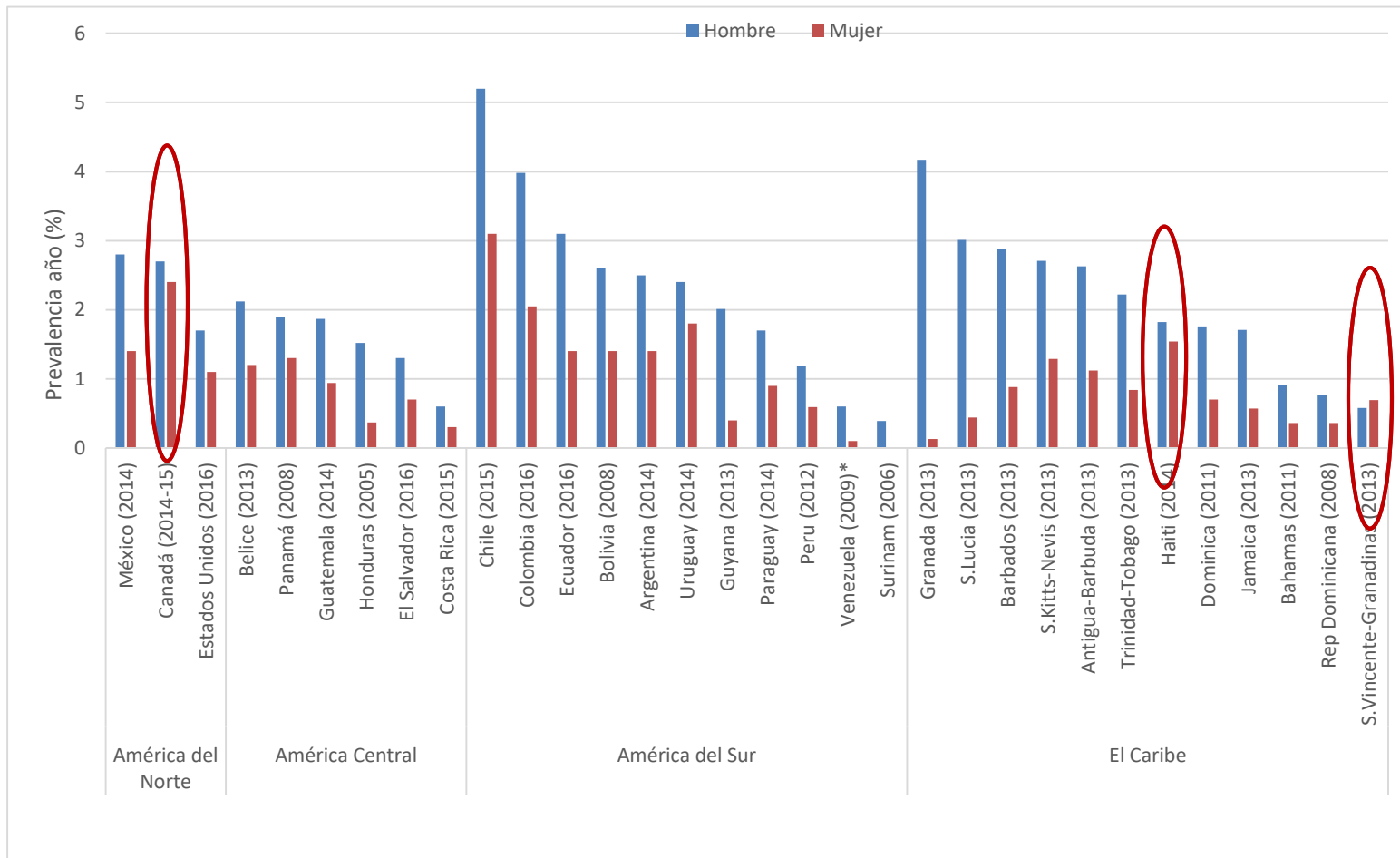
As risk perception decreases, prevalence increases



Past year prevalence of cocaine use among high school students, by sex, and sub-region



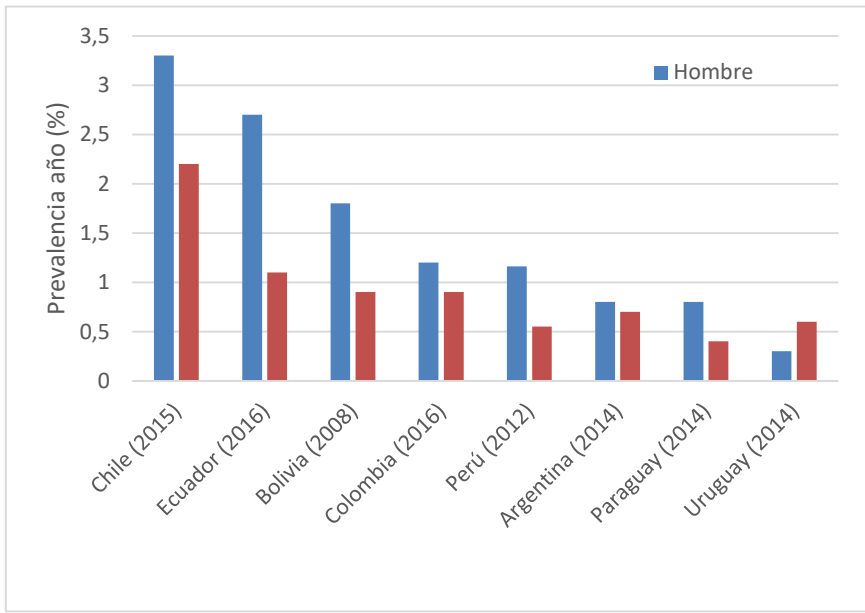
Past year prevalence of cocaine use among high school students, by sex, and sub-region



Crack and other smokable cocaine

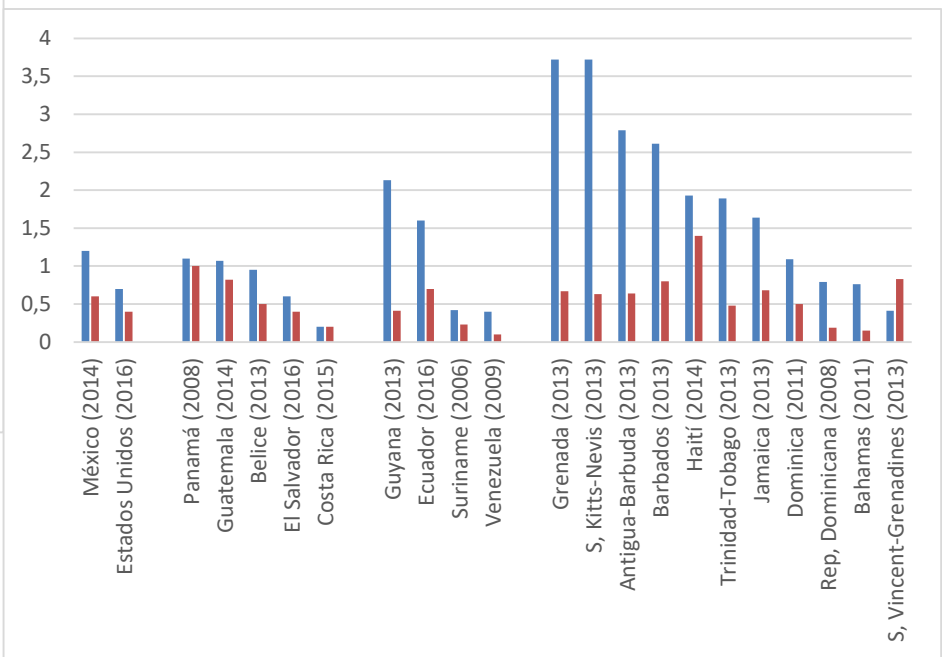


prevalence of **cocaine base** use among high school students by sex and subregion



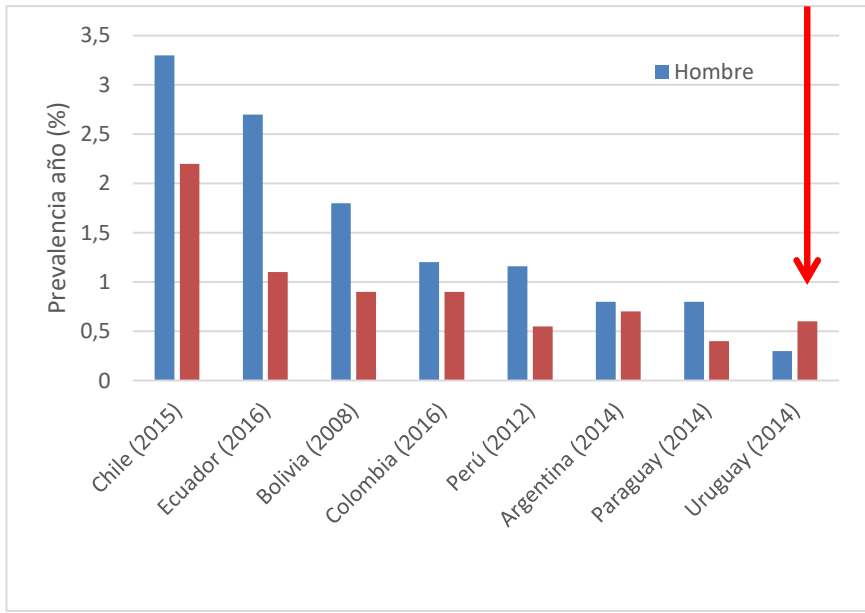
■ Females
■ Males



Lifetime prevalence of **crack** use among high school students by sex and subregion



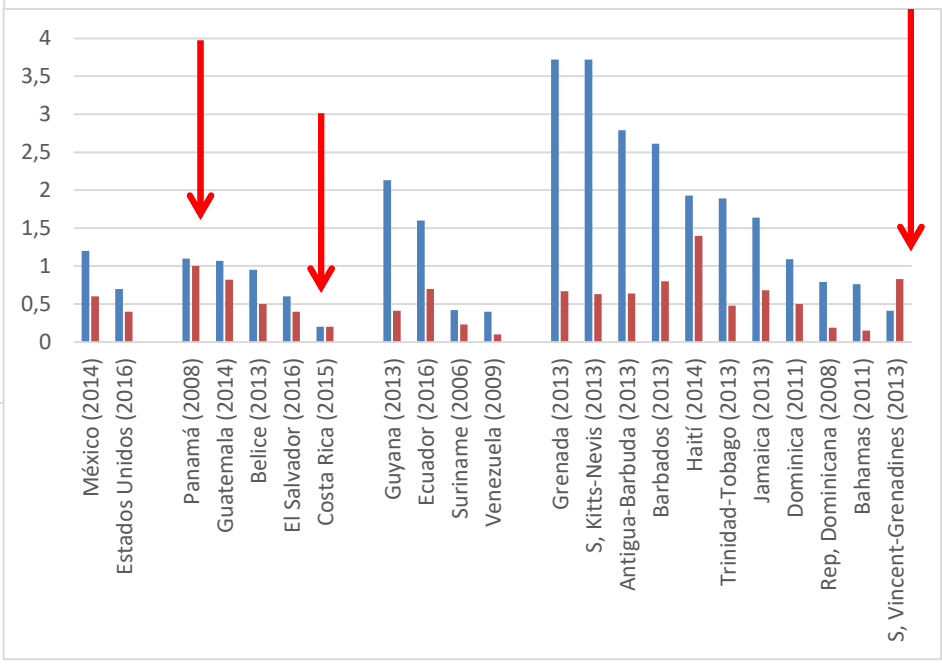
Crack and other smokable cocaine

prevalence of **cocaine base** use among high school students by sex and subregion

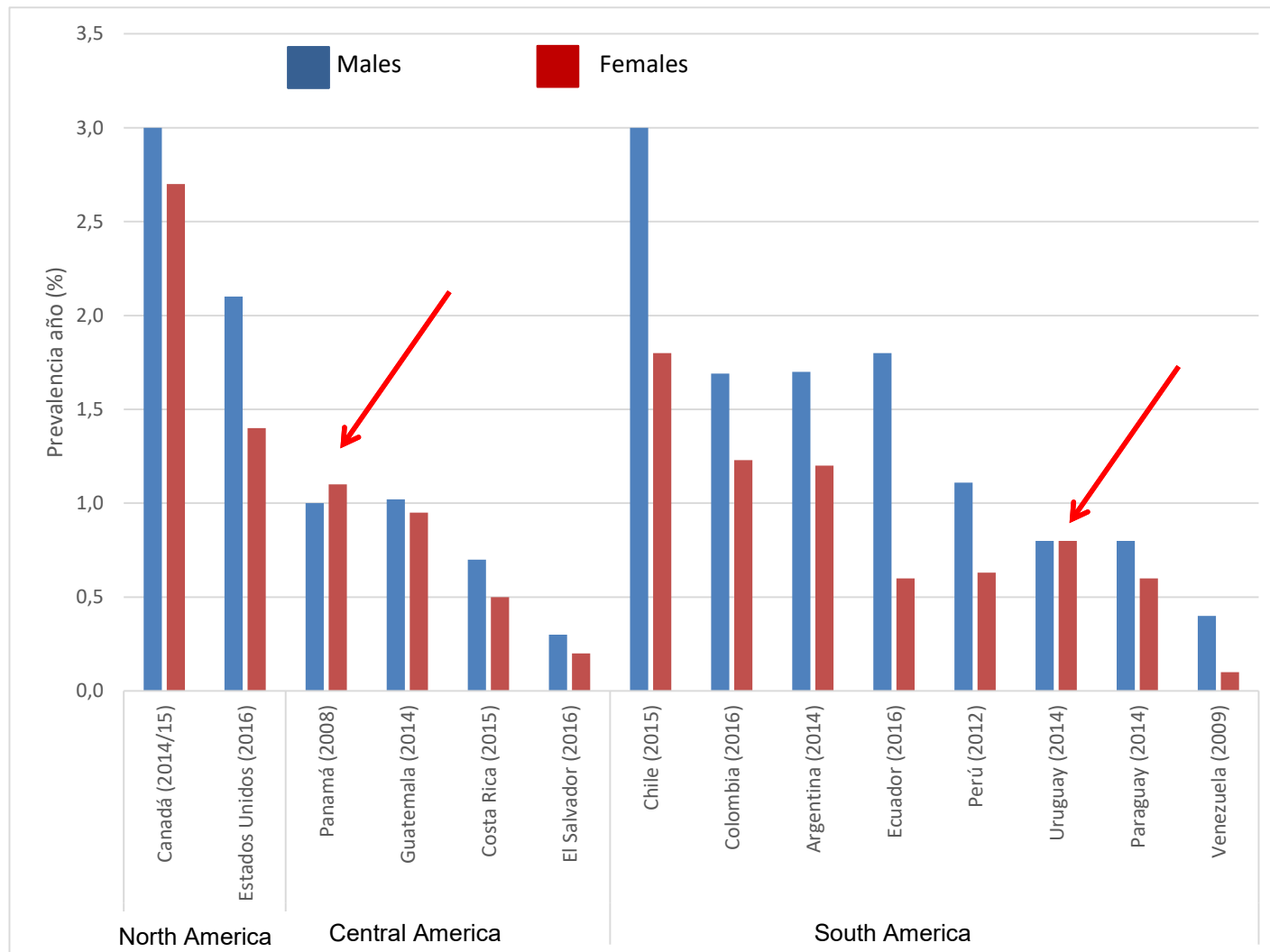


 Females
 Males

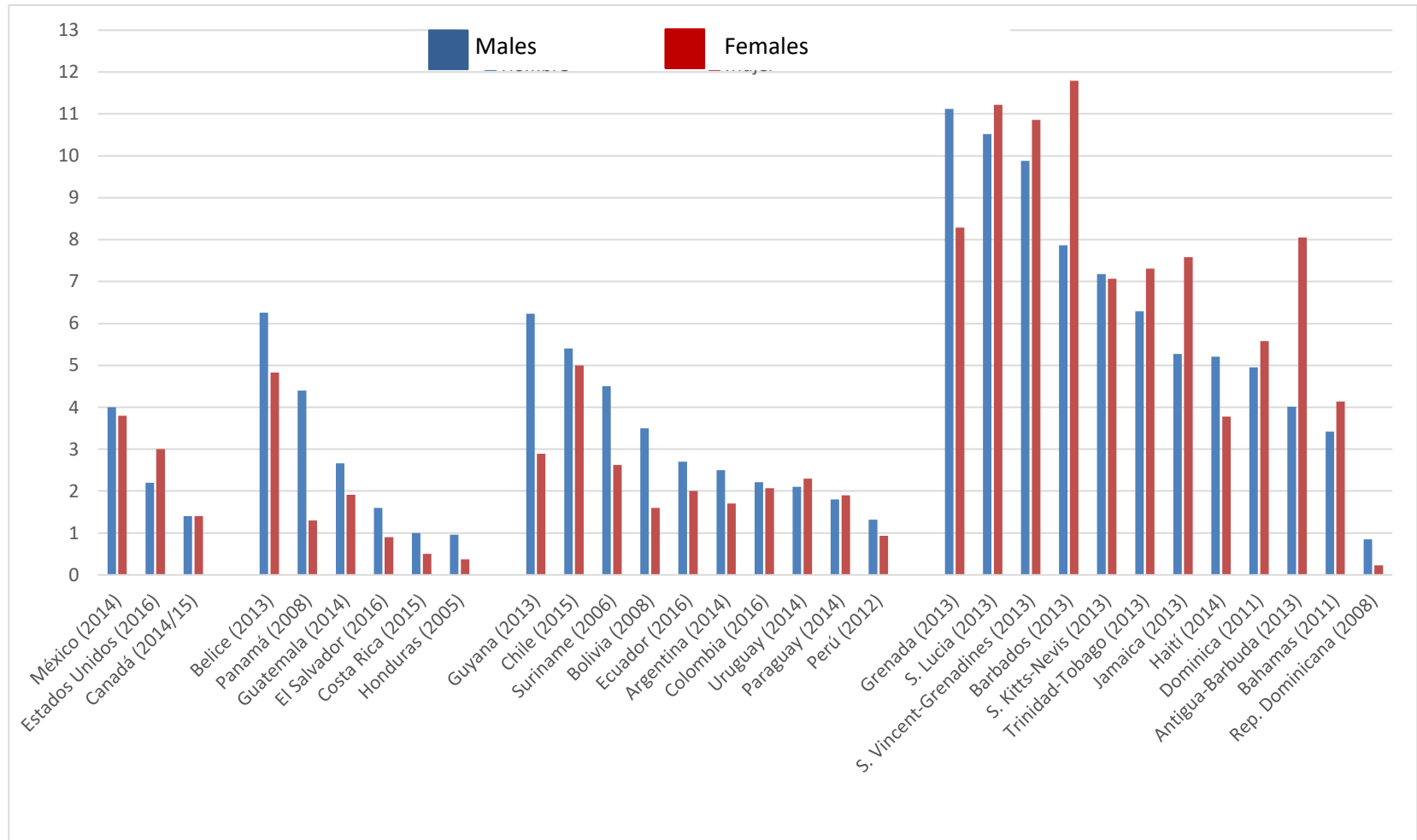
Lifetime prevalence of **crack** use among high school students by sex and subregion



Past year prevalence of “éxtasis” in high school students by sex and subregion.



Past year prevalence of inhalant use among high school students, by sex, country and subregion



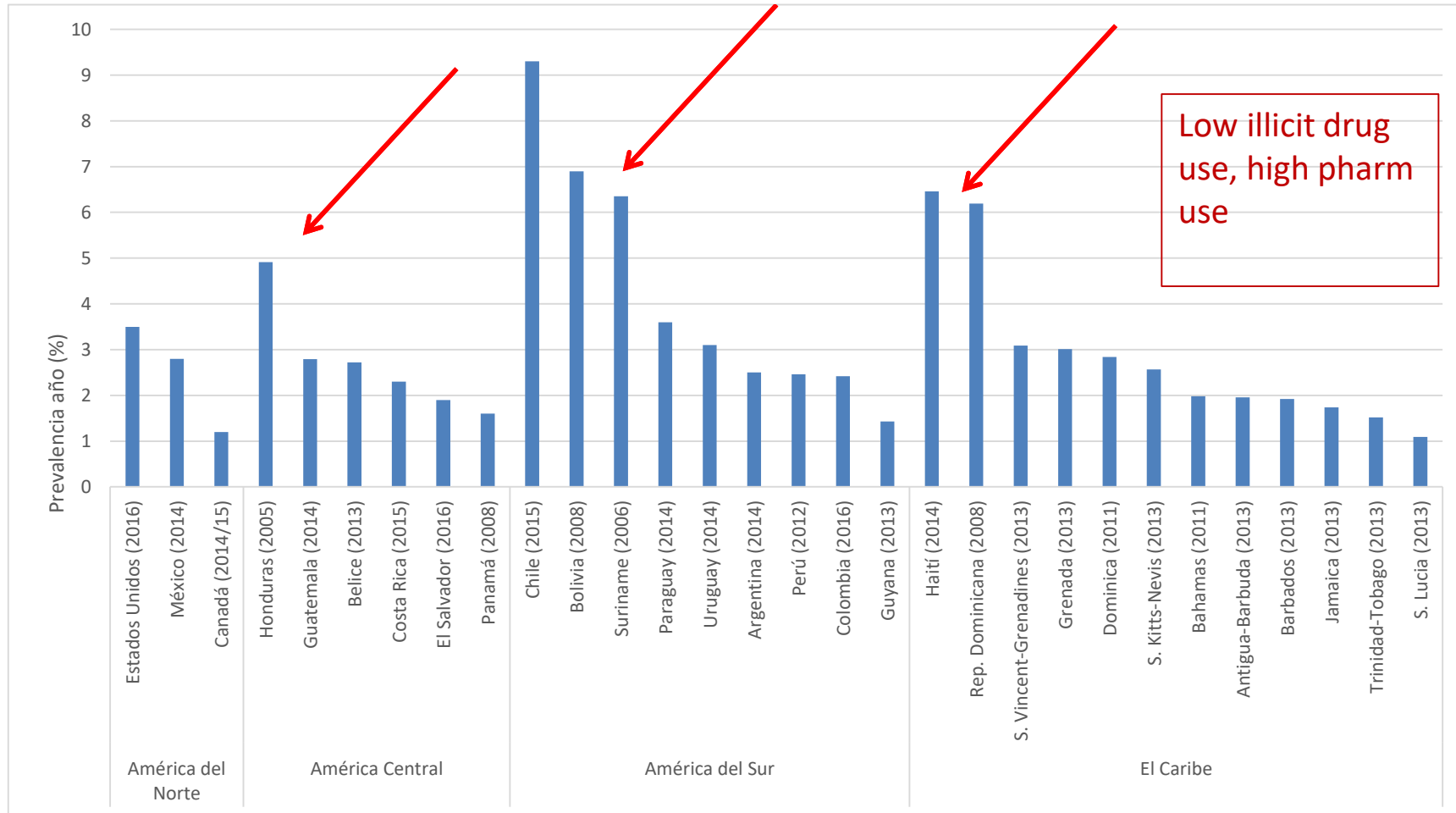
Pharmaceutical misuse



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Past year prevalence of **tranquilizers** without medical prescription, high school students, by country and subregion



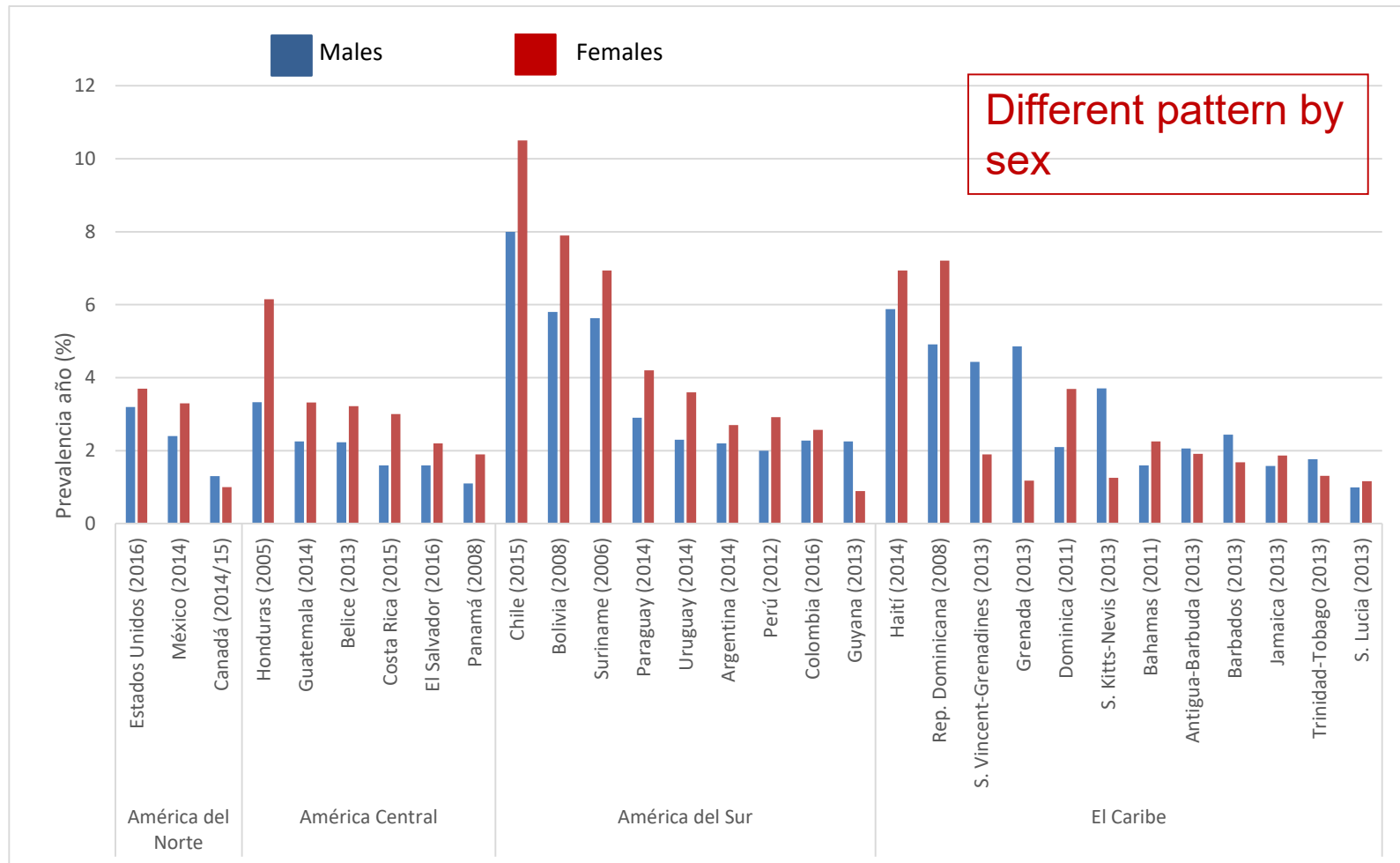
Pharmaceutical misuse



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Gráfico 7-5: Prevalencia de último año de consumo de tranquilizantes en estudiantes de **enseñanza secundaria** según sexo, por país, ordenado por subregión



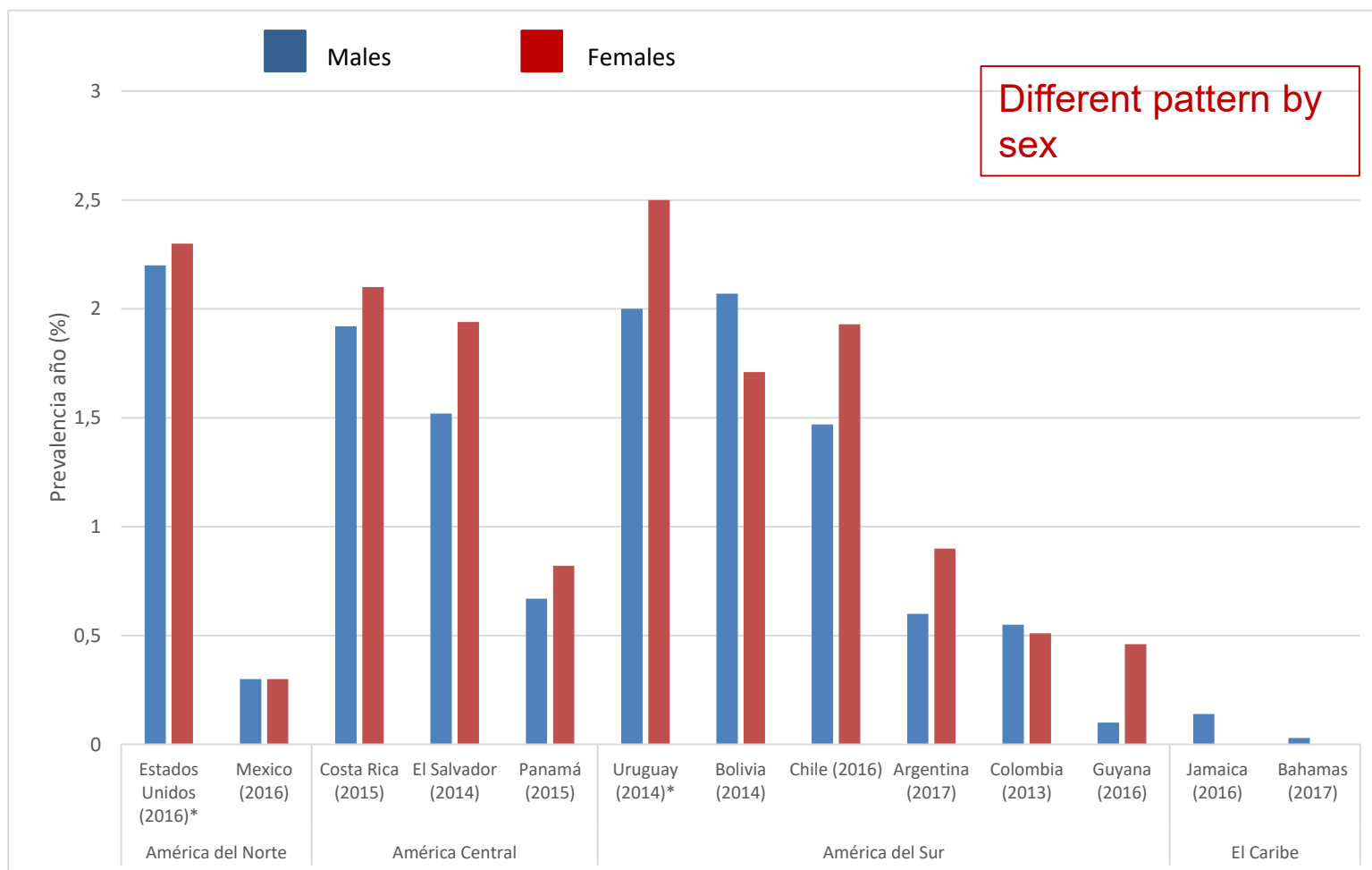
Pharmaceutical misuse



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Past year prevalence of tranquilizer use without medical prescription in the **general population** by sex, country, and subregion



Pharmaceutical misuse



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Gráfico 7-8: Prevalencia de último año de consumo de tranquilizantes sin prescripción médica en estudiantes universitarios según sexo y total, por país, ordenado por subregión

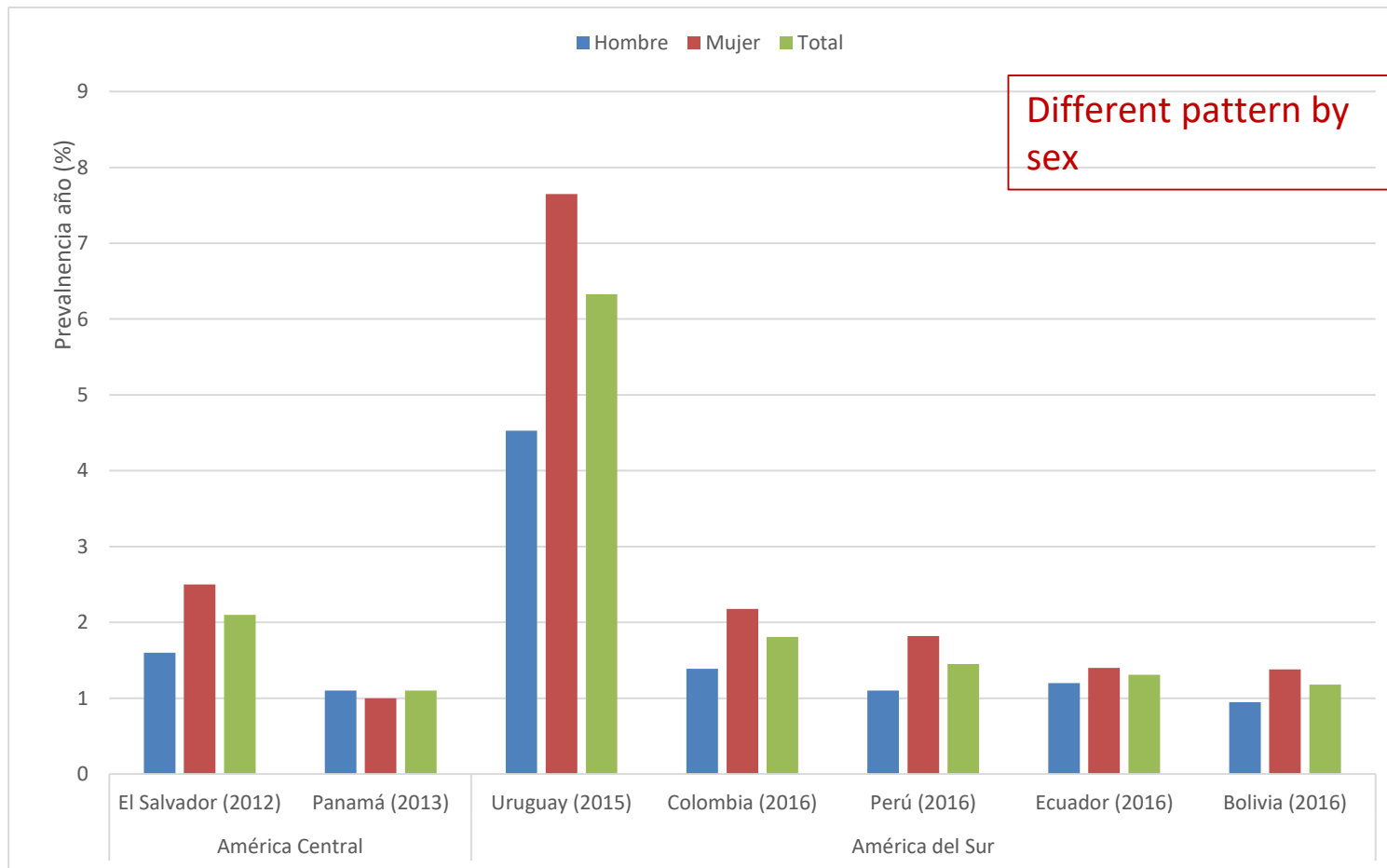
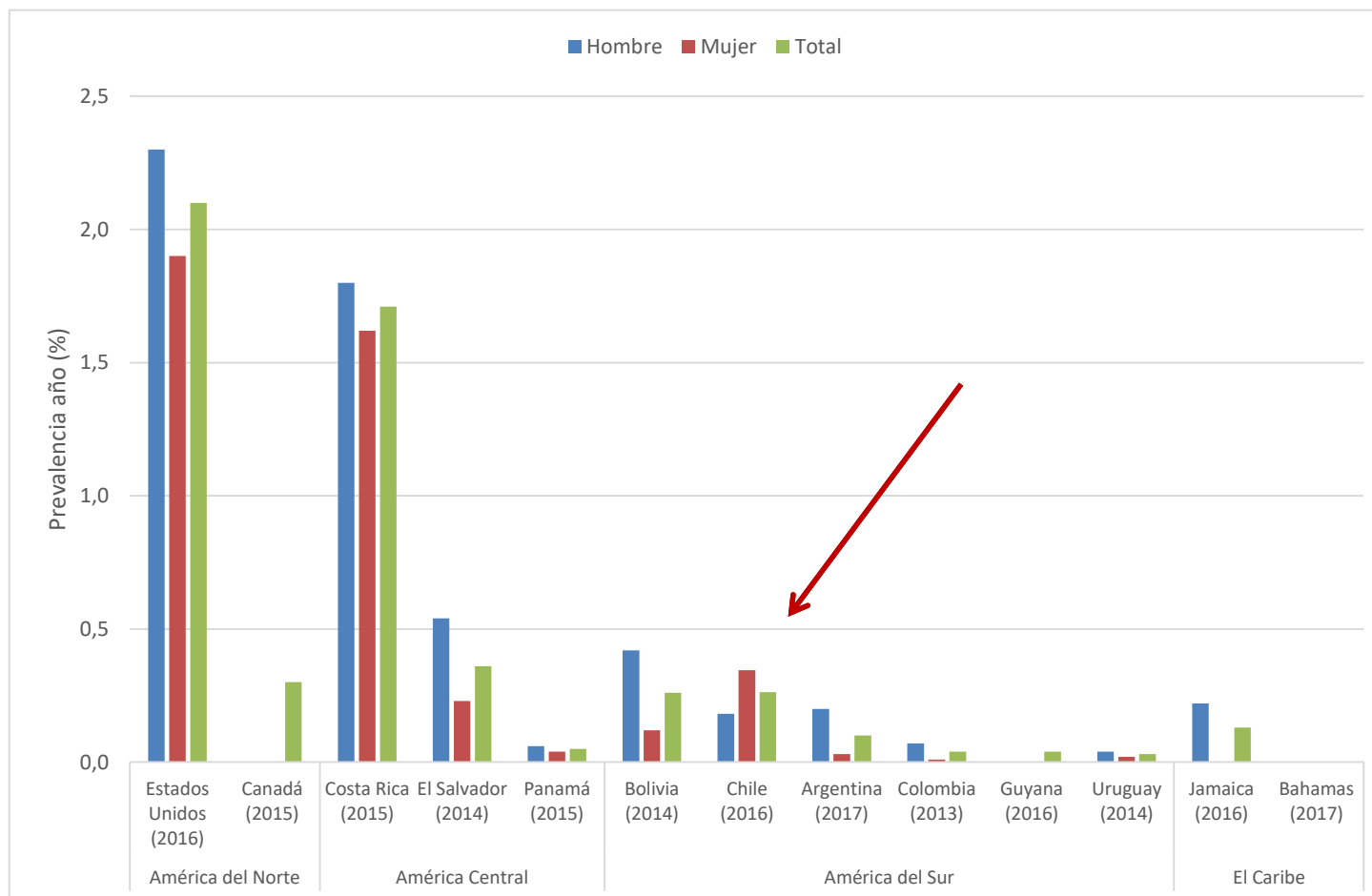


Gráfico 7-9: Prevalencia de último año de consumo de estimulantes sin prescripción médica en la población general, según sexo y total, por país, ordenado por subregión



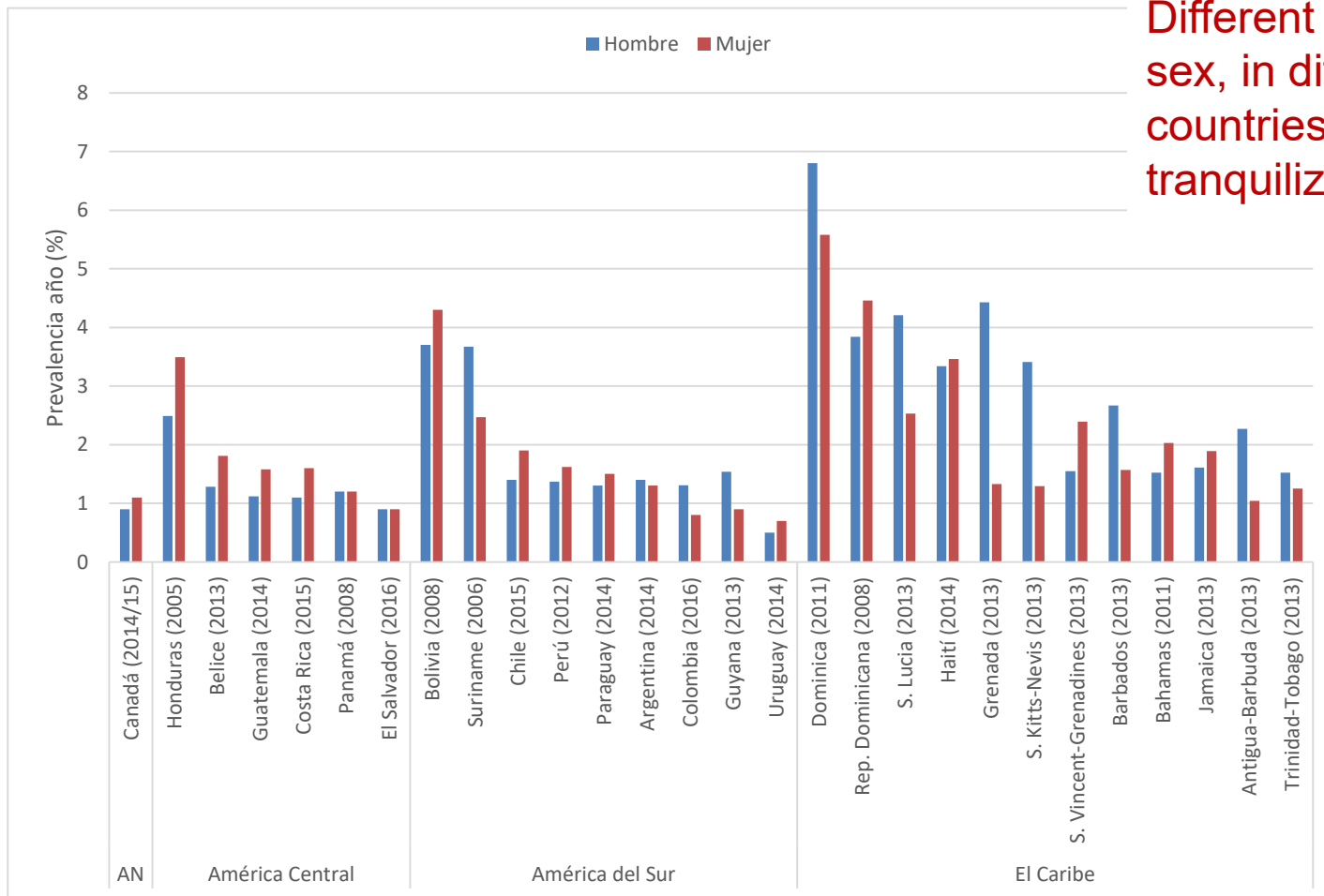
Pharmaceutical misuse



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Gráfico 7-12: Prevalencia de último año de consumo de estimulantes sin prescripción médica en estudiantes de enseñanza secundaria, según sexo, por país, ordenado por subregión



Different patterns by sex, in different set of countries compared to tranquilizers



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Some emerging drugs and New Psychoactive Substances

- Early signs of new psychoactive substances such as synthetic cathinones, synthetic cannabinoids, synthetic opioids (including fentanyl), and heroin appearing in the Americas.
- Concern: drugs sold disguised as other drugs (e.g. ecstasy), or blended with other drugs such as benzodiazepines.
 - Both of these are more commonly used by women and girls



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CICAD study among smokable cocaine users accessing treatment 2016

- While men, women were able to access treatment, there were notable differences among the groups.
- LGBT were the least represented group.
- Women were less likely than men to access drug treatment.

(CICAD/OAS; A Review of the availability of care and treatment for smokable cocaine users in at-risk areas, Summary Report 2016)



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Treatment continued.

- However, once women access treatment, their outcomes are better than males.
 - ♀ Were more likely to stop using.
 - ♀ Showed greater adherence to the program.
 - ♀ Reported better health following treatment



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Gender differences in substance use in the Americas

- Closing gender gap in alcohol, marijuana, cocaine and crack/cocaine base type substances
 - Gender switch in some Caribbean countries
- Drugs of misuse differ by gender
 - Females more likely to use licit drugs: inhalants, pharmaceuticals without medical prescription



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Gender and drug treatment

- Women and trans persons experience less access to drug treatment than men
- Once women are admitted to treatment, their adherence and post-treatment outcomes are better than males



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Conclusion

- Women and girls are a growing segment of the substance using population.
- Substance use among women and girls is not necessarily the same as men
 - Different drugs of preference, different perceptions of risk associated with use.
- Treatment that addresses women's needs is important and necessary in the Americas.



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Acknowledgments

- We would like to thank the National Observatory on Drugs in our member states, without whom this report would have not been possible.



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