

Report on Drug Assessments Dissemination Meeting and Policy Discussion Workshop

Date of meeting: <i>July 20, 2017</i>	Time of meeting: <i>9:00 a.m.- 12:15 p.m.</i> Mini Policy Workshop: <i>12:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.</i>
Venue: <i>Paul Farquharson Conference Centre, Royal Bahamas Police Force Headquarters, East Street Nassau, New Providence</i>	Country: <i>Commonwealth of The Bahamas</i>
Objectives of the Event: The objectives of the meeting were to: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Share results on three assessments on drug use and drug treatment in The Bahamas. Specific studies were:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. The Bahamas National Household Drug Surveyb. Rapid Assessment of the Drug Situation in The Bahamasc. Drug Treatment in The Bahamas: A Comparison of Data from National Treatment Centres and the National Household Drug Survey2) Facilitate policy discussions surrounding the extent of drug use in The Bahamas, engaging input from various government agencies and private sector partners in a post mini-workshop setting. The expected outcomes were recommendations for policy formulations that would improve services to strengthen drug prevention, education and treatment in The Bahamas.	
Summary: The dissemination meeting consisted of a formal opening and presentation of results on the three assessments listed above, followed by a short period for questions and answers. A mini-policy discussion workshop that followed facilitated input from stakeholders on implications for formulating policies that would positively impact the drug situation in The Bahamas. Key representatives at the meeting were: Ambassador Adam Namm, Executive Secretary, Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)/Organization of American States (OAS); Ms. Lisa Johnson, Chargé d’Affaires, United States Embassy; Dr. The Honourable Duane Sands, Minister of Health, Bahamas; and Dr. Marvin Dames, Minister of National Security, Bahamas.	

Other guests included representation from over 20 other agencies as listed in **Appendix 1**. Using a combination of presentations of research findings, policy discussion working groups, and presentations from the group discussions, the meeting was held for one day, from 9 a.m., to about 3 p.m., at the Royal Bahamas Police Force Headquarters, East Street, Nassau, New Providence.

Background

Three assessments comprised the content for the information disseminated at the meeting:

1. Bahamas Household Drug Survey

The Bahamas Household Drug Survey was implemented by the Health Information and Research Unit, Ministry of Health in collaboration with local stakeholder agencies: the National Anti-Drug Secretariat (NADS), an agency of the Ministry of National Security (also the in-country point of contact for the project); the Department of Statistics; and the Bahamas National Drug Council.

The survey was conducted from February 20, 2017 to April 30, 2017. The aim was to determine the extent of drug use among persons 12 to 65 years of age in the population. While assessments have been conducted previously on drug use among young people in 2002, 2008 and 2011, it had been more than 20 years since a general population survey was last conducted. Therefore, the launch of this current survey provided a valuable opportunity to understand the current status of drug use in The Bahamas.

2. Rapid Situation Assessment on Drug Abuse and Related Factors

Designed to complement the household survey, a qualitative Rapid Situation Assessment (RSA) was led by Dr. Sandra Smith. The purpose of this assessment was to gather data on key drug-related issues, target populations, and other important relevant concerns. The assessment was intended to support and enhance the development and implementation of related drug policies.

Following a meeting with a number of key NADS stakeholders, a priority list with perceived, pressing issues was developed. At the outset there was a great interest in Youth as a target population as they are an important segment of the society.

3. Drug Treatment in The Bahamas

Developed by CICAD, the Drug Treatment Data System provides for standardized data collection on persons seeking treatment in all OAS member states, including The Bahamas. The system enables development of a profile of demographic characteristics, and one maintained over time, will allow for the establishment of trends and identify some of the risk factors for problematic drug use. Data for 2016 were analyzed for The Bahamas.

The Meeting

As shown in the agenda (**Appendix 2**) during the formal opening, remarks were made by Ambassador Adam Namm (CICAD/OAS); Ms. Lisa Johnson (United States Embassy); Dr. The Honourable Minister

Duane Sands (Ministry of Health); and The Honourable Minister Marvin Dames (Ministry of National Security). All of the speakers underscored the importance of knowledge gained from the drug-related research that will go a long way to provide the evidence needed to strengthen existing programmes. There was also a commitment to an ongoing partnership in addressing the situation of drug abuse and related issues in The Bahamas.

Following the remarks were presentations of results of the assessments:

- a. “The Bahamas National Household Drug Survey” (*Mrs. Nanika Clark*)
- b. “Rapid Assessment of the Drug Situation in The Bahamas” (*Dr. Sandra Smith*)
- c. “Drug Treatment in The Bahamas: A Comparison of Data from National Treatment Centres and the National Household Drug Survey” (*Mr. Pernell Clarke*)

Copies of all remarks and presentations have been provided under separate cover.

Policy Workshop

There were three groups in the workshop (as shown in **Appendix 3**) covering the thematic areas of:

- Education, Prevention and Health
- Law Enforcement
- Treatment & Rehabilitation

Specific questions addressed in each group were:

1. What are the implications of the findings (prevalence, access/availability, trends etc) based on your sector/agency/mandate?
2. What are your recommendations for agencies responsible for a) Drug Prevention; b) Drug Control; c) Drug Education; d) Drug Treatment; and e) Rehabilitation?
3. What are your recommendations for your own sector in terms of policies and interventions?
4. What are three main factors that may be barriers in the implementation of those recommendations?

A summary of the policy workshop is shown in **Appendix 4**. Other appendices (5-7) are included as listed on Page 4.

Camille Nairn
Project Coordinator
August 10, 2017

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Dissemination Meeting, List of Attendees

Appendix 2 – Dissemination Meeting – Agenda

Appendix 3 - Dissemination Meeting, List of Workshop Participants

Appendix 4 – Summary of Workshop Discussion and Recommendations

Appendix 5 – Abstract/Summary of Bahamas National Drug Survey

Appendix 6 - Links for Newspaper Articles

**Appendix 7 – Event Photos (Photo credits: Virgil Johnson, Ministry of
Health Media Unit and Bahamas Information Services (Photo
1 only)**

APPENDIX 1

Dissemination Meeting for Bahamas National Drug Assessments

Thursday, July 20, 2017

List of Meeting Attendees

No.	Organization	Name
1.	Bahamas Department of Corrections	Stephanie Pratt, PCO
2.	Bahamas National Drug Agency	Dr. Vanria Rolle, Director
3.	Bahamas National Drug Agency	Lakeisha Hepburn, Pharmacist
4.	Bahamas National Drug Council	Dr. Bridgette Rolle, DPS, Administrator
5.	Bahamas National Drug Council	Ms. Marion Pinder, Senior Trained Clinical Nurse
6.	Bahamas National Drug Council	Ms. Shandera Gardiner
7.	Bahamas National Drug Council	Ms. Sharon Adderley
8.	CICAD/OAS	Mr. Pernell Clarke
9.	Community Counseling & Assessment Centre	Ms. Julia Meadows
10.	Crisis Centre	Dr. N. Tuletta, Consultant
11.	Department of Public Health	Dr. Calae Philippe, Senior House Officer
12.	Department of Public Health	Mr. Ezekiel Munnings, Male Health Initiative
13.	Department of Public Health	Ms. Camelta Barnes, Public Health Nutritionist
14.	Department of Public Health	Ms. Charlene Bain, Administrator
15.	Department of Rehabilitative Services	Sonia Saunders, Chief Probation Officer
16.	Department of Social Services	Aurellius Jordan, Assistant Research Officer
17.	Department of Statistics	Terry Fountain, Consultant
18.	Financial Intelligence Unit	Mr. Basil Collie, Deputy Director
19.	Great Commission Ministries Int'l	Mrs. Minalee Hanchell
20.	Health Information Research Unit	Mrs. Camille Deleveaux-Nairn
21.	Health Information Research Unit	Mrs. Dorette Rolle
22.	Health Information Research Unit	Mrs. Maisie Miller
23.	Health Information Research Unit	Mrs. Nanika Brathwaite-Clark
24.	Health Information Research Unit	Mrs. Sophia Bethell
25.	Health Information Research Unit	Ms. Valarie Minus
26.	Health Information Research Unit	Ms. Jernae Collie (<i>Student</i>)
27.	Healthy Bahamas Coalition	Dr. Phillip Swann, Chairman,

No.	Organization	Name
28.	HIV/AIDS Center	Glenise Johnson, Epidemiologist
29.	HIV/AIDS Center	Charlsea Maynard, HIV Centre
30.	International Organizations	Mr. Adam Namm, Executive Secretary (CICAD) (OAS)
31.	Ministry of Education	Dr. Willard Barr, Acting Director, Research and Planning Unit
32.	Ministry of Education	Mrs. Annette Humes, Restorative Justice
33.	Ministry of Health	Dr. Cherita Moxey, Senior House Officer
34.	Ministry of Health	Dr. Dwayne Sands, Minister of Health
35.	Ministry of Health	Dr. Percival McNeil, Consultant /Ag. Chief Medical Officer
36.	Ministry of Health	Mrs. Annouch Armbrister
37.	Ministry of Health	Mrs. Marcel Johnson, Director of Nursing
38.	Ministry of Health	Mrs. Sherrilyn Wallace, Deputy Permanent Secretary
39.	Ministry of Health	Mrs. Emma Foulkes, Deputy Permanent Secretary
40.	Ministry of Health	Mrs. Lynette Deveaux, Director, Focus on Youth
41.	Ministry of National Security	Mr. Carl Smith, Permanent Secretary
42.	Ministry of National Security	The Hon. Marvin Dames, Minister of National Security
43.	Ministry of Youth	Ms. Tanya McDonald, Youth Officer, Registry
44.	National Anti-Drug Secretariat	Dr. Chaswell Hanna, Director
45.	National Anti-Drug Secretariat	Cpl. Greer McKinney, Research Officer
46.	National Anti-Drug Secretariat	Mr. David Ramsey, Supply Reductions Officer
47.	National Anti-Drug Secretariat	Mr. Sherwin Lloyd, Demand Reduction Officer
48.	National Anti-Drug Secretariat	Ms. Carla Johnson, Office Manager
49.	National Anti-Drug Secretariat	Ms. Travaj Lightbourne
50.	National L.E.A.D Institute, Bahamas Faith Ministries,	Mr. Troy Clarke, President/CEO,
51.	Pan American Health Organization	Dr. Gustavo Mery, Health Systems Advisor
52.	Pan American Health Organization	Ms. Ashley Cadman, Planning Analyst
53.	Project Manager, Rapid Situation Assessment	Ms. Sandra Smith
54.	Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre	Dr. Kirk Christie, Consultant, Female Services & Substance Abuse, SRC
55.	Public Hospitals Authority	Mrs. Hannah Gray, Deputy Managing Director

No.	Organization	Name
56.	Renaissance Institute Int'l, #207 Old Towne Sandypport	Keva Bethell, Director of Research
57.	Royal Bahamas Police Force	Justina Rigby, Sergeant
58.	Royal Bahamas Police Force	Sgt. Linda Sullivan
59.	Sandilands Rehabilitation Center	Mrs. Carolyn Roberts
60.	Sandilands Rehabilitation Center	Rochelle Basden, Sr. Clinical Psychologist
61.	US Embassy	Mrs. Jamie Martin, Director, International Law- Enforcement Section
62.	US Embassy	Ms. Christine Mara, International Law- Enforcement Section
63.	US Embassy	Ms. Lisa Johnson, Charge d' Affairs, United States Embassy
64.	UWI	Dr. Anthony Frankson, Epidemiologist, UWI/SCMR

APPENDIX 2



*Ministry of Health and Ministry of National Security
In Collaboration with CICAD/OAS and the United States Embassy
Dissemination Meeting for Bahamas National Drug Assessments*
Paul Farquharson Conference Centre
Royal Bahamas Police Force Headquarters, East Street
Nassau, New Providence
Commonwealth of The Bahamas
Thursday, July 20th, 2017, 9:00 a.m.*

AGENDA

*Moderator: Dr. Cherita Moxey
Lead, Health Research, Policy & Planning*

Time	Topic	Presenter
9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m.	Call to Order OPENING	
	National Anthems: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• United States of America• The Commonwealth of The Bahamas	Royal Bahamas Police Force Pop Band (RBPf)
	Opening Prayer	Mrs. Minalee Hanchell Executive Director Great Commission Ministries Int'l/ National Anti-Drug Secretariat (NADS) Stakeholder Committee Member
	Welcome	Dr. Chaswell Hanna Superintendent, RBPf/Director, NADS
9:10 a.m. – 9:40 a.m.	Greetings and Remarks	Ambassador Adam Namm Executive Secretary Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)/ Organization of American States (OAS) Ms. Lisa Johnson Chargé d’Affaires, United States Embassy The Bahamas The Honourable Marvin Dames Minister of National Security The Bahamas Dr. The Honourable Duane Sands Minister of Health The Bahamas

Time	Topic	Presenter
9:40 a.m. – 10:40 a.m.	Presentations	
	“The Drug Situation in The Bahamas”	Mrs. Nanika Clark, Statistician Ministry of Health
	“Rapid Assessment of the Drug Situation in The Bahamas”	Ms. Sandra Smith, Ed.D., BSN, RN
	“Drug Treatment in The Bahamas: A Comparison of Data from National Treatment Centres and the National Household Drug Survey”	Mr. Pernell Clarke, Research Specialist CICAD/OAS
10:40 a.m.– 10:50 a.m.	Questions and Answers	Moderator
10:50 a.m.– 10:55 a.m.	Vote of Thanks	Mrs. Camille Nairn, Project Coordinator Bahamas Household Drug Survey
10:55 a.m.– 11:10 a.m.	COFFEE BREAK (**15 Minutes**) Royal Bahamas Police Force Pop Band	
MINI STAKEHOLDER POLICY WORKSHOP/GROUP DISCUSSION (Moderator: Cpl. Greer McKinney, Research Officer, NADS)		
11:10 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	This session requires separate groups discussing four (4) thematic areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Law Enforcement/Supply Reduction➤ Education/ Prevention➤ Health➤ Treatment/Rehabilitation	
	Discussion Questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What are the implications of the findings (prevalence, access/availability, trends, etc) based on your sector/agency/mandate?2. What are your recommendations for agencies responsible for a) Drug Prevention; b) Drug Control; c) Drug Education; d) Drug Treatment; and e) Rehabilitation?3. What are your recommendations for your own sector in terms of policies and interventions?4. What are three main factors that may be barriers in the implementation of those recommendations?5. Any other recommendations?	
12:15 p.m.– 12:55 p.m.	Reports from Working Groups	Group Presenters
12:55 p.m.- 1:15 p.m.	Next Steps Concluding Remarks	Moderator MOH/NADS/CICAD
CLOSING		
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION		

APPENDIX 3

Dissemination Meeting for Bahamas National Drug Assessments

Thursday, July 20, 2017

List of Policy Workshop Participants

Group # 1: Supply Reduction / Law Enforcement

NO.	Organization	Name	Email	Phone
1.	CICAD/OAS	Adam Namm, Ambassador	anamm@oas.org	(202) 370-9895
2.	National Anti-Drug Secretariat	Cpl. Greer McKinney, Research Officer	greermckinney@bahamas.gov.bs	502-3357
3.	National Anti-Drug Secretariat	Mr. David Ramsey, Supply Reductions Officer	davidramsey@bahamas.gov.bs	502-3000 / 565-0108
4.	Ministry of Education (Restorative Justice)	Kendra Bowe	bowekendra@yahoo.com	432-8696
5.	Royal Bahamas Defence Force	Lt. Cdr Omar Saunders ¹	omarsaunders@rbdf.gov.bs	376-3251
6.	Royal Bahamas Police Force	Jestina Rigby, Sergeant ²	jestina.rigby@rbpf.bs	
7.	The Crisis Centre	Dr. N. Tuletta, Consultant	dr.ntuletta@gmail.com	322-4999
8.	The Crisis Centre	Dione Pratt	bahamascrisiscentre@gmail.com	328-0922 / 432-7624

¹Presenter; ²Group Leader

Dissemination Meeting for Bahamas National Drug Assessments
Thursday, July 20, 2017
List of Policy Workshop Participants

Group # 2: Education/ Prevention/Health

NO.	Organization	Name	Email	Phone
9.	Bahamas National Drug Council	Ms. Shandira Gardiner	shandiagardiner@yahoo.com	325-4633/ 425-0505
10.	Bahamas National Drug Council	Ms. Sharon Adderley ¹	sharonadderley@bahamas.gov.bs	354-6333
11.	Community Counseling & Assessment Centre	Ms. Julia Meadows	juliamdmeadows@gmail.com	376-2663
12.	Health Information Research Unit	Mrs. Nanika Brathwaite-Clark	nanikabrathwaite@bahamas.gov.bs	502-4843
13.	Ministry of Education	Dr. Willard Barr, Acting Director, Research and Planning Unit	willardbarr45@gmail.com	376-6363 / 397-2825 364-1256
14.	Ministry of Education (Restorative Justice)	Annette Humes	annettehumes@hotmail.com	544-6933
15.	National Anti-Drug Secretariat	Shervin Lloyd, Demand Reduction Officer ²	Shervin Lloyd@bahamas.gov.bs	502-3377
16.	Public Hospital Authority	Ms. Ashley Cadman, Consultant	abcadman@phabahamas.org	557-4444
17.	Ministry of Education (Restorative Justice)	Kendra Bowe	bowekendra@yahoo.com	432-8696

¹ Group Leader; ²Presenter

Dissemination Meeting for Bahamas National Drug Assessments
Thursday, July 20, 2017
List of Policy Workshop Participants

Group # 3: Treatment and Rehabilitation

NO.	Organization	Name	Email	Phone
18.	Community Counseling & Assessment Centre	Ms. Julia Meadows	juliamdmeadows@gmail.com	376-2663
19.	Department of Rehabilitative Services	Sonia Saunders, Chief Probation Officer	sonangelkae@yahoo.com	322-6317/8
20.	Great Commission Ministries Int'l	Mrs. Minalee Hanchell	elderminallee@yahoo.com	325-5801
21.	National Anti-Drug Secretariat	Ms. Carla Johnson, Office Manager ¹	carlajohnson@bahamas.gov.bs	502-3377
22.	National L.E.A.D Institute, Bahamas Faith Ministries	Mr. Troy Clarke, President/CEO	thenationalleadinstitute@gmail.com	525-3749
23.	OAS/Bahamas Office	Ambika Rahming-Cooper	arahming@oas.org	393-7747
24.	Sandilands Rehabilitation Center	Mrs. Carolyn Roberts ²	carolynbroberts@yahoo.com	364-9672/364-9628

¹Group Leader; ²Presenter

APPENDIX 4

Drug Assessments Dissemination Meeting Report on Policy Workshop

Following the meeting, a short Policy Workshop was held to facilitate discussions leading to recommendations for policy formulations. Expectations were that they would improve services and strengthen drug prevention, education and treatment in The Bahamas. The three discussions groups consisted of representatives from various government agencies and private sector partners. Specific questions addressed with their conclusions follow.

1. What are the implications of the findings (prevalence, access/availability, trends etc) based on your sector/agency/mandate?

- There is a need for community policing, education and advertising
- Research findings may be used to locate drug “hot spots”, i.e., areas of drug-related activities.
- Inconsistent views on the definition of drugs and reasons for engaging in drug use highlight the need for improved and up-to-date communication strategies with impactful public service announcements. These need to be more effective in reaching vulnerable populations, and achieve a reduction in marijuana and other drug use.
- Strategies for successes with cocaine reduction should be modified and adopted to similarly impact marijuana use.
- Evidence-based approaches must be taken for drug prevention, as well as treatment and rehabilitation. Prevention strategies must be considered that include evaluation and assessment of ongoing programs, and treatment methods that are comprehensive with a bio-psychosocial approach.
- There are fundamental questions that need to be addressed, e.g., How to get younger clients to come in and seek treatment? How to identify persons with drug use problems early?
- Current drug prevention and treatment programmes must be modernized and expanded.
- Network and improve collaboration with all other related agencies.

2. What are your recommendations for agencies responsible for a) Drug Prevention; b) Drug Control; c) Drug Education; d) Drug Treatment; and e) Rehabilitation?

a) Drug Prevention

- Increase training and intelligence in drug prevention agencies.
- Given the positive effects of a reduction in cocaine use, there are benefits to be gained in repurposing the cocaine stigma and applying the same prevention strategies to reduce marijuana use.
- Effects of marijuana are not always seen as negative. Messaging for marijuana prevention must be visual, keeping in mind user demographics and perception of drugs. There should also be a focus on young males.
- Audience vetting is needed to ensure messages are effective (utilize audience in drug treatment institutions and in schools).
- Integrate messages using a revised, multisectoral communications plan with effective public service announcements. A multi-media approach to drug prevention may be taken that is age-appropriate with a high impact using e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Messenger, Instagram, etc.
- Messages must be placed in areas known for drug dealing and drug use, and particularly schools and community areas.
- Seek commitment of an influential spokesperson or “champion” to deliver public messages for greater impact.
- After-school and community activities for young people need to be strengthened to reduce boredom and unsupervised time which may lead to drug exposure.
- Ensure that prevention strategies developed are reflective of the Family Island context (separate strategies may be needed).
- Combat messaging on medicinal uses of marijuana.

b) Drug Control

- Use available data to identify drug “hot spots” and enable law enforcement agencies to develop relevant policies to address those areas.
- Monitor current trends on the internet and share information regarding current local, regional and international drug trends.

- Improve and update drug detection programmes.

c) Drug Education

- Drug education should begin at the primary school level to afford persons the age-appropriate knowledge they need to make better decisions regarding risks of substance use.
- Use social media platforms to target younger audiences.
- Establish scheduled visits by the National Anti-Drug Secretariat to schools as part of the Ministry of Education's school curriculum.
- Revise and/or expand drug education in schools.
- Introduce drug education at the primary school level using tablets or other media.

d) Drug Treatment

- Establish a hotline for potential and current drug users.
- Provide evidence-based treatment to clients.
- Utilize a biopsychosocial approach in the treatment of persons with problematic drug use.
- Make treatment appropriate for demographic profiles.
- Institute more training on the Family Islands to increase knowledge and develop supportive follow-up groups

e) Rehabilitation

- As there are no programmes in Her Majesty's Prison for persons convicted of drug use, there must be provisions made for rehabilitation for this population.
- Improve drug rehabilitation and Non-Government Organization programmes through:
 - Staff training in specific areas
 - Provision of resources to maintain current programmes
 - Licensing and routinely inspecting programmes to ensure effectiveness
- Establish and utilize social reintegration programmes.
- Programme evaluations should be conducted in accordance with international standards of care.

5. What are your recommendations for your own sector in terms of policies and interventions?

Ministry of Education

- Incorporate anti-drug messaging, programmes, and information sessions into school curriculums
- Provide resources and referrals for students, teachers and other workers to get help for drug addiction problems.
- Advertise after-school programs in New Providence and Family Islands to encourage parents to enroll students.

Ministry of Health

- Provide relevant, accurate, and timely information to the public, guided by a communications plan.
- Provide assistance in training other agencies' staff to understand the clinical side of drug use and abuse
- Increase interaction with the courts.
- Reestablish ties with the criminal justice system (reacceptance of clients)
- Establish more focused programs for adolescents.
- Establish more outreach programs in response to rehabilitation.
- Reinstitute alternative sentencing programs.
- Enforce a public health approach to treatment. A public health issue is not a criminal issue.

Other

- Increase visibility of signage
- Post targeted advertisements in communities
- Hold drug prevention programmes for young people
- Increase resources and funding

6. What are the main factors that may be barriers in the implementation of those recommendations?

- Limited resources (human and financial)
- Bureaucracy, including political and administrative inaction
- Lack of buy-in by law-makers and other persons in the community
- Unregulated private treatment and rehabilitative service facilities
- Geographic makeup of The Bahamas
- Existing culture
- Lack of understanding of impact of recommendations on benefits and costs

5. Any Other Recommendations

- Implement a ticketing system for drug use.
- Design and implement a Prison Treatment Programme.
- Approve and implement the National Drug Prevention Policy.
- Approve and implement a National Drug Court.
- Shift the government's focus from drug control (i.e. Customs) to drug prevention (i.e. employment opportunities, education).
- Establish community centres in collaboration with churches or civil organizations. Health or drug prevention/counselling staff can be utilized (either through deployment or call services) as resources.
- Establish a comprehensive programme approach, e.g., sport groups (soccer, basketball and rugby), and performing arts programmes.

Bahamas National Household Drug Prevalence Survey 2017

Summary

Objective: The primary goal of the Bahamas National Household Drug Prevalence Survey was to estimate the prevalence of the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, cocaine, and other drugs among persons 12-65 years in The Bahamas. Perceived drug use risk, consequences of using drugs, and treatment were also incorporated.

Methods: Data collection was done using multi-stage sampling techniques on the islands of New Providence, Grand Bahama, Andros, Eleuthera, Exuma, and Abaco. Randomly chosen individuals within each selected household were interviewed by trained enumerators using a standardized CICAD questionnaire on computer tablets with *Survey To Go* software. Only persons 12 to 65 years were eligible for the survey.

Results: A total of 2,533 interviews were completed. Approximately half (52%) were female with a median age of 36 years. Lifetime use prevalence for alcohol was 74% (78% males, 71% females); tobacco, 21% (33% males, 9% females); marijuana, 13% (20% males, 7% females); cocaine, 1% (2% males, 0.4% females); and crack cocaine, 0.7% (1% males, 0.5% females). Lifetime use for inhalants, tranquilizers, stimulants, and analgesics were all less than 1%. There also appears to be emerging drugs such as Grabba (3% lifetime use), Beady/Bidi (5%), E-cigarettes (2%), hookah pipes (2%), and “Lean”/”Sizzurp”, with 2% ever reporting use.

Conclusion: Alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana were the more popular drugs. When compared to the last household drug prevalence survey in 1991, lifetime use of alcohol and marijuana remained the same while that of tobacco, cocaine and tranquilizers decreased. Drug monitoring, prevention and education efforts should be strengthened especially for alcohol, marijuana and the relatively new drugs.

Lifetime Prevalence (% Ever Used) of Selected Drugs, by Age and Sex, Bahamas 2017

Drug	12-24 Years		25-44 Years		45-65 Years	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Alcohol	59.9	60.9	85.1	76.3	83.9	71.3
Tobacco	27.7	4.6	34.4	11.5	37.1	10.8
Marijuana	18.7	6.2	22.0	9.9	19.4	4.0
Cocaine	0.3	0	0.7	0.8	5.1	0.4
Crack Cocaine	0	0	0.4	0.8	2.6	0.5
Inhalants	0	0	0.04	0.6	1.2	0
Tranquilizers	0.1	0	0.3	0.8	1.2	0
Stimulants	0	0	0	0.6	1.5	0
Analgesics	1.3	0	0.2	1.0	1.2	0.04
Grabba	7.4	0.8	3.8	2.6	0.6	0.3
Beady/Bidi	12.0	1.4	11.1	2.5	1.9	0.6
E-Cigarettes	5.1	2.6	2.2	1.3	0.4	0.2
Hookah Pipes	3.4	1.3	5.4	1.8	0.7	0.2
Lean	8.3	0.3	2.1	2.8	0.3	0

Source: National Household Drug Prevalence Survey, 2017

APPENDIX 6

List of Links for Articles on the Dissemination Event

<https://bs.usembassy.gov/remarks-bahamas-national-drug-survey-conference/>

<http://www.thenassauguardian.com/news/74892-officials-meet-to-discuss-prevalence-of-drug-use-among-persons-12-65>

<http://jonesbahamas.com/survey-reveals-high-alcohol-use-among-men/>

<http://www.bahamasnational.com/?q=node/8703>

<http://www.tribune242.com/news/2017/jul/21/no-moves-legalise-marijuana/?news>

APPENDIX 7

