The Barbados Drug Information Network

Findings from the 2017 & 2018 Reports

Dr. Jonathan Yearwood, Research & Information Officer
Mrs. Laura Lee Foster, Research Assistant

The National Council on Substance Abuse

July 15, 2020
Outline of Presentation

- Overview of BARDIN
- Benefits of BARDIN
- BARDIN Background
- Objectives of BARDIN
- Key findings from the 2017 & 2018 BARDIN reports
- Summary & Recommendations
What Is The Barbados Drug Information Network (BARDIN)?

• BARDIN is the formal mechanism through which Barbados collects & disseminates drug-related information on activities related to prevention, education, treatment & rehabilitation & law enforcement.

• It involves the use of pragmatic approaches to collect data from stakeholders which can be used to inform & address the drug problem in Barbados.

• It is primarily a compilation of secondary data.
Objectives Of BARDIN

- To provide current epidemiological and other information on substance abuse.
- To strengthen the capacity of Barbados to respond to changing drug use trends.
- To provide relevant information for the planning, evaluation and management of drug control programmes.
- To regularly update this information.
- To identify trends in drug consumption and offences related to illicit drugs.
Benefits of BARDIN

• Facilitates information sharing
• Increases data presentation and analysis skills
• Builds interagency cooperation
• Creates opportunities to provide reliable and standardized data
• Allows for a better understanding of the drug situation in Barbados
• Creates opportunities for a cohesive response to the drug problem
BARDIN Background

• The NCSA has been pursuing BARDIN since 2003.
• In 2011, BARDIN was re-launched.
• The first BARDIN Report was released in 2013 (based on 2011 data).
• To date, there have been 8 BARDIN publications (covering the period 2011-2018).
• In 2019, efforts were made to improve & expand BARDIN:
  • Standardized data collection forms were introduced
  • New indicators were added in the areas of treatment and supply control – data from these are presented in the 2017 & 2018 reports
  • The Financial Intelligence Unit was added as a contributing agency
  • Memoranda of Understanding were signed to formalize the reporting obligations of all Network members
• The NCSA is preparing to collect 2019 data.
DEMAND REDUCTION

- National Council on Substance Abuse
- Edna Nicholls Centre
- Psychiatric Hospital
- Substance Abuse Foundation
- Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives
- Inmate Drug Rehabilitation & Counselling Programme (Barbados Prison Service)
## NCSA Interventions: Distribution of Persons Reached by Programme 2017-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary School Programme</td>
<td>1530</td>
<td>2423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary School Programme</td>
<td>1605</td>
<td>1098</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Programme</td>
<td>1420</td>
<td>1254</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counselling Programme</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NCSA Interventions by Department 2014-2018

2014
- Primary School: 70.0%
- Secondary School: 12.0%
- Community: 10.0%
- Training Programmes/Courses: 8.0%

2015
- Primary School: 63.0%
- Secondary School: 27.0%
- Community: 10.0%
- Training Programmes/Courses: 10.0%

2016
- Primary School: 47.0%
- Secondary School: 16.0%
- Community: 37.0%
- Training Programmes/Courses: 7.0%

2017
- Primary School: 33.5%
- Secondary School: 35.1%
- Community: 0.5%
- Training Programmes/Courses: 0.4%

2018
- Primary School: 50.5%
- Secondary School: 22.9%
- Community: 26.2%
- Training Programmes/Courses: 10.0%
The Edna Nicholls Centre

• The aim of this Out-of-School Programme is to provide rehabilitative programmes for secondary school students who have been suspended, referred or expelled from school
• Targets students between the ages 11 and 16 years
• Students can be referred to the ENC for a maximum of 2 weeks at any given time
• All students admitted to the ENC are tested for marijuana and cocaine use
The Edna Nicholls Centre

- No students tested positive for cocaine use in 2017 or 2018.
- In 2017, 22.6% of the 93 students admitted to the Centre tested positive for marijuana use.
- In 2018, 25.3% of the 142 students admitted to the Centre tested positive for marijuana use.
- Approx. 9 out of every 10 students who tested positive for marijuana use in 2017 (90%) & 2018 (91.7%) were males.
- Approx. 9 out of every 10 students who tested positive for marijuana use in 2017 (90%) & 2018 (89%) were between the ages of 13 & 15 years.
Sex Distribution of Students Testing Positive for Marijuana Use at the Edna Nicholls Centre 2014-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Age Distribution of Students Testing Positive for Marijuana Use at the Edna Nicholls Centre 2015-2018
Profile of Persons Seeking Treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital, January 1 – December 31, 2018

1253 persons were admitted to the Psychiatric Hospital in 2018.

Substance Abuse Treatment

• 36% of those admitted received substance abuse treatment.
• Males accounted for 92% of persons receiving substance abuse treatment.
• Most persons receiving substance abuse treatment were male (92%) between the ages of 25 and 44 (54%).
Profile of Persons Seeking Treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital, January 1 – December 31, 2018

Co-morbid Diagnoses

• 21% of persons were admitted for co-morbid diagnoses including substance abuse.
• Males accounted for 90% of those diagnosed with co-morbid conditions.
• The majority of persons diagnosed with co-morbid disorders were between 25 and 44 years of age.
The Substance Abuse Foundation: Sex Distribution of Persons Seeking Treatment 2017-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Males (%)</th>
<th>Females (%)</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>(N=65)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>(N=81)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sex Distribution of Persons Seeking Treatment at the Substance Abuse Foundation 2015-2018

- **2015:**
  - Males: 86%
  - Females: 14%

- **2016:**
  - Males: 86%
  - Females: 14%

- **2017:**
  - Males: 71%
  - Females: 29%

- **2018:**
  - Males: 82%
  - Females: 18%
The Substance Abuse Foundation: Age Distribution of Persons Seeking Treatment 2017 - 2018

- 2017 (N=65):
  - 25 & under: 10.8%
  - 26-40 years: 26.2%
  - 41-55 years: 52.3%
  - 56+: 10.8%

- 2018 (N=81):
  - 25 & under: 10.8%
  - 26-40 years: 21%
  - 41-55 years: 43%
  - 56+: 23%
The Substance Abuse Foundation: Other Socio-Demographic Data (2018)

• Most SAF clients were single individuals (83%) who lived at home (50%) and had no dependents (82%).
• The majority (72%) of clients were educated up to secondary school level.
• Just under two-thirds (62%) of clients were unemployed.
The Substance Abuse Foundation: Primary Drug for Which Treatment was Sought 2017-2018

- Tobacco Cigarettes: 23.1% in 2017, 21% in 2018
- Crack Cocaine: 50.8% in 2017, 46% in 2018
- Cocaine Powder: 13.8% in 2017, 7% in 2018
- Marijuana: 10.8% in 2017, 26% in 2018
- Alcohol: 1.5% in 2017, 21% in 2018

BARDIN Release of Findings
CASA: Sex Distribution of Persons Seeking Treatment 2017-2018

- **2017**:
  - Males: 94% (N=87)
  - Females: 6%

- **2018**:  
  - Males: 94% (N=53)
  - Females: 6%
CASA: Age Distribution of Persons Seeking Treatment 2017-2018

2017 (N=87)
- 20 & under: 54.2%
- 21-30 years: 20.6%
- 31-40 years: 13.8%
- 41-50 years: 4.4%
- 50+: 1.9%

2018 (N=53)
- 20 & under: 37.7%
- 21-30 years: 30.2%
- 31-40 years: 18.8%
- 41-50 years: 11.4%
- 50+: 1.9%
CASA: Drugs for which Treatment was Sought 2017-2018
NCSA Counselling Programme: Sex Distribution of Persons Seeking Treatment 2017-2018

- 2017:
  - Males: 20
  - Females: 1

- 2018:
  - Males: 18
  - Females: 1
NCSA Counselling Programme: Sex & Age Distribution of Persons Seeking Treatment 2017-2018

- 2017:
  - 20 & under: 16
  - 21-30 years: 1
  - 31-40 years: 3
  - 41-50 years: 1
  - 50+: 1

- 2018:
  - 20 & under: 16
  - 21-30 years: 1
  - 31-40 years: 1
  - 41-50 years: 1
  - 50+: 1
NCSA Counselling Programme: Drugs for which Treatment was Sought 2017-2018

- Alcohol: 3 in 2017, 1 in 2018
- Marijuana: 17 in both 2017 and 2018
- Fanta: 1 in 2017
- Cigarettes: 1 in 2018
Inmate Drug Rehabilitation & Counselling Programme: Sex Distribution of Persons Seeking Treatment 2017-2018

- **2017**: Males 73% (N=94), Females 27%
- **2018**: Males 86% (N=74), Females 14%
Inmate Drug Rehabilitation & Counselling Programme: Age Distribution of Persons Seeking Treatment 2017-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25 &amp; Under</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-40 years</td>
<td>47.9%</td>
<td>52.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41-55 years</td>
<td>30.8%</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56+</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Inmate Drug Rehabilitation & Counselling Programme: Drugs for which Treatment was Sought 2017-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crack</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine Powder</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>35.1%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco</td>
<td>35.1%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackies</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecstasy</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Codeine</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SUPPLY REDUCTION

- Royal Barbados Police Force
- Barbados Prison Service
- Financial Intelligence Unit
Royal Barbados Police Force: Drug Offences vs. Other Offences 2017-2018

- Drug Offences 2017 (N=8358): 19%
- Drug Offences 2018 (N=7921): 18%
- Other Offences 2017 (N=8358): 81%
- Other Offences 2018 (N=7921): 82%
Royal Barbados Police Force: Sex Distribution of Persons Charged with Drug Offences 2017-2018

- 2017:
  - Males: 91%
  - Females: 9%

- 2018:
  - Males: 93%
  - Females: 7%
Royal Barbados Police Force: Sex Distribution of Persons Charged with Drug Offences 2015-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Royal Barbados Police Force: Age Distribution of Persons Charged with Drug Offences 2017-2018

- **Under 20:**
  - 2017: 9.6%
  - 2018: 9.8%

- **20-29 years:**
  - 2017: 12.8%
  - 2018: 19.6%

- **30-39 years:**
  - 2017: 30.9%
  - 2018: 29.3%

- **40-49 years:**
  - 2017: 39.2%
  - 2018: 35.8%

- **50+**
  - 2017: 7.2%
  - 2018: 5.4%
Royal Barbados Police Force: Drug Offences 2017-2018

![Bar chart showing drug offense statistics for 2017 and 2018. In 2017, 90% were cannabis offenses, and 10% were other drug offenses. In 2018, 86% were cannabis offenses, and 14% were other drug offenses.]}
Royal Barbados Police Force: Cannabis Offences vs. Other Offences 2014-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cannabis</th>
<th>Other Drugs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>88.9%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>85.5%</td>
<td>14.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>86.0%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>90.0%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>86.0%</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Royal Barbados Police Force: Analysis of Cannabis Offences 2017-2018

- Possession of Cannabis: 47.6% in 2017, 52.4% in 2018
- Other Cannabis Offences: 49.20% in 2017, 50.80% in 2018
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug Seized</th>
<th>2017 Quantity Seized</th>
<th>2018 Quantity Seized</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Compressed Cannabis</td>
<td>2402.1 kg</td>
<td>4512.5 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cannabis Plants</td>
<td>16,067</td>
<td>3487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td>126.2 kg</td>
<td>40.9 kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methamphetamine</td>
<td>1.6 kg</td>
<td>0.02 g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecstasy Pills</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Barbados Prison Service: Distribution of Drug Offences Vs Other Offences 2017-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Drug Offences</th>
<th>Other Offences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(N=919) (N=836)
Barbados Prison Service: Sex Distribution of Persons Incarcerated for Drug Offences 2017-2018

- **2017**: Males (88.1%) and Females (11.9%) (N=176)
- **2018**: Males (94%) and Females (6%) (N=167)
Barbados Prison Service: Drug Offences for Which Persons were Incarcerated 2017-2018

- Drug Possession: 61% (2017), 60% (2018)
- Possession of Apparatus: 8% (2017), 13% (2018)
- Drug Trafficking: 21% (2017), 19% (2018)
- Drug Importation: 4% (2017), 2% (2018)
- Drug Cultivation: 5% (2017), No data (2018)
- Other: No data (2017), No data (2018)
## Financial Intelligence Unit: Suspicious Activity Reports 2017-2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Number of Suspicious Transaction Reports</th>
<th>Number of Drug-Related Suspicious Transaction Reports (%)</th>
<th>Number of Suspicious Transaction Reports for which a Predicate Offence Could Not be Easily Identified (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>17 (6.1%)</td>
<td>165 (59.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>27 (6.3%)</td>
<td>138 (32.2%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary & Recommendations
Summary of the 2017 & 2018 Findings

• The majority of students testing positive for marijuana use at the Edna Nicholls Centre continue to be males between 13 - 15 years of age.
• Marijuana, alcohol and crack cocaine continue to be the main drugs creating the need for treatment.
• Marijuana is more problematic among those under the age of 40.
• Alcohol and crack cocaine are having a greater impact on older persons.
• Polydrug use continues to be an issue.
• Males continue to outnumber females in treatment centres.
• Co-occurring disorders are an issue among persons presenting for treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital.
Summary of the 2017 & 2018 Findings

• Most persons charged with, & incarcerated for, drug offences were male.
• Most persons charged with drug offences were in the 20-49 age group.
• Marijuana continues to be the dominant drug that engaged the attention of the RBPF (seizures & arrests).
• “Possession of cannabis” remains the single most common cannabis-related offense recorded by the RBPF.
• “Drug possession” is the most common offense for which persons were incarcerated.
• The local drug situation is slowly diversifying to include non-traditional substances such as ecstasy and methamphetamine.
Recommendations

• Continue the development of the Early Warning System which will be used to detect and monitor New Psychoactive Substances and non-traditional drugs.

• Educate the public about the harms associated with non-traditional drugs and New Psychoactive Substances.

• Educate young people about the harms associated with marijuana use.

• Educate adults about the harms related to alcohol abuse and the use of crack cocaine.

• Increase drug education on the harms related to polydrug use.

• Ensure that professionals involved in the treatment of co-occurring disorders and polydrug use receive the requisite training.
Recommendations

• Design and implement specialized programmes/interventions which cater to young males.
• Investigate issues relating to women and substance abuse.
• Identify and address the barriers to treatment for women.
• Create job opportunities for persons addicted to drugs.
• Ensure adequate staffing to facilitate the treatment of drug-addicted offenders incarcerated at HMP Dodds.
• Conduct further targeted research.
End of Presentation
Question & Answer Session