

# Drug Prevention Policies In Barbados

**2014 - 2018**

# Current Situation

- In Barbados at present there is no one overarching policy as it relates to commonly abused drugs (alcohol, marijuana, tobacco).
- More rigid protocols governing the use of pharmaceuticals/ legally prescribed drugs- regulated through the Ministry of Health.

# Current Situation

- National drug policy currently being finalised; effort is led by the Ministry of Home Affairs;
- Barbados National Antidrug Plan being coordinated by the national agency for demand reduction, the National Council on Substance Abuse

# Strategic Action Planning Process



Phase 1  
Gathering  
information from  
critical  
stakeholders  
(December 2012)

Phase 2  
Two day national  
workshop  
(March 2013)

Phase 3  
Review sessions  
with stakeholders  
(July 2013)

Phase 4  
Presentation to  
Minister &  
Stakeholders  
(January 2014)

# Rationale

- The generation of measurable outcomes in both drug prevention and supply reduction efforts
- The constructing of evidenced-based interventions
- Provides a factual basis for comparative resource allocation across sectors

# Rationale

- A decrease in duplication of effort across sectors
- A mechanism to coordinate the collaboration of all stakeholders engaged in drug control efforts
- To encourage strategic cooperation of all agencies in Barbados to ensure an effective response to the drug situation in Barbados.

# Rationale

- To establish a governance structure which is inclusive and is intended to capture the perspectives and views of all stakeholders.
- Objectives of the Hemispheric Drug Strategy and the Hemispheric Plan of Action 2011- 2015.
- Multi-Lateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) recommendations

# Stakeholders





# Main Objectives

1. To utilise data and research to craft and implement programs for distinct at-risk populations with specific measurable targets
2. Design demand reduction policies which focus on early intervention, treatment, rehabilitation and the strengthening of recovery support services
3. Design and implement programs using substance abuse prevention methodologies and approaches, focussing on education and skills development opportunities that promote healthy lifestyles

- These objectives are supported by the development of a communications strategy for the drug sector which incorporates messages for target groups and utilises new communication technology and popular culture
- In this way we hope to develop a culture of using research to inform policy making, which will in turn guide our programs and practices

# Challenges

- Outdated/ weak legislation:
  - e.g. challenges relating to legal definition of “juveniles”;
  - outdated liquor license act

# PEST Analysis

## Political

Political Commitment & Leadership

Weakness in legislation

Ramifications of not signing international conventions



## Economic

Reduced budgets

Lower productivity

Increases in drug trafficking & sales

Lack of resources

Treatment & rehabilitation costs



## Social

International pressure

Impact on family

Acceptance of illegal drug use

Increases in illegal firearms

Changes in drug consumption

Unable to measure success of programmes

Lack of knowledge



## Technological

Inadequate use of technology to capture data, monitor trends, dissemination of information and networking

Influence of internet and social media on drug use and concealment techniques

- The proposed Plan therefore sets out a mechanism which fosters the interagency approach needed to effectively address these and other existing challenges

# Governance Structure for the Barbados Anti-Drug Plan

**Oversight Committee**

**Anti-Drug Plan Unit**

**Multi-Sectorial Committee**

**Institutional  
Strengthening**

**Demand  
Reduction**

**Supply  
Reduction**

**Control  
Measures**

**International  
Cooperation**

**Monitoring &  
Evaluation**

- Barbados ultimately continues to strive towards full integration of drug prevention strategies into existing public policies in order to minimise the negative impacts and rising costs to the state, of drug abuse

THE END