



Dominica Alcohol & Other Drug Information Network Report 2009

DDIN REPORT 2009

Mrs. Joan Henry
1/1/2010

Acknowledgements

The Dominica Annual Drug Information Network Report produced by the National Drug Abuse Prevention Unit of the Ministry of Health is made possible through the generous technical and financial assistance of the Organization of The America States (OAS) as part of the Drug Information Network Project implemented by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD).

Special thanks to Dr. Joseph Campbell and Mr. Pernell Clarke OAS representatives who facilitated the first Stakeholders' sensitization and training session in 2008 for the formulation of the Drug Information Network in Dominica.

These officers encouraged the developing of the Drug Information network that empowered the island to participate in CICAD measurement of Drug problems, apply recommendation of changes and enjoys benefit of assistance that are provided where needed.

Sincere thanks also go to Ms. Jacinta Bannis Director of the National Drug Abuse Prevention Unit, for taking this initiative to form such a much needed system here in Dominica.

To Ms. Martha Jarvis Research and Information Officer, who has the responsibility of coordinator to ensure the Drug Information Network achieves its functions efficiently. We all know such a system will increase the tendency to sharing information more effectively but importantly to adjust best practices to our own unique process.

Thanks also to the several public and private stakeholders who will set up a system that will enable the country to collect data, analyze and disseminate the information for internal and external use

Sincere gratitude is expressed to all parties -the Ministry of Health, Dominica Police Force, Welfare Division, The Financial Investigation Unit, and the other organizations and institutions in charge of drug related activities for their participation and contribution to the first network meeting, documentation of the first report and the commitment to further participate in activities towards the setting up and improvement of drug information Network.

Abbreviations

IA	Institutional Analysis
APU	Acute Psychiatric Unit
CALLS	Centre where Adolescents Learn to Love & Serve
CICAD	Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission
CICDAT	Uniform Statistical System on Control of Supply Data
CPA	Country Poverty Assessment
DDIN	Dominica Alcohol and Other Drug Information Network
FIU	Financial Investigation Unit
MEM	Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism
OAS	Organization of American States
PPA	Participatory Poverty Assessment
SLC	Survey of Living Conditions

<i>List of Tables</i>	<i>Pages</i>
<i>Table 1: Number of Drug-Related Admissions to Princess Margaret Hospital By Gender, Age & Type of Drug 2008/09</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Table 2: Number of Drug-Related Admission to the Acute Psychiatric Unit By Age Group & Conditions 2008/09</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Table3: Drug-Related Admissions to Acute Psychiatric Unit By Gender & Condition 2008 & 09</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Table 4: Drug-Related Admissions to the Male Surgical Ward By Age & Condition 2008/09</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Table5: Drug-Related Admissions to the Female Surgical Wards By Age & Condition 2008/09</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Table6: Drug-Related Admissions to the Male Medical Ward By Age & Condition 2008/09</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Table7: Drug-Related Admissions to the Female Medical Ward By Age & Conditions 2008/09</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Table 8: Drug-Related Visits to Accident & Emergency Department By Year, Conditions & Mode of Treatment 2008/09</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Table 9: Number of cases filed by Dominica Police Force</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Table 10: Number of persons arrested</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Table 11: Persons charged with Cannabis</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Table 12: Quantity of Firearms, Ammunitions, explosives & other ammunitions seized</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Table 13: Number of persons formally charged with illicit activities related to firearms, explosive, ammunitions and other related materials linked with narcotic trafficking 2008/09</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>Table: 14: Number of persons formally convicted of the possession of firearms, explosive, ammunitions and other related materials linked with narcotic trafficking 2008/09</i>	<i>19</i>

<i>Table 15:</i>	<i>Persons charged with Cocaine</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Table 16:</i>	<i>Seizures</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Table 17:</i>	<i>Court Exhibits</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Table 18:</i>	<i>Total drug confiscated by the Dominica Police Force</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Table 19</i>	<i>Service Provided by FIU 2008/09</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Table20:</i>	<i>Investigations initiated through a financial intelligence report</i>	<i>21</i>
<i>Table21:</i>	<i>Juvenile Offenders charged with possession of cannabis 2008/09</i>	<i>22</i>

Table of Contents	Pages
Acknowledgements	2
Abbreviations	3
List of Tables	4-5
Executive Summary	7-10
Introduction	11
SECTION 1	
Drug situation and trends	12-16
Drug Treatment	
SECTION 11	
Drug Consumption	17
SECTION 111	17-22
Supply Reduction	
Drug statistics from Law Enforcement	
Information from Welfare Division	
Information form Financial Investigation Unit	
SECTION 1V	
Other Drug Information & Survey data	23-24
SECTION V	
Qualitative data	24-25
SECTION VI	
Drug Demand & Supplies Reduction Programme	25
Information from Dominica Drug Information Network	
Conclusions and recommendations	26-27
References	28
Appendices	29

Executive Summary

The Dominica's alcohol and other drug information network (DAAODIN) is the means by which Dominica manages the collection, analysis and dissemination of drug-related and other relevant statistical information.

This is the network's first annual report. Its strategic focus is to highlight relevant data gathered on epidemiological drug research; Supply reduction; treatment; rehabilitation; prevention and education activities, and network's meetings.

The report begins with an introduction of the composition of the network; it then gives an account of the alcohol and other drug related admissions to health facilities; Drug Trends; existing quantitative and qualitative data; proposed projects to be implemented; and ends with brief discussion on findings as well as Recommendations.

The Dominica Drug Information network was formalized in 2008 and comprises public and private sector institutions that work in the area of drug demand and supply reduction. The network's objectives are to:

- Standardize data compilation systems so as to harmonize the exchange of drug-related statistical information among major stakeholders
- Develop one format for the presentation of survey and agency-based data to be used by network members
- Create accurate, relevant and timely statistical data on the drug situation for effective planning, evaluation and management of drug demand and supply reduction programmes in Dominica
- Enhance Dominica's capability to provide policy makers with accurate data on the national drug demand and supplies reduction status, to participate in (Multi-Lateral Evaluation Mechanism) MEM and other international data sharing systems.

The National Drug Abuse Prevention Unit of the Ministry of Health enabled by the Network Coordinator has the responsibility to systematize the network's functions.

Statistical data presented in this report was collected from various sources using the format provided by CICAD.

Substance Abuse treatment Data

Substance abuse treatment data was collected from admission records of the accident and emergency unit, the Acute Psychiatric Unit, and the male and female medical and surgical wards of the Princess Margaret Hospital.

Note also that Dominica does not have any treatment centre. Any individual with drug related problems who need emergency or inpatient medical care, receive such care from the main Hospital. (Princess Margaret Hospital). At that institution the attending physician makes the diagnosis and prepares a treatment plan based on the diagnosis that is made.

Desk top review of the admission registers revealed that for 2008-2009, two hundred and seventy-five persons were admitted and treated for alcohol and other substance related conditions.

- 233 males and 42 females
- 23 of them were younger than 19 years
- 49 were between the ages of 19-25 years
- 203 were over 25 years
- 138 were admitted for other substance abuse;
- 131 were admitted with alcohol related issues; and 2 for tobacco use.

Records also revealed that persons who visited the accident and emergency unit and male and female wards were mainly affected by alcohol related issues (i.e. alcohol intoxication or alcohol withdrawal syndrome) . On the other hand, those who were admitted to the Acute Psychiatric Unit did so mainly because of substance abuse (the type or name of the substance was not documented in the admission registers). Only 14.8% of the males admitted to the Acute Psychiatric Unit (APU) abused alcohol, while 83.1% abused other substances.

Thirty-three males and seven females were admitted to the male and female surgical and medical wards during that time. Eighty-two (82%) percent of them did so because of alcohol related conditions while 17.5% abused other substances (information is stated in the report as recorded in the admission registers that were reviewed).

Drug consumption

Detailed information on prevalence of Substance use by students, the general population, and other special populations was not available for this reporting (2008 and 2009) period.

Supply Reduction

Data presented in this section of report was provided by the Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force and the Welfare Division of the Ministry of Social Services. Information on seizures of firearms, vehicles, real estate, money and other equipment is also included in this report.

Data from the Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force

Statistical data submitted by the Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force revealed that 573 cases were filed for the period under review. All cases were prosecuted. 356 were convicted, 7 were withdrawn, 1 was dismissed and, 210 are still pending trial.

74 persons were charged with the possession of cocaine for the period 2008 and 2009
Sixty-eight (68) nationals, 6 non-nationals, 6 females, No juveniles were among the offenders

The police department completed a total of 92 seizures during the reporting time. All items seized in 2009, except for cocaine were much larger than 2008 seizures. (See table12)

Cannabis continued to be the main drug confiscated by the Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force in 2008 and 2009.

Data from the Welfare Division

The Welfare Division provided information about juveniles who commit drug related offenses and were supervised by the Division for the period of time they were on probation or remanded in prison. During 2008 and 2009, the office supervised a total of 11 male juveniles between the ages of 15 and 17 who were charged with possession of Cannabis.

Other drug information survey

A minimum level of information was gathered on alcohol and other drugs frequently used by the populace through various surveys that were conducted by government agencies to provide scientific evidence for planning purposes. Four of these surveys were mentioned in this report. They are:

Ministry of Health behavior risk factors to chronic non-communicable diseases during 2007 to May 2008

National Drug Abuse Prevention Unit in collaboration with CICAD survey of substance use among secondary school students in 2006

Ministry of Health 2000/04 Global Youth Tobacco Surveys

Government of Commonwealth Dominica national poverty assessment Survey examined the economic and social conditions throughout Dominica.

Other qualitative data & information

Apart from the surveys mentioned above there are no official reports available of qualitative studies that were undertaken to assess drug related activities among any component of the population prior to or during the reporting period.

Information from the emergency unit of the Princess Margaret Hospital

A desk top review of the 2008 and 2009 admission registers of the Emergency and Accident Unit, of the Princess Margaret Hospital revealed that 97 persons visited the unit because of alcohol and other substance related issues.

Eighty persons visited the department because of alcohol use and abuse. Among them was a 22 year old male with hangover after having taken alcohol, cocaine and ecstasy in one night; a 64

year female was brought in dead as a result of alcohol dehydration with Liver Cirrhosis and, a 55 year old male with alcohol intoxication who was involved in a motor vehicle accident.

Drug Demand and Supply Reduction Programmes

Trained drug prevention personnel from the National Drug Abuse Prevention Unit collaboratively with other district field officers, implemented several programmes during the reporting period to mitigate problems encountered in the various communities.

In an effort to alleviate the drug abuse situation, programmes focused on Research, Community and School Prevention and Information dissemination.

In Conclusion

Drug related information documented by institutions is inconsistent; there was no information on the ages of individuals detained by the police department. Information gathered from the health care facilities indicated that the majority of the individuals who were admitted for alcohol and other substance related conditions were over 25 years. The information obtained from the available admission registers at the Princess Margaret Hospital did not identify what were the other drugs; neither was there any details on the treatment regime of the persons who were admitted for alcohol and other drug related conditions. However, a practicing physician at the facility indicated that treatment of persons depend on diagnosis made by the admitting physician upon admission. It is important to note that Dominica does not have a substance abuse facility. Persons needing such care are admitted to the emergency department; male and female wards and the acute psychiatric unit of the general hospital.

- A. There are several sources of drug information available on the island. However, the drug related data gathering system does not comply with the CICDAT data gathering format that was introduced by CICAD during the network's first meeting in 2008.

Because of this, retrieval and analysis of drug demand reduction information was time consuming and very difficult to achieve.

Recommendations

- The formalization of the drug information network system prior to the next annual report.
- Maintain use of the recommended indicators to gather data and prepare reports
- Provision of resources to establish the drug information network
- Trained personnel at key institutions to maintain the system
- Regular network meetings
- Stringent monitoring of the drug information system by network coordinator
- Consideration should be given to the introduction of a Substance Abuse Treatment Facility.

INTRODUCTION

Dominica's alcohol and other drug information network (DAAODIN) was formalized 2008 following training facilitated by officers from CICAD.

The National Drug Abuse Prevention Unit within the Ministry of Health enabled by the Network Coordinator is the Division responsible to systematize the network functions.

The network comprises public and private sector institutions that work in the area of drug demand and supplies reduction and proposes to achieve its functions through these objectives:

- Standardize data compilation systems so as to harmonize the exchange of drug-related statistical information among major stakeholders
- Develop one format for the presentation of survey and agency-based data to be used by network members
- Create accurate, relevant and timely statistical data on the drug situation for effective planning, evaluation and management of drug demand and reduction programmes in Dominica
- Enhance Dominica's capability to provide policy makers with accurate data on the national drug demand and supply reduction status and to participate in (Multi-Lateral Evaluation Mechanism) MEM and other international data sharing organizations.

The statistical data presented in this report, represents information collected from various departments and reported in the format provided by the office of Inter-American Observatory on Drugs. The following indicators were used to compile the data.

- a) Admissions to the Princess Margaret Hospital accident and emergency department, medical and surgical wards
- b) Admissions to the Acute Psychiatric Unit with admissions diagnosis stated as substance abuse
- c) Supply Reduction statistics
- d) Seizures
- e) Arrests, Court Cases, Convictions
- f) National and non-nationals charged with Cannabis and cocaine
- g) Number of cases filed
- h) Court exhibits
- i) Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, Other Related Materials as documented by the Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force
- j) Information from Welfare Division
- k) Information from other qualitative surveys conducted in Dominica

The collected data is presented in the Tables below.

Section 1: SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT DATA

Table 1: *Number of Drug-Related Admissions to Princess Margaret Hospital
By Gender, Age & Type of Drug
2008-2009*

Gender	2008	2009	
(a) Males	116	117	
(b) Females	23	19	
(c) Total cases	139	136	100%
Age Group			
(d) <18 years old	10	13	
(e) 19 to 25 years old	25	24	
(f) >25 years old	104	99	
(c) Total cases	139	136	100%
Type of Drug by Principal Drug (5)			
(g) Alcohol	65	66	
(h) Tobacco	0	2	
(i) Marijuana (Cannabis)	2	0	
(j) Cocaine (hydrochloride)	0	0	
(k) Cocaine (Base Paste)	0	0	
(l) Cocaine (Crack)	1	0	
(m) Inhalants (Solvents)	0	0	
(n) Hallucinogens	0	0	
(o) Heroin	0	0	
(p) Morphine	0	0	
(q) Other opiates	0	0	
(r) Ecstasy	1	0	
(s) Tranquilizers ()	0	0	
(t) Other drugs	70	68	
(c) Total cases	139	136	100%
Mode of Treatment(6)			
(u) Outpatient	31	37	
(v) Residential	108	98; 1 dead	
(c) Total cases	139	136	100%

Data source: Princess Margaret Hospital Admission Records for the years 2008 and 2009.

*Other drugs (substance) were not identified by name in the documents that were reviewed

At the Princess Margaret Hospital data related to alcohol and *other substance abuse treatment is not documented in the admission registers, however, a practicing physician who works within the service shared the treatment plan that is used presently.

- A. Alcoholic Withdrawal: Decreasing doses of Diazepam 10 mgs orally three times daily for 3 days; then 5 mgs orally for 3 days and 5 mgs. Daily for 3 days. If the individual psychotic symptoms are severe, rehydration and anti-psychotics are added. E.g. thiamine 100mgs orally for one month.
- B. Alcohol Intoxication: Initially the individual is rehydrated with dextsal/dextrose 5%, thiamine is given intravenously, then orally. Symptomatic treatment depending on the state of the individual (i.e. if in coma or shock etc.)

- C. Individuals admitted to the Acute Psychiatric Unit are treated with anti-psychotic therapy for a period of 2 weeks. If the person is aggressive other anti-psychotic drugs are added to the treatment plan.

**Table 2: Number of Drug-Related Admission to the Acute Psychiatric Unit
By Age Group & Conditions
2008/09**

	2008				2009			
Age	Conditions							
	Alcohol	Other Drugs	Tobacco	Total	Alcohol	Other Drugs	Tobacco	Total
>18	1	4	0	5	0	5	0	5
19-25	0	13	0	13	0	13	0	13
<25	11	45	0	56	10	40	0	50
Total	12	62	0	74	10	58	0	68

Information gathered from the Acute Psychiatric Unit (APU) on admissions for alcohol and other substance abuse revealed that 142 persons were admitted during 2008 and 2009. Ten of them were below 18 years, 26 were between the ages of 19 to 25 years and 106 were 25 years and older.

Those younger than 18 years and those who were in the 19-25 year age group, mainly abused other substances. Eighty-six of those who were older than 25 years abused other substances and, 20 of them abused alcohol.

**Table 3: Drug-Related Admissions to Acute Psychiatric Unit
By Gender & Condition
2008 & 09**

2008				2009		
	Condition			Conditions		
Gender	Alcohol	Other Drugs	Tobacco	Alcohol	Other Drugs	Tobacco
Female	0	2	0	1	0	0
Male	11	61	0	10	57	0
Total	11	63	0	11	57	0

The data revealed that the majority of persons admitted to the unit for alcohol and other substance related issues were males. Twenty-one of them abused alcohol while 118 of them abused other substances. Only 3 women were admitted for similar reasons.

**Table 4: Drug-Related Admissions to the Male Surgical Ward
By Age & Condition 2008 & 09**

Year	Alford ward (Male Surgical)			
2008	AGE	Alcohol	Tobacco	Other Substances
	≥18	0	0	0
	19-25	0	0	0
	≤ 25	4	0	0
2009	AGE	Alcohol	Tobacco	Other Substances
	≥18	1	0	0
	19-25	0	0	0
	≤ 25	1	0	0

Information gathered from the male surgical ward for the period under review, revealed that 6 males were admitted with alcohol abused related conditions. One male was younger than 18 years the other 5 were over 25 years.

**Table5: Drug-Related Admissions to the Female Surgical Ward
By Age & Condition 2008 & 09**

Year	Dawbiney Ward (Female Surgical)			
2008	AGE	Alcohol	Tobacco	Other Substances
	≥18	0	0	0
	19-25	0	0	0
	≤ 25	1	0	0
2009*	AGE	Alcohol	Tobacco	Other Substances
	≥18	0	0	0
	19-25	0	0	0
	≤ 25	0	0	0

*Section of the Admission record for 2009 was missing only the Months of August and September were available for review

Records reviewed from the female surgical ward was incomplete as noted above, the figure documented in this report may not represent the true status of females who may have been admitted during 2008 and 2009 with substance related conditions.

**Table6: Drug-Related Admissions to the Male Medical Ward
By Age & Condition 2008-09**

Year	Imray Ward (Male Medical)			
2008	AGE	Alcohol	Other Substances	Tobacco
	≥18	0	1	0
	19-25	0	2	0
	≤ 25	7	0	0
2009	AGE	Alcohol	Other Substances	Tobacco
	≥18	0	1	0
	19-25	3	2	0
	≤ 25	11	0	0

The 27 males admitted to the male medical ward with alcohol and other substance related conditions were over 25 years old. Twenty-one or (77.8%) of them abused alcohol. The data also revealed those who abused alcohol were over 25 years of age while those who abused other drugs were below 18 but not older than 25 years.

**Table7: Drug-Related Admissions to the Female Medical Ward
By Age & Conditions
2008-09**

Year	Glover Ward (Female Medical)			
2008	AGE	Alcohol	Other Substances	Tobacco
	≥18	1	0	0
	19-25	0	0	0
	≤ 25	3	0	0
2009	AGE	Alcohol	Other Substances	Tobacco
	≥18	0	0	0
	19-25	0	0	0
	≤ 25	1	1	0

The admission record of the Female medical ward revealed that only 6 women were admitted to the ward with drug related conditions. Whereas five of them were admitted with alcohol related conditions 1 woman was admitted for other substances. There was no evident of admissions of females within the 19 to 25 age group for drug related conditions.

Table 8: Drug-Related Visits to Accident & Emergency Department

By Year, Conditions & Mode of Treatment

2008-2009

Year	CONDITIONS						MODE OF TREATMENT			
	Alcohol	Cocaine	Ecstasy	marijuana	Tobacco	Other Substance	Out-patient	Referral	Admitted	Death
2008	37	1	1	2	0	5	31	1	14	
2009	43	0	0	0	2	6	37	0	13	1
Total	80	1	1	2	2	11	68	1	27	1

Ninety-seven (97) clients visited the accident and emergency department of the Princess Margaret Hospital during 2008 and 2009 with drug related emergencies. Eighty of them (82.5) % were alcohol related. Sixty-eight of them were treated as out-patients and sent home, 27 of them were admitted to the wards for care. One (1) client was referred to the acute psychiatric out-patient clinic for follow-up care.

The admissions records also revealed one client took a combination of alcohol, ecstasy and cocaine in one night, and another client who was brought in with complications of alcohol abused was pronounced dead on arrival.

SECTION 2: Drug Consumption

Prevalence of substance use

No drug Prevalence surveys have been undertaken to determine the drug consumption status among the general populace. Therefore, there isn't any detailed information on prevalence of Substance use by the general population, by students and other special populations for this reporting (2008 and 2009) period. The most recently available figures will be provided in a subsequent paragraph.

SECTION 3: Supply Reduction

Supply Reduction Statistics

Data represented in the tables below was provided by the Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force, Financial Investigation Unit and the Welfare Division of the Ministry of Social Services.

Information on seizures of firearms, ammunitions, explosive and other related materials linked to narcotic trafficking, is also included in the report.

The Financial Investigation Unit increased its operation in July of 2010; information on real estate, money and other equipment from this unit will be available for next the reporting period.

Drug Statistics from Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force

Table 9: Number of cases filed

Years	2008	2009
No of cases filed	213	361
prosecuted	213	361
convicted	131	225
Withdrawn	7	0
Dismissed	0	1
Pending trial	75	135

Statistical data submitted by the Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force revealed that 573 cases were filed for the period under review. All these cases were prosecuted, 356 were convicted, 7 were withdrawn, 1 was dismissed and 210 are still pending trial during the preparation of this report.

Table 10: Number of persons arrested

Years	2008	2009
No of Persons Arrested	151	241
Female Adults	4	17
Male Adults	143	216
Male Juveniles	4	8
Female Juveniles	0	0

Source: Drug Statistics, Drug Squad Dominica Police Force

Information submitted, revealed a total of 392 persons were arrested for drug related crimes during the period under review, twelve male juveniles were among them.

Table 11: Persons charged with Cannabis related crimes.

Persons	Nationals charged with Cannabis		Non-nationals	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
	127	198	9	11
Female Adults	4	12	0	2
Male Adults	119	179	9	9
Female Juveniles	0	0	0	0
Male Juveniles	4	7	0	0

During 2008 and 2009, 325 nationals and 20 non-nationals were charged with possession of cannabis. Males dominated all offence.

Table 12: Quantity of Firearms, Ammunitions, explosives & other ammunitions seized

Items seized	Years	
	2008	2009
Firearms	4	25
Ammunitions rounds	30	187
Explosives	0	0
Other ammunitions	0	0

Information submitted by the Dominica Police Force indicates that seizures of fire arms and rounds of ammunition greatly increased in 2009.

Table 13: Number of persons formally charged with illicit activities related to firearms, explosive, ammunitions and other related materials linked with narcotic trafficking 2008 & 09

Persons	Years	
	2008	2009
Nationals	12	10
Non-nationals	0	0

The information submitted revealed that only nationals were formally charged with illicit activities linked to narcotic trafficking during the reporting period.

Table: 14: Number of persons formally convicted of the possession of firearms, explosive, ammunitions and other related materials linked with narcotic trafficking 2008 & 2009

Persons	Years	
	2008	2009
Nationals	4	10
Non-nationals	0	0

A total of 16 nationals were convicted of the possession of firearms, explosive, ammunitions and other related materials linked with narcotic trafficking during the reporting period.

Table 15: Persons charged with Cocaine

	Nationals		Non-nationals	
Years	2008	2009	2008	2009
Total persons charged	22	46	3	3
Male Adults	22	41	3	2
Female Adults	0	5	0	1
Male Juveniles	0	0	0	0
Female Juveniles	0	0	0	0

A total of 74 persons were charged with the possession of cocaine for the period 2008 and 2009. The offenders comprised Sixty-eight (68) nationals, 6 non-nationals. There were 6 females but, no juveniles among them. There was over 100% increase in the number of cocaine offenders in 2009.

Table 16: Seizures

	Total seizure	Items						
Year		Cannabis trees	Cannabis Seedling	Cannabis weed (grams)	Cannabis Cigarette	Cannabis Seeds (gram)	Hashish (Resin) (grams)	Cocaine (grams)
2008	39	37,333	0	111,337.8	1	0	0	596.4
2009	53	301,457	0	712,563	6	1516	0	0

There were a total of 92 seizures during the reporting time 2008 and 2009, 53 in 2009 and 39 in 2008. Items included cannabis trees, cannabis weed, and cocaine. All items seized in 2009 except for cocaine were much larger than 2008 seizures.

Table 17: Court Exhibits

Years	Items						
	Cannabis Trees	Cannabis Seedlings	Cannabis Weed (Grams)	Cannabis Cigarettes	Cannabis Seeds (Grams)	Hashish (Resin) (grams)	Cocaine (grams)
2008	109	0	691,237.70	7	3352	0.5	9177
2009	5525	0	759,517	13	2190	0	30425.6

During 2008 and 2009 the largest court exhibit item was cannabis weed. However, in 2009 there were vast increases of cannabis trees, weed and cocaine.

Table 18: Total drug confiscated by the Dominica Police Force

Years	Cannabis Trees	Cannabis Seedlings	Cannabis Weed(grams)	Cannabis Cigarettes	Cannabis Seeds(grams)	Hashish Resin(grams)	Cocaine (Grams)
2008	37,442	0	802,575.50	7	3352	0.5	9772.9
2009	294,719	0	1,472,081	19	3,706	0	30425.6

Cannabis continues to be the main drug confiscated by the Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force in 2008 and 2009. Based on information stated above, each item confiscated in 2009 increased immensely. The cannabis weed was the largest item found in both years.

Financial Intelligent Unit (FIU)

Table 19: Service Provided by FIU 2008 & 2009

Service provided	Years	
	2008	2009
Information request received	9	41
Response Sent	9	41

Information provided by the Financial Investigation Unit indicated that the unit received a total of 50 requests for information and provided 100% responses to requests.

Table20: Investigations initiated through a financial intelligence report

Years	Investigations Initiated
2008	85
2009	76

Source: Financial Intelligent Unit

A total of 161 investigations were initiated by the Financial Investigation unit during 2008 and 2009

Data from the Welfare Division

The Welfare Division provided information about juveniles who commit drug related offenses and were supervised by the Division for the period of time they were on probation or remanded in prison.

During 2008 and 2009, the office supervised a total of 11 male juveniles between the ages of 15 and 17 who were charged with possession of Cannabis.

The data provided is missing some relevant variables such as age and type of sentencing that was handed down to the offenders, as a result analysis is difficult.

It is not clear whether the sentencing 5 juveniles offenders received was imprisonment or probation, the data just stated one year, two were without information on sentencing. See a representation of the data below.

Table 21: Juvenile Offenders charged with possession of cannabis 2008/09

Year	Gender	Age	Offense	Sentence
2008	Male	17	Possession of Cannabis	1 year
	Male	---	Ditto	1 year
	Male	17	Ditto	----
2009	Male	17	Possession of Cannabis	----
	Male	-	Ditto	1 yr
	Male			2 yrs probation/attend classes at the social Centre
	Male	15	Ditto	1 yr
	Male	-	Ditto	1 yr
	Male	17	Ditto	1 yr
	Male	15	Ditto	One month imprison
	Male	-	Ditto	1 yr and attend classes at Social Centre
	Male	16		fined \$200
				1 yr Probation

Section 4: Other Drug Information Survey

This section describes information collected through various surveys that were conducted by government agencies to provide scientific evidence for their planning purpose. In these surveys a minimum level of information was gathered on alcohol and other drugs frequently used by the populace.

The Ministry of Health (2008) conducted a baseline survey among the populace on behavior risk factors to chronic non-communicable diseases from November, 2007 to May 2008, that survey revealed that that 10.2% of persons who participated in the survey were current smokers, and 51.3% were current drinkers, i.e. consumed alcohol within the last 30 days prior to the date the survey was administered. Significant differences were observed between males and females, 64.2% of males were current drinkers as compared to 37.3% of female respondents.

The Ministry of Health (2000/04) the Ministry participated in the Global Youth Tobacco Survey, in 2000, the percentage of students who ever smoked cigarettes was between 41.0% and 33.2% while 2004 percentage was 37.6% to 25.2%.

Results indicated that the factors influencing tobacco use among students were exposure to parental smoking habits; best friends smoking habits; exposure to smoking in public places; pro tobacco messages on media; and access to purchase without restrictions.

National Drug Abuse Prevention Unit (2006) In April 2006, the unit in conjunction with CICAD, conducted a survey of substance use among secondary school students in Dominica; results indicated that alcohol was the most widely used substance among secondary students. Marijuana and cigarettes were the next most widely used substance. Cigarettes (13.18%) and marijuana (11.93%) was the second and third most used drug among the secondary school students in the past month prior to the survey.

Other illicit drugs like opiates (heroin 0.30%; opium 0.13% and morphine 0.7%), cocaine (0.39%), coca paste (0.39%), hallucinogens (0.56%) and tranquilizers (1.49%) were also consumed in that same period.

National Poverty Assessment Survey

Government of Commonwealth Dominica administered a national poverty assessment Survey to examine the economic and social conditions throughout Dominica.

Reliable information on poverty in Dominica derives almost exclusively from the 2002 Country Poverty Assessment (CPA) conducted for the Government of Dominica by the Halcrow group and others and sponsored by the Caribbean Development Bank. The assessment comprised three major components—a Survey of Living Conditions (SLC), a Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA) and an Institutional Analysis (IA). The 2002 CPA found that poverty in

Dominica is high – about 29% of households and 39% of the population, which is high by Caribbean standards.

Approximately 10% of households and 15% of the population are indigent, i.e. very poor. (The operational definition of poverty used was that monthly expenditure was less than the cost of meeting minimal food and other basic requirements.)

Poverty exists in urban and rural areas. Three quarters of poor households live in rural areas where one in every two households is poor.

The remainder (24%) is to be found in the main towns of Roseau and Portsmouth. Poverty amongst the Caribs is much higher: 70% of the Carib population is poor and almost half are indigent.

The report stated that the following factors contribute to the current level of poverty and loss of well-being and cause great concern in all communities

- Drug use and alcohol consumption, especially amongst youth and the male population
- Increasing pressures on men, some of whom are unable to cope with their inability to provide for their family, resort to fight, crime, and violence.

Section5: Qualitative Data & Information

Apart from the surveys mentioned above there are no official reports available of qualitative studies that were undertaken to assess drug related activities among any component of the population. However, there is a belief that community members do have some information on illicit drug activities that are occurring in their communities that can be collected to provide evidence for future drug demand and supplies reduction programmes.

Information from Network Meetings

Ten representatives for the key institutions working with drug demand and supplies reduction on island attend the first stakeholders' sensitization and training session for a national drug information network in 2008.

At that session participants were introduced to the Specific Objectives of the project, the goal, major activities, the roles and responsibilities of the network coordinator their participation and Work Plan for Dominica .

Each stake holder presented their report of activities and stated their difficulties they experienced in data gathering and processing within their organization.

Through the OAS facilitator Mr. Clarke, representatives were introduced to the indicators for data collection, during his presentation, Stake holders were asked about their thoughts on the Drug Information Network and responded with several responses such as:

- Useful information will be obtained and can be published
- Information will be more accessible
- Very important to a country in the implementation of programs

After two years the format for improving the drug data collection process has not been utilized. The coordinator needs to remind the partners of the importance of implementing the training tools so as to improve the drug data collecting and reporting process.

Drug Demand Reduction Intervention Programmes undertaken by the National Drug Abuse Prevention Unit

Drug Demand Reduction is the central theme of the work of the National Drug Abuse Prevention Unit. Programmes focus on Community/ School Prevention and Research and Information. For the period under review achievements can be summed up in the following activities

- Completion of National Master Plan 2008-2013. The overall strategy of the plan focused on Legal and Institutional Framework, Demand Reduction, Treatment and Rehabilitation and Supply Reduction
- Completion of National Secondary School Survey Report 2006 which indicated the prevalence of drug use among secondary school students. The study highlighted alcohol consumption prevalent among students followed by cigarettes and marijuana
- The establishment of the Drug Observatory, a network of stake holders to provide drug statistics at a central location for analysis and dissemination of pertinent drug demand and supply reduction activities.
- The unit launched Drug Education and Intervention Programme at the Dominica State Prison in April, 2008
- Youth at Risk Programme at (CALLS), Social Centre and Youth Development Division of the Ministry of Education and Human Resource
- Increased drug awareness through media, School Prevention Programme and Community Outreach
- Pilot Drug Abuse Intervention Programme at a selected workplace
- Develop a National Drug Policy for School
- Implement and monitor the master plan
- Eighty (80) primary school teachers from Grades 1 and 4 were trained in Life Skills and Drug Education Teaching Techniques
- Two day Juvenile Workshop held in collaboration with a Magistrate from the justice system of Dominica

As the Drug abuse prevention unit personnel continue to work collaboratively with other district field officers to mitigate problems they encounter, it would be beneficial for all partners to utilize the formal format for data gathering that will make reporting more reliable, improve evidence-based programme planning, monitoring and evaluation of interventions and documentation of successes and best practices.

Conclusion

The compilation, analysis and reporting of drug related information is key to any efficient drug demand and supplies reduction programme planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Presently, there are several sources of drug information available on the island. However, the drug related data gathering system does not compile with the CICDAT data gathering format. As a result, analysis of drug demand and supplies reduction information proves very difficult.

The National Drug Information Network that was commission in 2008 does provide the structure to utilize the recommended format that will strengthen the system for data collection, analysis and reporting. This format will provide for the pertinent data that is required for policy development, programme planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation at all levels of drug demand reduction activities. However, the partners are not using the format.

The Network Coordinator needs to remind stakeholders of the importance of utilizing the required format (CICDAT collection form 3) that was discussed at the meeting by the training team so as to ensure that proposed standardized data gathering system incorporates the required indicators. This will greatly facilitate data analysis processes.

Although the recommended structure and processes are not fully functional, information collected provides some insight into what exists on island. For instance, data collected from the health facility indicated that clients visited with alcohol and other substance related conditions.

It was noticeable that the persons who were admitted to the emergency and accident unit and in-patient medical and surgical wards did so mainly because of alcohol related conditions.

Those who were admitted to the Acute Psychiatric Unit with substance abuse were admitted to the Psychiatric Unit because of their history of mental illness. Observation of the age groups indicated that persons older than 25 years were more vulnerable to these conditions and there is a close margin between the use of alcohol and use of other drugs.

There were several apparent increases of drug demand activities for 2009 as submitted by the Dominica Police Force. It would be interesting to further explore whether the department improved its surveillance activities or its reporting system to validate the apparent change in figures.

Recommendations

The formalization of the drug information network system to:

- Facilitate accurate and timely drug demand and supply reduction reports.
- The formalization of the drug information network system prior to the next annual report.
- Maintain use of the recommended indicators to gather data and prepare reports
- Provision of resources to establish the drug information network
- Trained personnel at key institutions to maintain the system
- Conduct regular network meetings
- Consider the establishment of a substance abuse treatment facility
- Network coordinator to maintain stringent monitoring of the drug information system to uphold the necessary format for data gathering of reliable and timely reporting.

References

1. Commonwealth of Dominica Police Force, drug prevention activities, 2008-2009
2. Health Promotion, Step wise Behaviour Risk Factor Survey, 2007-08, Ministry of Health, Dominica
3. Health Promotion, Global Youth Tobacco Survey, 2000-04, Ministry of Health Dominica
4. National Drug Abuse Prevention Unit, Drug Use and Abuse School Survey, 2006
5. National Drug Abuse Prevention Unit, Drug Information Network minutes of stakeholders sensitization meeting, 2008
6. National Drug Abuse Prevention Unit, Drug Demand Reduction Intervention Programmes, 2009
7. Welfare Division, Drug Related Incidence, 2006-2009
8. Indicators for Drug Information Network Project
9. CICDAT Forms
10. Princess Margaret Hospital, Accident & Emergency Unit, Male & Female Medical & Surgical Wards and Acute Psychiatric Unit Admission Records
11. Financial Investigation Unit, Services provided, 2008-2009
12. Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica, National Poverty Assessment Survey, 2002

Appendices

Appendix A

National Drug Abuse Prevention Unit, Drug Information Network minutes of stakeholders sensitization meeting, 2008

Appendix B

Indicators for Drug Information Network Project

Appendix C

CICDAT data gathering Form

Dominica Police Force, Drug demand and supplies reduction report 2008/09