# Research  to Policy:
# 2013 National Secondary School Survey & 2014 Prison Survey

**Uki Atkinson**

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**REGIONAL SEMINAR FOR NATIONAL DRUG OBSERVATORIES IN THE CARIBBEAN**

**Ramada Georgetown Princess Hotel**

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## 2013 NSS
## Phase 1 – Multi-level Dissemination

❖ National High level dissemination meeting

❖ Interest group conferences/meetings

❖ Media engagement

❖ Community level dissemination

❖ Fact sheets – general, alcohol, marijuana

# NSS
# Phase 2 -  Stakeholder Consultations

❖Participation in OAS/CICAD Policy Capacity Building Workshop (Trinidad 2014)

❖4 island-wide consultations
   ✓Principals,Teachers, Guidance Counsellors, Deans of Disciplines, Probation officers, School Resource officers, Social Workers, Health Promotion Officers, Student Leaders

❖Presentation of NSS findings →Identification of 5 priority issues →

identification of gaps in current policy and programs→ Recommendations for policy shifts/program development

**Issue 1: School Based Drug Policies & Rules** - What are they - possession, use, expulsion/suspension, treatment, prevention? What are the gaps? Recommendations for change?

**Issue 2: Access and Availability of Drugs in and Around School** - What is being done to limit access and availability to drugs in and around schools? What strategies should address this? Who should be targeted and how? What are the barriers to succeeding?

**Issue 3: Risk Perception** - How can we increase the perception of harmfulness of drugs among our school population? Who should we target and why?

**Issue 4: Drug Prevention Activities and Messages** - What are the existing strategies and programs? What are your recommendations for improvement? How can NCDA support?

**Issue 5: Cultural Acceptance of Alcohol & Marijuana Use** - How do we tackle cultural acceptance? Who should we target? How? What are the barriers?

# Phase 3 – Recommendations Phase

❖ 4 Consultation reports condensed into 3-page brief highlighting main recommendations under the 5 key areas

❖ Shared with Ministry of Education Officials – Minister, Chief Education Officer, PS, Heads of Sections: Guidance, Safety and Security – Safe Schools Programe

❖ Ministry of National Security – Enforcement of laws

# NSS
## Phase 4 - Evidence-based Initiatives

❖Revision of MOE School Drug Policy – still lacks awareness/implementation

❖Development/Implementation of Prevention programs – parenting, community-based, marijuana (Step-Up)

❖Capacity building among Guidance counsellors and HFLE teachers – improved awareness and referral

❖Partnership with academia – SALISES, Community Health & Psychiatry – provision of data bases for ongoing analysis/publications

❖ Partnership with MOE & Law-enforcement to address access and availability

# 2014 Prison Survey
## Partnership Approach with CICAD/NCDA/DCS

- ❖ Preliminary consultation/sensitization with Ministry of National Security & the Department of Correctional Services
- ❖ Preliminary high-level meetings with all facilities
- ❖ DCS Involvement in training of implementation team
- ❖ Dissemination to high level DCS teams
- ❖ Joint media dissemination – DCS determined/approved content
- ❖ Buy-in re need for interventions
- ❖ Consultancy to develop training/manual for probation officers in drug treatment techniques – road-map for interventions depending on profile of individual
- ❖ Training of first cohort undertaken
- ❖ DCS desire to scale up capacity building to include counselling/treatment within institutions
- ❖ Prevention programmes implemented in juvenile detention facilities

# Evidence to Action/Policy

## Facilitators

❖Capacity building for knowledge translation (CICAD workshops, fellowship & ongoing support)

❖Partnership from the outset – secures the uptake of study results

❖Changes to the Dangerous Drugs Act (April 2015)

❖Buy-in from key stakeholders – MOH, MNS, NGOs, CBOs, FBOs

## Barriers

❖Lack of awareness of MOE policy  - utilization of punitive practices versus a more student-centred approach

❖Staff turnover of key personnel – new PS & heads of departments requires re-introduction of studies, determining priorities and how to fit into the framework