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

Policy Approval

- Cabinet
- Permanent Secretaries

Sponsors

- OAS/CICAD
- UN Agencies
- WHO/PAHO
- Private Sector

National Council on Substance Abuse

Network Partners & Service Providers

- •NGO's
- Public & Private
 Sector
- NCSA Volunteers
- Treatment Providers
- Community Based
- Organisations

Government Ministries & Departments

- Youth, Sports & Culture
- •Health
- Education
- Law Enforcement
- Correctional Centres
- **e**Prison

Customers

& Users

- •Educational Institutions
- Teachers & Guidance Counsellors
- Parents
- Juvenile & Adult
- Justice Systems

Interest Groups

- Media
- Sports Fraternity
- Faith Based
 Organisations
- Trade Unions

Main Objectives

- To utilise data and research to craft and implement programs for distinct at-risk populations with specific measurable targets
- Design demand reduction policies which focus on early intervention, treatment, rehabilitation and the strengthening of recovery support services
- 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";
 - o 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

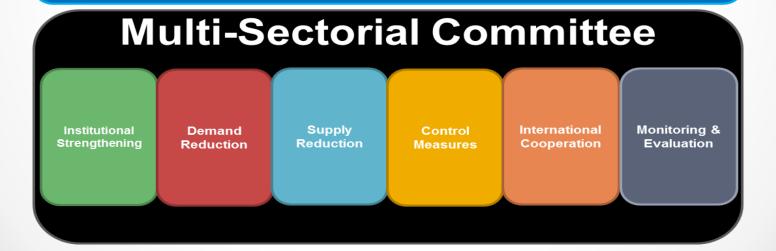
Influence of internet and social media on drug use and concealment techniques

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



 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