

Introduction and Background to 2012 - 2013 Secondary School Surveys Project

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Pernell Clarke
Research Specialist
Inter-American Observatory on Drugs
CICAD



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Introduction to CICAD

- The Inter- American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) was created more than 20 years ago and currently serves the members states of the Organization of American States (OAS).
- CICAD's core mission is to strengthen the human and institutional capabilities and harness the collective energy of its member states to reduce the production, trafficking and use and abuse of drugs in the Americas.



PLAN OF ACTION ON DRUGS, 2011-2015

- INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING
- DEMAND REDUCTION
- SUPPLY REDUCTION
- CONTROL MEASURES
- INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

- *At the local level, countries will have their own national drug strategies and plans.*



How to approach drugs in a strategic way

- **Information:**
 - Knowledge communicated or received about the drug issue
- **Policy:**
 - A definite course of action adopted and pursued by the government
- **Plan:**
 - A method for doing something
- **Action:**
 - The thing that you do
- **Evaluation:**
 - Determination of outcomes or impacts through careful appraisal or study



Drug Consumption and its consequences

1. What is the extent of drug and alcohol use? (prevalence, incidence, frequency of use, binge drinking etc)
2. Who are the persons involved in such use (e.g. age and sex of users)?
3. What is the nature of the use or abuse problem (e.g. types of drugs being used; frequency of use; route of administration, etc.)?
4. Why has such drug abuse occurred? Are there changes in availability of drugs, lower prices? Are there socio-economic changes, e.g. increased urbanization, overwork, unemployment, a recession?



Drug Consumption and its consequences cont'd

5. What are the possible factors initiating and supporting this drug use?
6. What are the resulting social, psychological and health-related problems? Are they acute or chronic? How are such consequences affecting family, work and community institutions?
7. What are the social and other factors associated with alcohol and other drug use?



'Epi' Methods

- General Population Surveys
- Special Population Surveys
- Rapid Assessments
- Existing Data
- Key Informants, focus groups and other qualitative methods
- Longitudinal Studies
- Natural history studies
- Special studies



Objectives of SIDUC

- ∅ *SIDUC* is a Spanish acronym that stands for Inter-American Drug Use Data System
- ∅ Gathers cross sectional data on drug users
- ∅ Gathers data that is comparable across countries and across time
- ∅ Provides statistics and other info for policy makers and program managers
- ∅ Continuously monitors the drug problem in the region




Survey of Secondary School Students – General Objectives

- Determine the prevalence of psychoactive substance use: once in a lifetime, over the past 12 months, and over the past 30 days.
- Determine the prevalence of psychoactive substance use by: gender, age, grade level, socioeconomic level or type of school (public, private or semi-private).
- Detect patterns of use of the various substances.
- Describe aspects related to the use of psychoactive substances: exposure to supply and use, risk perception, exposure to talks or courses on prevention, among others of interest.

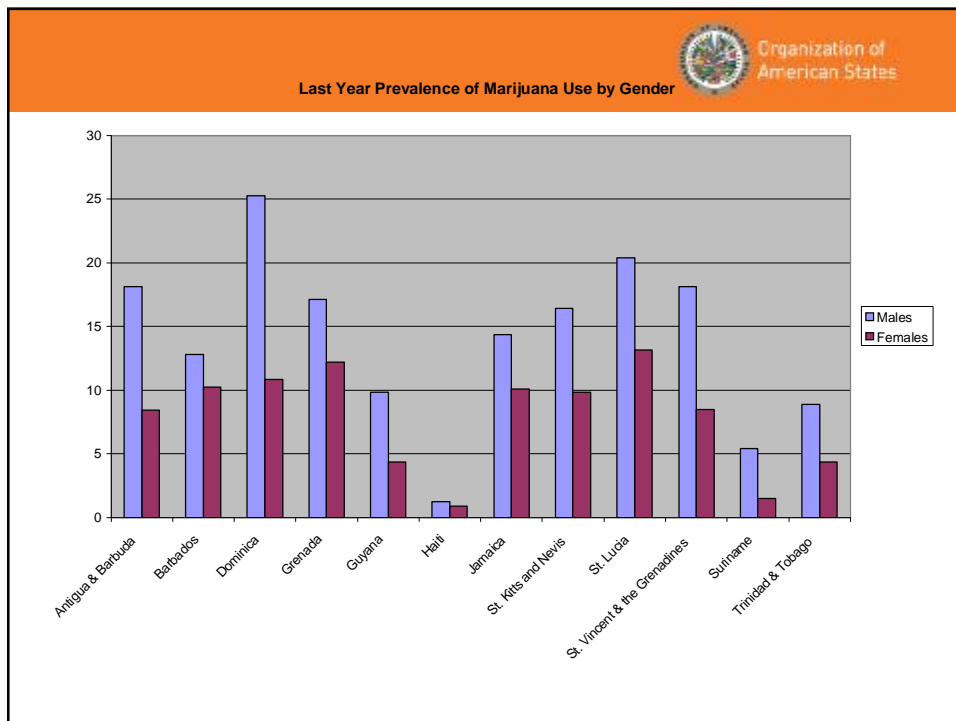
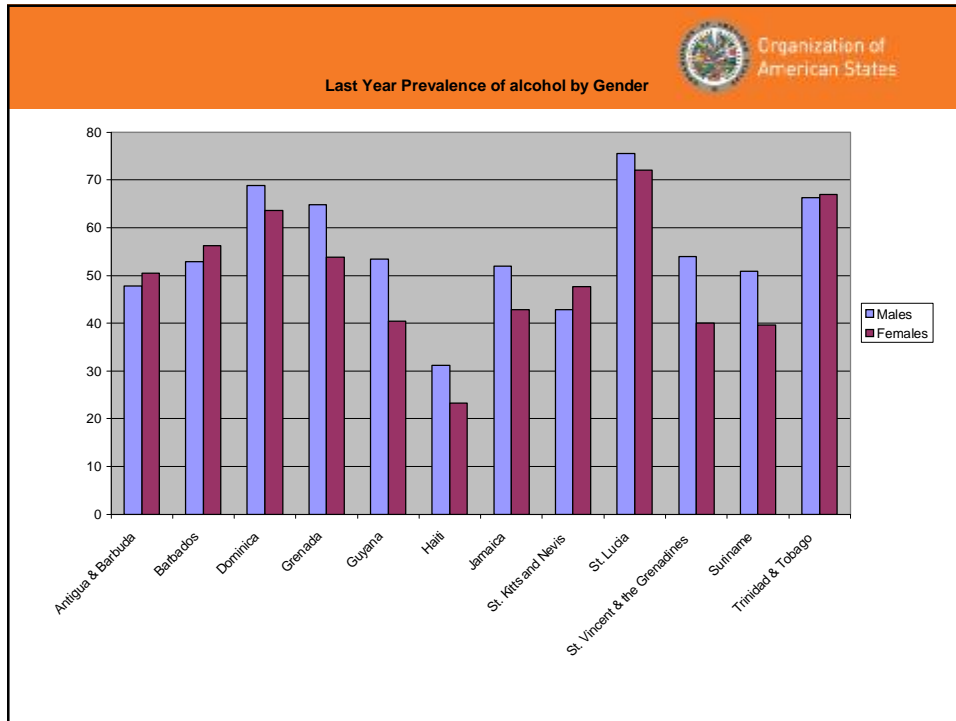


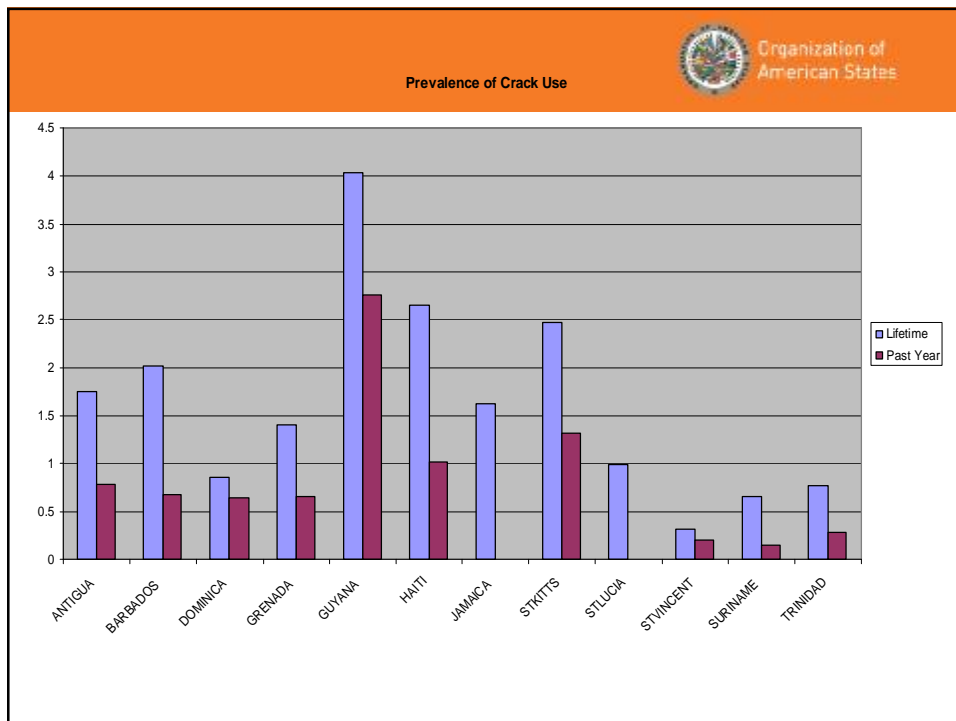
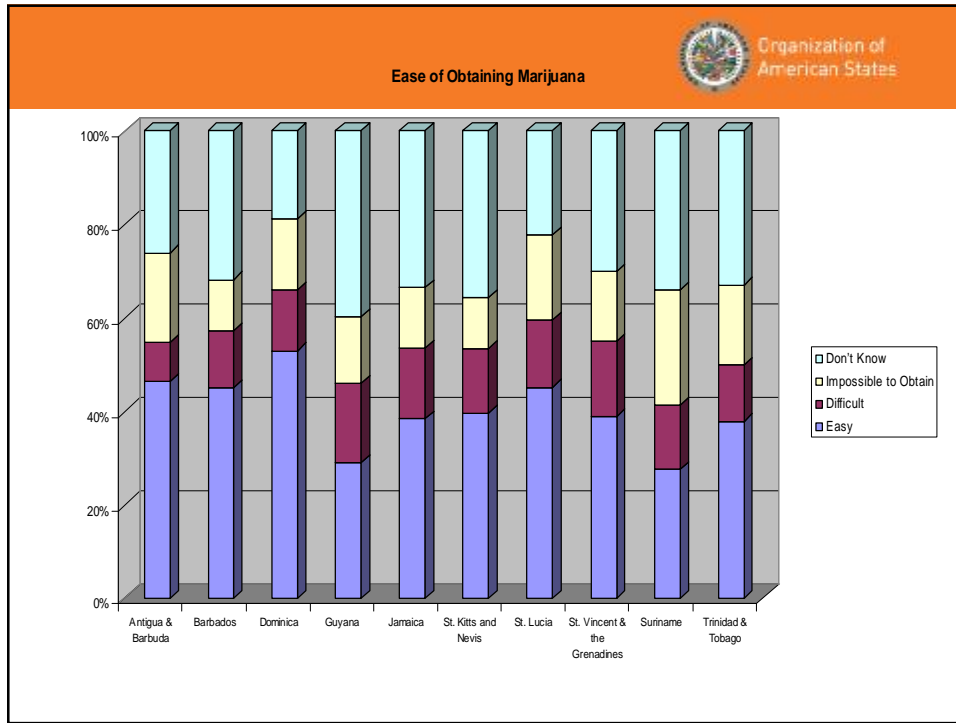
What have we done so far (SIDUC)

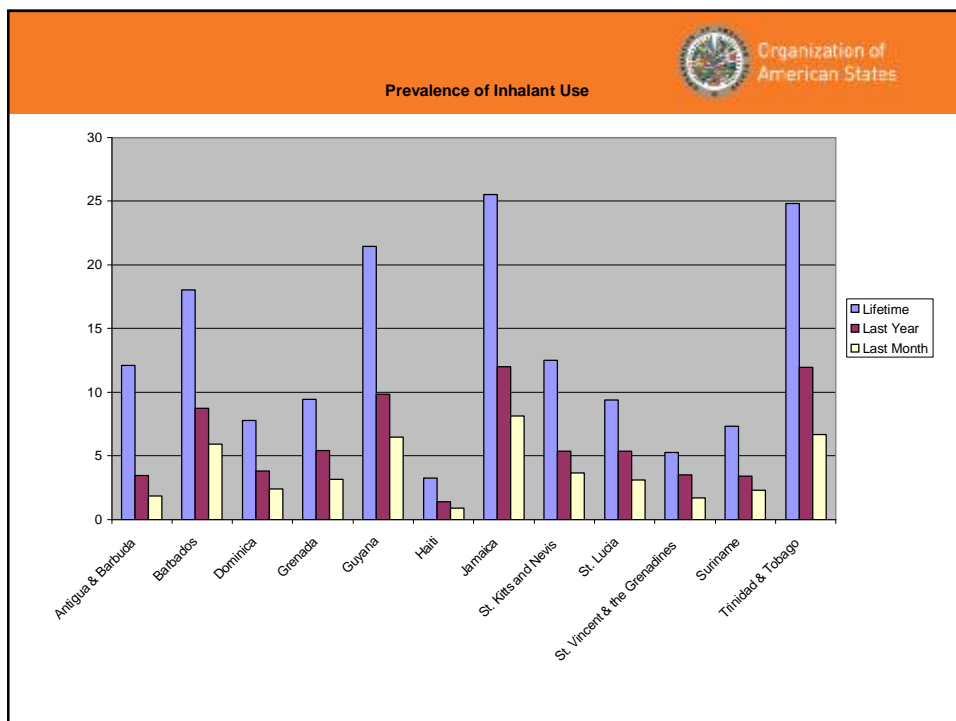
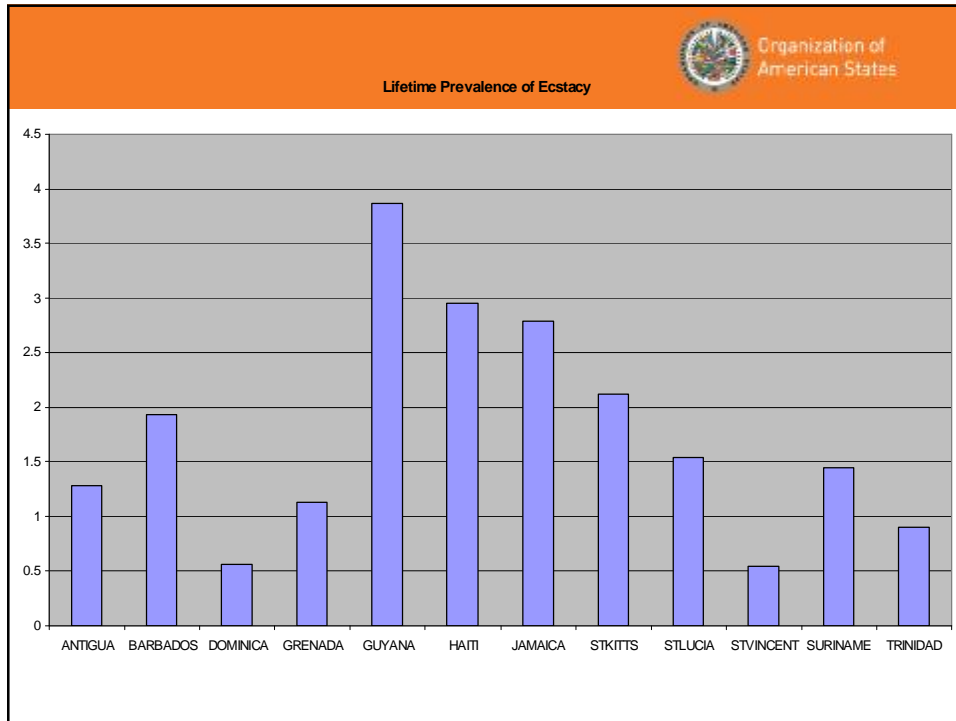
- All Caribbean member states have done a school survey.
- About 6 (out of 14) have done published at least 2 reports.
- One country has published 3 reports.

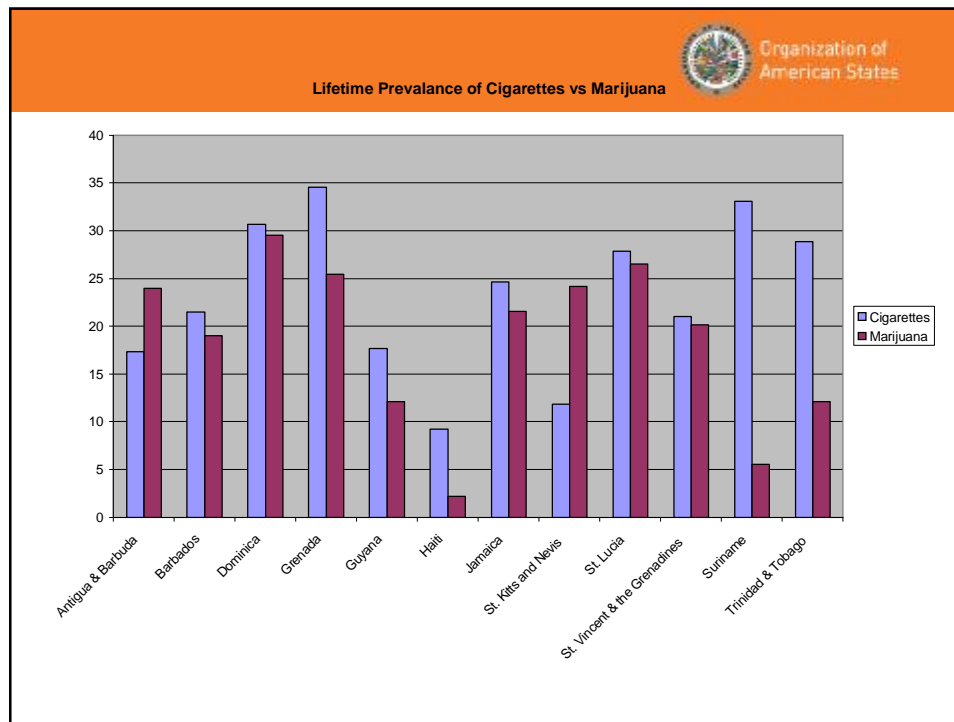
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<h2>Available Reports</h2>	
COUNTRY	# of Survey Reports
Antigua & Barbuda	2008(2005)
The Bahamas	2002 , 2008, 2011(in progress)
Barbados	2003 , 2006
Belize	2003
Dominica	2006, 2012 (in progress)
Grenada	2002, 2005
Guyana	2002, 2007
Haiti	2007 (2005), 2009
Jamaica	2006
St. Kitts & Nevis	2002 , 2006
St. Lucia	2005
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	2006
Suriname	2002, 2004, 2006
Trinidad & Tobago.	2006


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<h2>Comparative Studies</h2>	
	









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Analysis of Results

- By far the most widely consumed substance is alcohol and this is followed by marijuana.
- Prevalence is relatively high but there is plenty of variability from country to country.
- Marijuana is the most widely used illegal substance and in most cases, its use is even more prevalent than tobacco.



Analysis of Results

- Tobacco, consumed via cigarettes, is subject to more experimentation than marijuana but has a lower rate of current use in the majority of countries.
- Other substances of note include cocaine, crack, and ecstasy.
- The results for inhalants have been the most surprising obtained so far since the prevalence rates for a number of countries were higher than expected.



Analysis of Results

- There seems to be a clear relationship between behavior problems and substance use such that most substances students with more behavioral problems report higher prevalence rates.
- The same is observed with substance use and school performance.
- Ease of access (4 to 5 of every 10 students think marijuana is easy to get, 14% on average think cocaine was easily to get)
- Perception of harm. Many students do not know the dangers of:
 - frequent misuse of prescription drugs
 - occasional or frequent use of inhalants
 - occasional or frequent use of ecstasy



Policy Implications

- Each country in the study has an idea about what the main drugs of use are, and what the extent of use is.
- In relation to other regions, the prevalence of use of some of these substances particularly marijuana and inhalants, is relatively high.
- The age of first use estimates are fairly consistent across countries so the specific point in time where prevention programs intervene can also be fairly uniform.



Policy Implications

- The variability of prevalence and risk factors from country to country will inform the way that the prevention programs are designed and customized to each country.
- Therefore the structure and emphasis of prevention and other programs will have to be different based on the specifics of the drug patterns in the country.



What is a NDO?

- A national drugs observatory (NDO) is an organisation that aims to provide,— for its home country — factual, objective, reliable and comparable information concerning drugs and drug addiction, and their consequences.
- According to the national priorities, the scope of the work of the NDO can be only illicit drugs, or could cover also alcohol, tobacco and licit drugs.



Objectives of an NDO

- to provide its national audiences with the information they need:
 - for policymaking;
 - to organise drug-related services;
 - on drug-related issues of general public interest;
- to collect and/or to produce the information needed to fulfil its country's reporting obligations to regional and international monitoring and drug-control programmes.



Core Functions of an NDO

1. Data collection and monitoring at the national level
2. Analysis and interpretation of the information collected
3. Reporting and communication of the results



Data collection and monitoring at the national level

- Identification of national sources of drug-related information (The Information Map), and identifying their strengths and gaps.
- Establishment a National Drug Information Network together with the partners and resources identified in the activity above.
- Maintenance of the Drug Information Network.



Data collection and monitoring at the national level

- Improvement of the quality of data. Improvements in the quality of national information on drug-related issues may be achieved either through the improvement of existing processes and national reporting standards, or/and by establishing new sources of information.
- To comprehensively manage the data sources in all drug-related areas, and to maintain an inclusive drug information network; i.e. to get data providers in both the demand- and supply-reduction fields is to learn to work together, and to share information.



Analysis and interpretation of the information collected

- The information gathered by means of the Drug Information Network needs further processing to be of practical use for the NDO's customers. This is best done by leveraging the analytical capacity of the NDO and of national experts.



Analysis and interpretation of the information collected

- The NDO thus acts as a knowledge broker, explaining the data to those who need to understand it.
- The NDO should utilize best available expertise in providing rigorously scientific, unbiased, and non-speculative interpretation of the data collected, and in synthesising it into structured reports, papers and other publications.



Analysis and interpretation of the information collected – the aims are:

- to check the consistency and the comparability of the data collected;
- to examine the contextual information needed to correctly interpret the data;
- to analyse and interpret the information, going beyond a simple description and basic comments on the data sets;
- to interpret and to analyse the data with those who produced them;
- to integrate the information derived from different sources, which covers heterogeneous areas, so as to reach a comprehensive and meaningful overview and understanding of the drugs situation.



Reporting and communication of the results

- Reporting and communicating results should be seen as the most important task of the NDO.
- Ultimately, outputs are what justify the NDO's existence, and they are the reason why it receives funds from national authorities and international organizations.



Reporting and communication of the results

- The NDO and the DIN must show that they have not been created for the sake of the system itself, but for the intrinsic value of the information it delivers.
- Failing to build visibility, and to demonstrate the added value of the NDO, will automatically have negative consequences for its credibility.



End Game = Policy Development

- Publishing
- Dissemination of results of the study
- Reporting to high level authorities
- Stakeholder meetings and discussions
- Articulation of new policies or changes in existing policy



Thank You for your attention

Pernell Clarke
Inter-American Observatory on Drugs
OAS/CICAD

pclarke@oas.org
<http://www.cicad.oas.org>