

Presentation- Group I Grenada and Trinidad &Tobago



SUB-REGIONAL SEMINAR

THE ROLE OF RESEARCH IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE POLICY IN THE FIELD OF DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION

**OCTOBER 29-31, 2014
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

Main Components of A Drug Prevention Policy



- Targeted interventions focusing on high-risk populations;
- Mitigate against the early onset of drug use in the school-age population;
- Promote healthy life styles via the introduction of life skill programmes etc;
- Encourage greater community involvement and improving parenting skills

Reference Documents



- OAS-CICAD Comparative Analysis of Student Drug Use in Caribbean Countries 2010;
- OAS-CICAD Comparative Analysis of Student Drug Use in Caribbean Countries 2014
- CICAD-NADAPP Secondary School Survey, 2006 and 2013

Similarities Between Drug Using Behaviours in Participating Countries



- Drugs of Choice- Alcohol, marijuana, tobacco;
- Age of first use –(alcohol- 11; marijuana-13 yrs);
- Problems and the prevalence of use of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use;
- Perception of easy availability - high for alcohol and marijuana
- Perception of harmfulness of marijuana (20-27%-moderately harmful)

Unique Characteristics



Trinidad and Tobago

- High prevalence of use of inhalants among females vs males;
- Over 5% prevalence in marijuana usage in past year
- 44.9% (2006); 27.6% (2013)- current use-alcohol

Grenada

- 25% experimented with marijuana;
- 3% heroin use and injectables
- 72%- life time prevalence (2013 school survey)
- 27% - tobacco

Situation Analysis



- The prevalence of substance use and abuse continues to be an issue of concern for Trinidad and Tobago and Grenada. However there are encouraging signs based on the epidemiological data that have come out of the studies aforementioned. For Trinidad and Tobago, the lifetime prevalence of use of alcohol shows a drastic decrease from 69.4% in 2006 to 49.4% in 2013. With respect to Grenada, there was 6% increase in use of alcohol by females compared to an 11% decrease in males. This suggests that greater focus has to be placed on females as a target group in Grenada while in Trinidad there should be a continuation of the policies and programmes that have been implemented. More focused attention also needs to be placed on policies to mitigate against heroin use.