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INTER-AMERICAN DRUG ABUSE  
CONTROL COMMISSION  
**CICAD**

Secretariat for Multidimensional Security

FIFTIETH REGULAR SESSION  
November 2 - 4, 2011  
Buenos Aires, Argentina

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REPORT OF THE 4TH BIENNIAL MEETING OF CARIBBEAN NATIONAL OBSERVATORIES ON DRUGS  
MR. TREVOR PERCIVAL  
NATIONAL DRUG COUNCIL  
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



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## Fiftieth Regular Session of CICAD

Buenos Aires, Argentina, November 2 – 4, 2011

Report of the 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of Caribbean National  
Observatories on Drugs

Mr. Trevor Percival  
Chairman  
National Drug Council  
Ministry of National Security, Trinidad & Tobago  
November 3, 2011



## Introduction

- The fourth biennial meeting of Caribbean National Observatories on Drugs was hosted by the National Drug Council of Trinidad & Tobago in Port of Spain, September 13 to 16, 2011.
- Among other things, the meeting dealt with the issue of the drugs – crime relationship.

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## Opening

- The feature address of the opening ceremony was delivered by Senator the Honorable John Sandy, Brigadier (Retired), Minister of National Security.
- Other speakers included the Chairman of the National Drug Council Mr. Trevor Percival, and the OAS Representative in Trinidad & Tobago Dr. Riyad Insanally.

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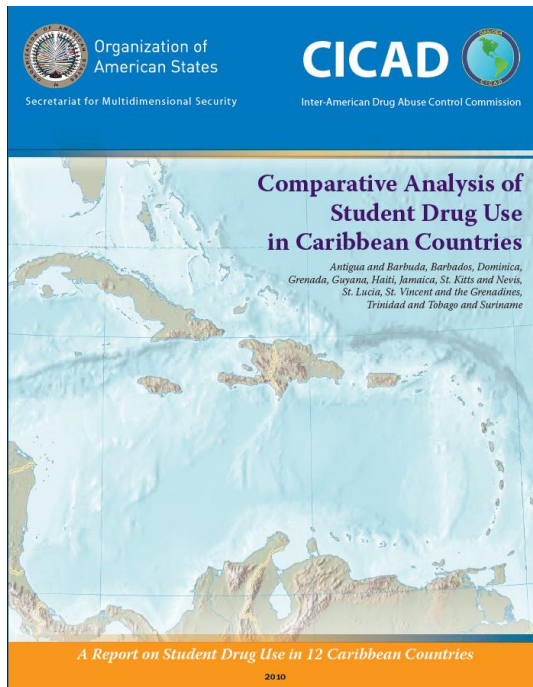


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## Caribbean Report Officially Released

- This occasion was also used to officially launch the CICAD research report entitled 'Comparative analysis of Drug Use by Students in 12 Caribbean Countries'.
- The findings demonstrate that the dimensions of drug use are quite unique to each country.
- While alcohol and marijuana are the main drugs of use, patterns still vary widely from country to country.
- Compared to other regions, the prevalence of marijuana use in the school population in the Caribbean is high, and in some countries, it is higher than the prevalence of tobacco use.

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Front Cover of Report.

Available for download at:

<http://www.cicad.oas.org/Mair/pubs/StudentDrugUse-Caribbean2011.pdf>

## Session 1: Drugs and Crime

- Grenada
  - 25% of all crimes were committed under the influence of a substance
  - Substances included alcohol, followed by marijuana, cocaine, and crack or some combination of these substances.
- Guyana
  - 4.5% of juveniles reported that the crimes they committed were in order to buy or obtain drugs
  - 9.9% of marijuana users said they were high on marijuana when they committed their crime.
  - 2.7% of juveniles were under the influence of alcohol when they committed their crime.

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## Session 1: Drugs and Crime

- A 4th relationship that was discovered was one where the substance is used to strengthen or reinforce a pre-existing intent to commit a crime.
- This is something that needs to be explored further since it does not fit neatly within the traditional models of the drugs-crime relationship
- The session also included a panel discussion that was convened with local Trinidadian experts representing the Trinidad & Tobago Police Service, the University of the West Indies (UWI), and the Ministry of National Security in Trinidad & Tobago.

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## Session 2: Mini Workshop on Building National Drug Observatories

- Ø Participants were guided through the building and running of a national drug observatory. The following topics were presented and discussed:
  - What is a NDO and why do we need it
  - Data collection and monitoring
  - Analysis & Interpretation
  - Reporting & dissemination and ensuring success
- The CICAD Observatory presented an update on the status of the drug information network (DIN) project in the Caribbean along with proposals for on-going assistance to countries for supporting DINs
- The CICAD Observatory also presented a proposal to pilot a standardized drug treatment center patient intake form in 4 countries to improve the availability of information on patients in treatment.

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## Session 3: Drug Related Studies and Surveys

- Ø This session provided the opportunity for country representatives to present the results of recent surveys and studies that they would have recently undertaken.
  - Barbados Primary School Drug Survey
  - Guyana Crime Victimization survey
  - Risky Behavior workplace study in Barbados
  - Cayman Islands 2010 Student Drug Survey
  - Adolescent Health Survey in Jamaica
- Ø There were also presentations on updated methodologies and on a number of upcoming studies and reports:
  - Trinidad Study on women and crime
  - Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Cost Study

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## Session 4: Tobago Anti-Drug Program and Official Closing



Group Photo of Participants of the 4<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of Caribbean National Observatories on Drugs



Executive Secretary of CICAD Ambassador Paul E. Simons presenting an official copy of the CICAD report entitled 'Comparative analysis of Drug Use by Students in 12 Caribbean Countries' to Ms. Claudia Groome-Duke, Secretary of Health and Social Services in the Tobago House of Assembly

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## Conclusions

- Drugs and crime are high priority issues for the Caribbean and a few countries have conducted studies that demonstrate a link between drug trafficking, drug consumption and criminal activity.
- The pattern of drug trafficking for marijuana in the Caribbean appears to be changing.
- The academic community recommends more problem analysis for drugs and crime issues so that the responses are more appropriately targeted and executed.
- A standardized drug treatment center patient intake form in order to improve the availability of information on persons in treatment.
- Caribbean member states have received training in the development of drug information networks but require targeted on-going support to ensure further development and growth.
- Drug-related research studies occur in the Caribbean every year and the OID should act as a clearing house so that interested persons could have access to these studies from the time they are published.
- In the Caribbean member states, there is little to no trend data on drug consumption. More surveys need to be done so that we can begin to observe drug use trends.

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# Thank you for your attention.

For further information please contact the Observatory  
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