

Participants stated that they and other people used drugs when travelling in other countries for the same reasons they used them at home: pleasure and relaxation. However, drugs were sometimes used when travelling in countries where the drug laws are lenient simply because drugs were more readily available and there was less risk of getting caught when in countries where soft drugs were permitted. Some participants also felt it was a novelty, a great experience and that smoking drugs was simply done to be able to say that they had smoked in that particular country. Jamaica and Amsterdam were the most common countries mentioned.

The risks and consequences of smoking, buying or transporting drugs in other countries were not always well understood. Many participants weighted the risk of transporting drugs into the States with the risk of buying some once in the States. Most felt that the consequences of getting caught at the border with soft drugs were more severe than getting caught purchasing some in the States. People clearly do not like buying drugs from complete strangers particularly in other countries and are concerned for their personal safety when dealing with a foreign and unknown drug trafficker. The person selling the drugs could try to "rip you off", could pull a gun on you, or could try to sell you contaminated products or very lousy drugs. In all groups, people were more concerned with their personal safety and with the quality of the drugs purchased than with the risk of getting caught.

A few respondents from Montreal were nevertheless concerned with the risk of getting caught. Admitting that they did not always know the laws in foreign countries, they were somewhat concerned with the possibility of dealing with under-cover police. They remained however, more concerned with their personal safety than with the risk of getting caught.

In regards to transportation and smuggling, most participants knew that if they were caught, the consequences would be very severe. However, transporting one's personal drugs and smuggling were viewed as being dramatically different. People did not consider transporting a gram of hashish or a few joints as "smuggling", and generally perceived smuggling as being the transportation of large quantities of drugs (usually hard drugs) for the purpose of making money. Transportation of personal drugs was not viewed as seriously as drug smuggling particularly when only crossing into the States. In fact, the United States was hardly considered a foreign country and some people did not seem too concerned with the risks of transporting drugs into the U.S.

Mode of transportation appeared to be a key factor in deciding whether or not to transport drugs. Those travelling by car were more likely to carry drugs than those travelling by plane. In fact, all the participants who admitted crossing into the States with drugs were