



SUB-REGIONAL SEMINAR: THE ROLE OF RESEARCH IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE POLICY IN THE FIELD OF DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION

GROUP #3

School based prevention in Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad &
Tobago: From Research to Policy, to Practice

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Group 3 Members



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Broad Policy Statements

- To reduce the prevalence of substance use among secondary school students in Jamaica, Barbados and Trinidad
- To reduce access and availability to drugs in and around school environments
- To implement universal prevention programmes addressing risk perception
- To provide public education to address cultural norms



Why Must We Address the Problem

- Drug use among youth is known to be causally related to physical and mental health problems as well as:
 - Crime
 - Poor school performance
 - Family disruption
 - Sexual decision-making and risk taking
 - HIV/AIDS



Situation Analysis

Sources of information:

Local school surveys

Supplemental local information (key informants,
focus groups, etc.)

Existing literature/research



Situation Analysis – All Countries

- Alcohol continues to be the drug most widely used by the secondary school population followed by marijuana and cigarettes
- Perception of risk is associated with the prevalence
- Access and availability are high - parents, friends, festivities, sporting and community events
- There is widespread cultural acceptance of marijuana and alcohol

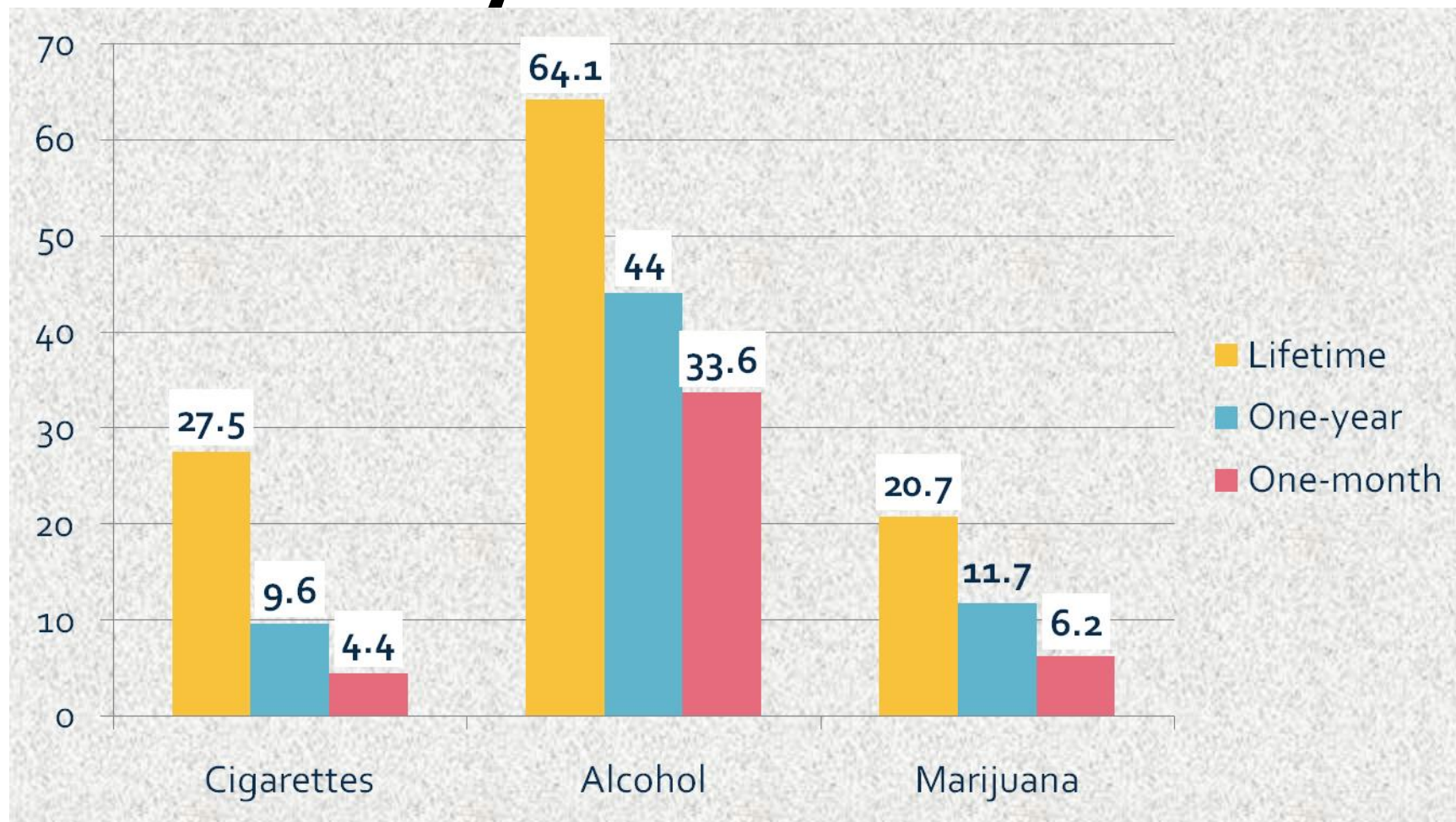


Situational Analysis – All Countries

	Jamaica	Barbados	Trinidad
Alcohol (Lifetime)	65	75	80
Cigarette (Lifetime)	25	20	29
Marijuana (Lifetime)	20.7	22.0	
Marijuana (Easy Access)	38	45	45

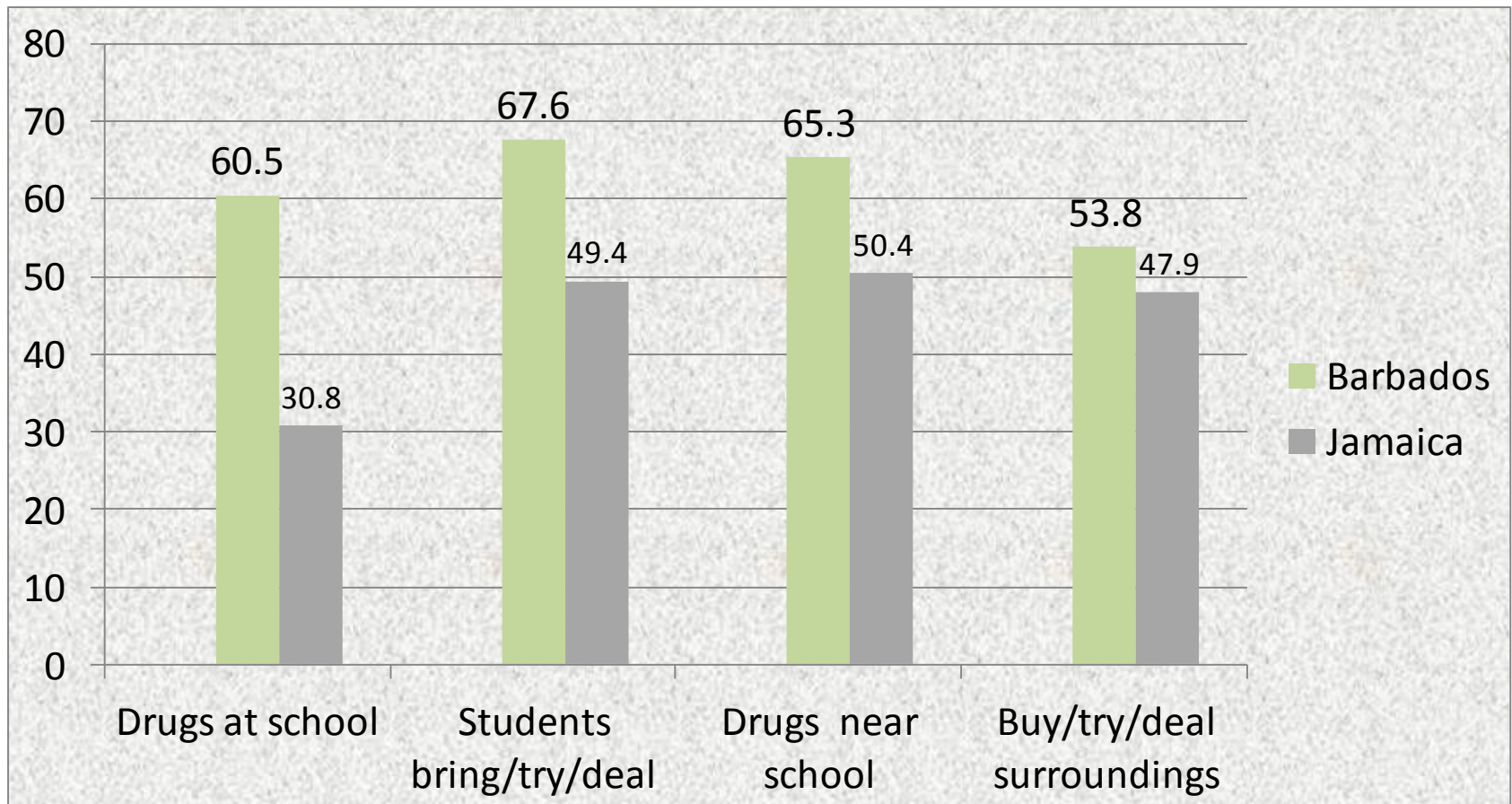


Prevalence by Substance - Jamaica



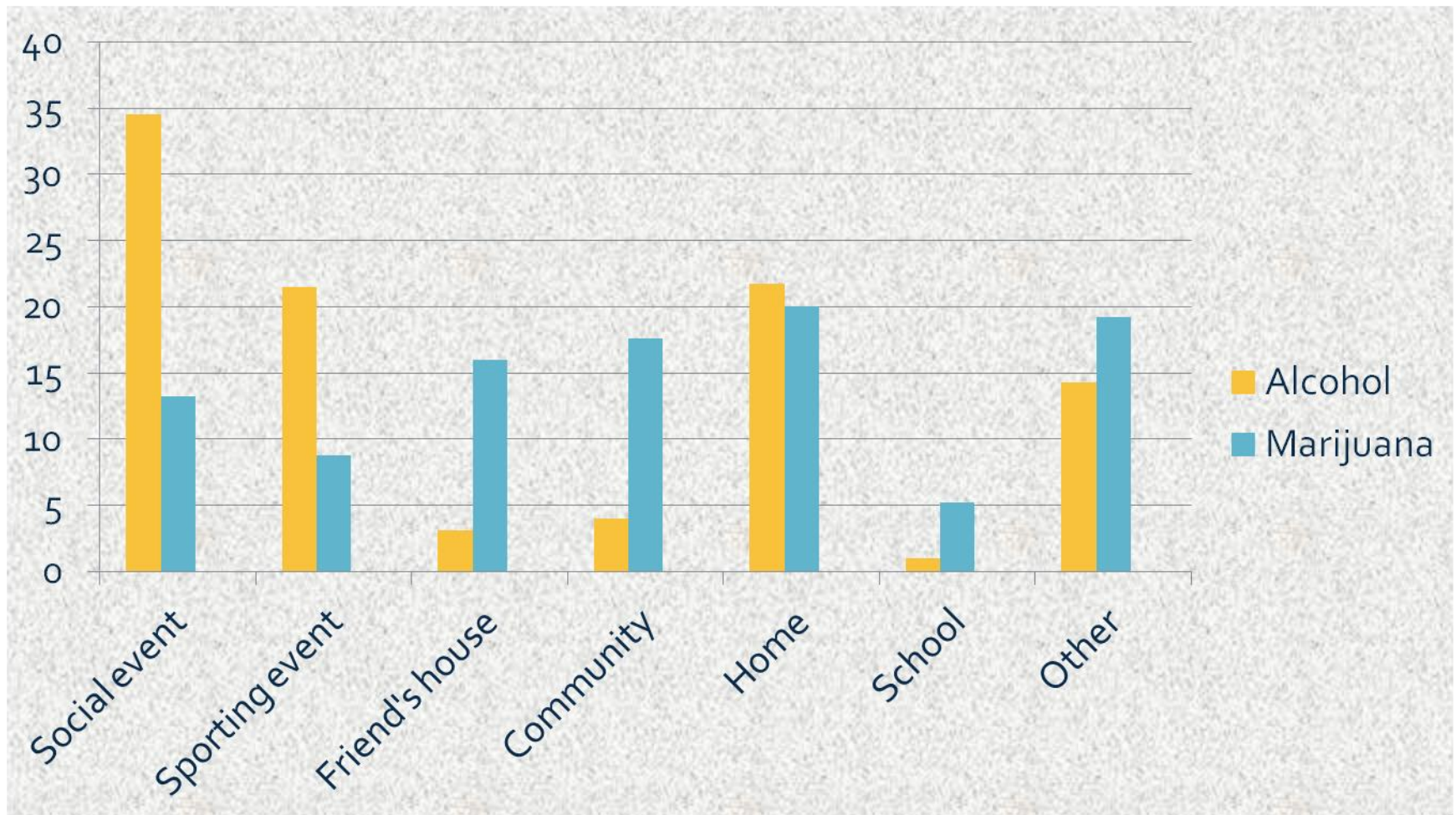


Exposure to Drugs In and Around School by Country



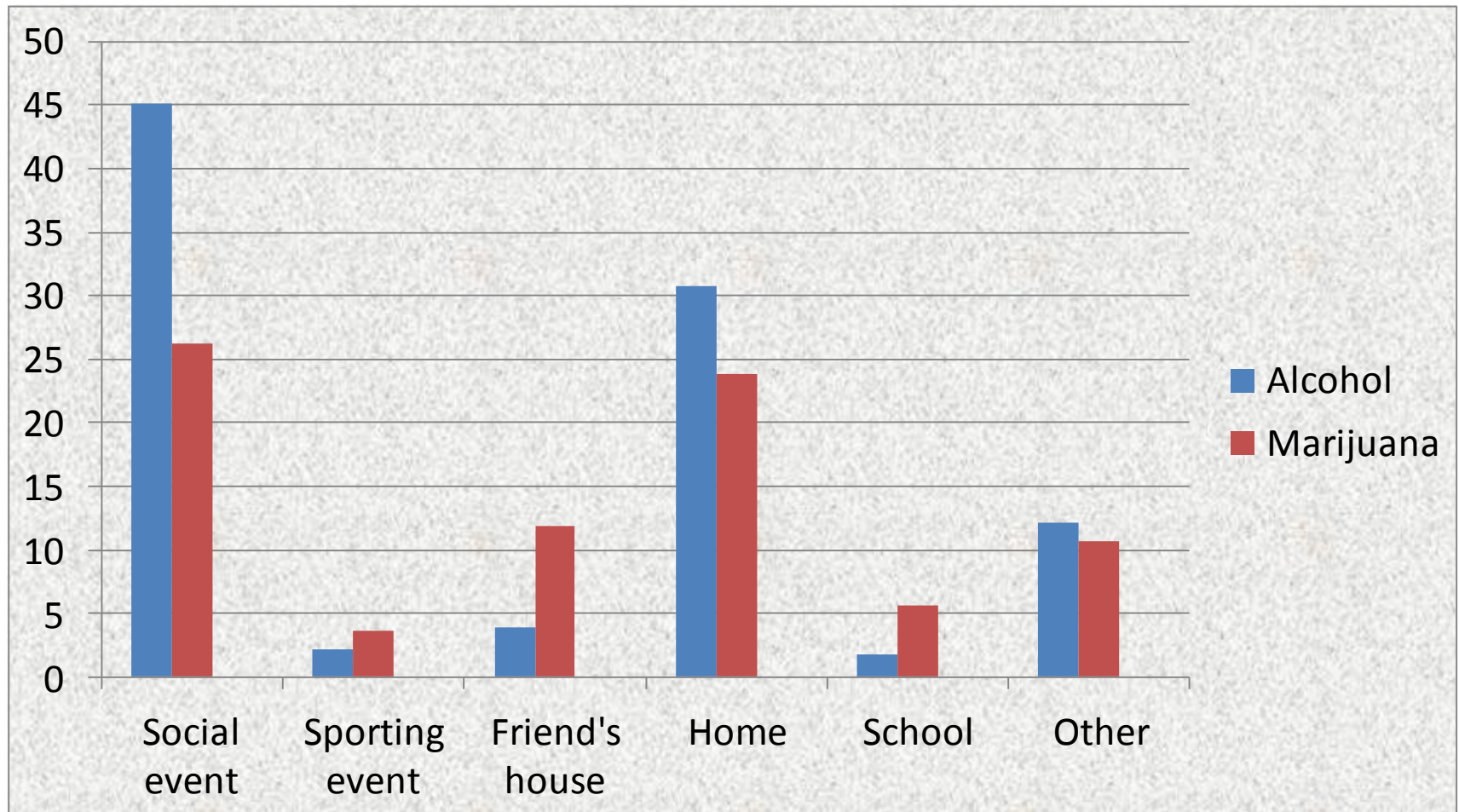


Locations for Alcohol and Marijuana Use – Jamaica





Locations for Alcohol and Marijuana Use – Barbados





Situation Analysis: Risk Factors

- Availability of substances in & around school environment
- Availability in home and community environments
- Association with peers who engage in substance use & deviant behaviour
- Parents who use substances



Parenting Protective Factors

- Substance use was significantly lower among: students whose parents:
 - Know the television shows they watch
 - Pay close attention to school performance
 - Know close friends well
 - Control the time of night they come home
 - Expect to be told where student is
- Students who had very good relationships with their parents reported significantly lower frequency of use of all drugs



School Protective Factors

- Substance use (alcohol, cigarettes, marijuana and inhalants) was significantly lower among students who:
 - Felt a sense of belonging at school
 - Felt happy at school
 - Attended classes
 - Had good relationships with teachers



Other Protective Factors

- Knowledge of the dangers associated with substance use
- Positive peer associations
- Involvement in pro-social and extra-curricular activities



Stakeholders

- Ministry of Education
- Schools
- Vendors
- Alcohol Industry
- Ministry of National Security
- National Drug Councils
- NGOs – Mothers Against Drugs, RISE Life, Arrive Alive etc
- Treatment Centres



Problem 1: Ease of Access and Availability of ATM

- Average of 70% of secondary students knew how to access marijuana
- More than 50% had ease of access (home, community and school surrounding)
- Action is required to limit access and availability of substances
- Options: Changing the environment, Changing laws and policies, Providing incentives and penalties, Providing support
- Best Option:



Problem 2: Perception of Risk

- Less than 50% (all countries) felt that smoking marijuana sometimes was harmful
- Approximately 50-60% (all countries) felt that drinking alcohol frequently was very harmful
- Given that perception of risk is directly related to prevalence of use action is required to increase the perception of risk and lower prevalence
- Options: Provide information and support (bio-psychosocial, CBT)
- Best Option:



Problem 3: Cultural Acceptance of ATM

- Cultural environment supports the use of alcohol and marijuana – festivities
- High cultural acceptance may account for low risk perception and high level of use
- Given that widespread cultural acceptance exists action is required to change cultural norms
- Options: Provide information, changing the environment,
- Best Option:



Decision Tree: Prioritization

Policy Options	Impact	Feasibility	Risk
Standard	Low/Medium/High	Low/Medium/High	Low/Medium/High
1. Ease of Access	High	Medium	Medium
2. Perception of Risk	High	High	Low
3. Cultural Acceptance	High	Low	Medium



Implementation Plan

Concept	
Vision	Healthy Drug Free Adolescents
Mission	To reduce the prevalence of substance use in secondary students through a comprehensive co-ordinated approach
Objective	To reduce prevalence of alcohol consumption by 5% by 2020 To decrease the prevalence of marijuana use by 2.5% by 2020
Outcome	Reduced prevalence of ATM Increased risk perception in the secondary school student population Reduced access and availability of ATM Reduce cultural acceptance and attitudes favourable to substance use by secondary school students
Strategies	Implement universal prevention programmes to provide life skills to include parenting support and school bonding Create public education programmes to increase risk perception Improved enforcement of laws relating to access and availability



Implementation Plan

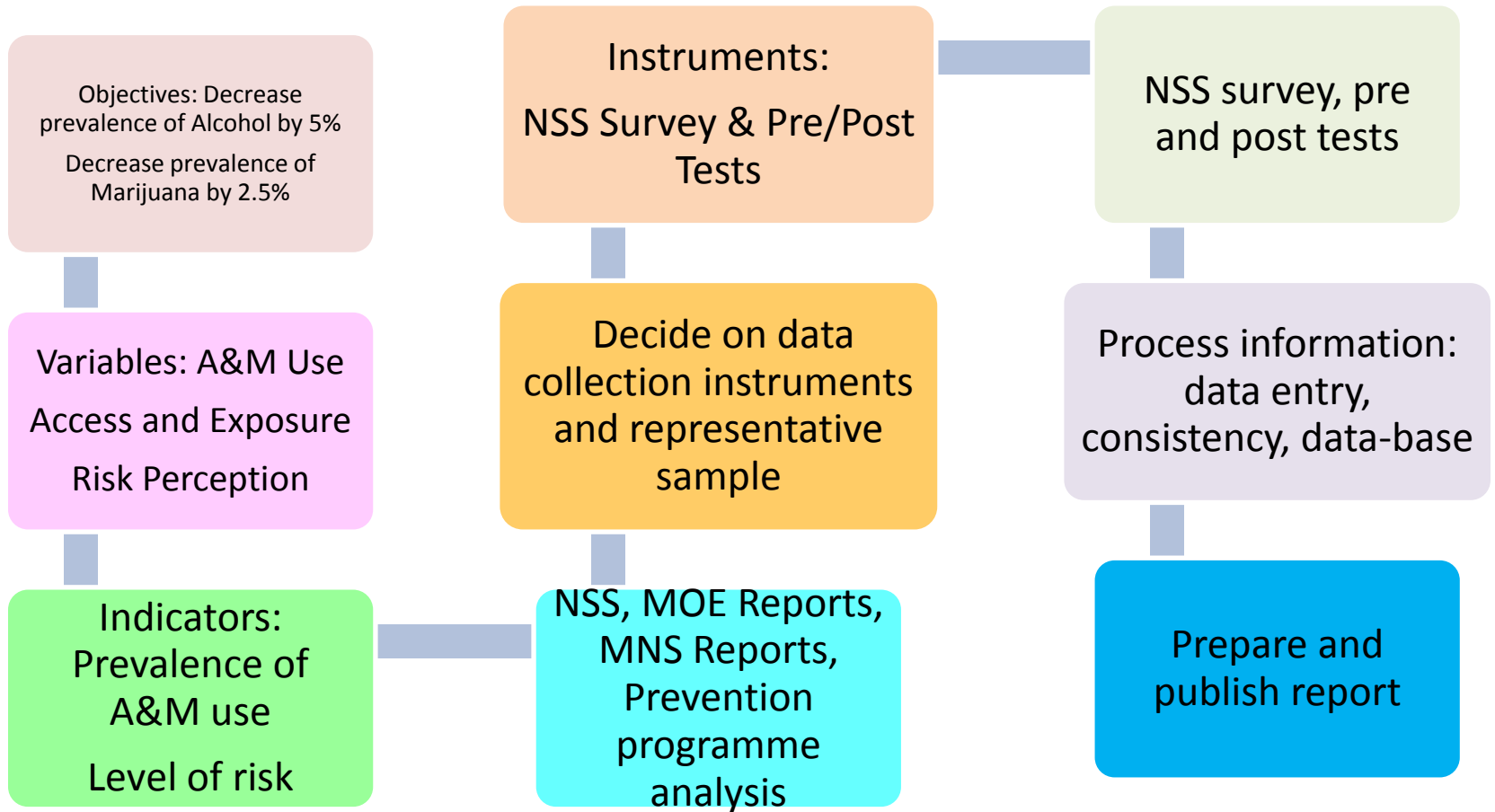
Concept	
Indicators	# of public education programmes # of universal prevention programmes implemented # of arrests and penalties applied Levels of risk perception Prevalence of ATM use
Goals	By 2020 Caribbean countries will have reduced prevalence of substance use among student population.



Logic Framework

INPUT	OUTPUT	Participation	OUTCOME	Impact
Human Resources	Conduct Workshops	Students	SHORT - TERM	Improved Risk Perception for ATM
Financial Resources	Train/Provide Counselling	Public	Improved knowledge of harms and consequences of ATM	Reduced prevalence of use of ATM
Research Information	Create Media Campaigns	Business Community	MEDIUM	Changes in legal system to support protection of youth
Stakeholders	Conduct Surveys		Reduced use of ATM by secondary school students	
Technological Resources	Conduct Public Awareness Campaigns (school intervention)		Increase in refusal of sale	

MONITORING PLAN





Evaluation Plan – Description of Program

- Universal prevention programme targeting all secondary school students aimed at addressing risk perception and providing life skills
- Public education to lower cultural acceptance
- Strict enforcement of laws to lower access and availability of drugs in and around school environments



Focusing the Evaluation Design & Gatherine Evidence

- Baseline and follow-up secondary school surveys to determine changes in prevalence, risk perception, access and availability
- Process and Outcome evaluations using Quasi-experimental evaluations measuring the changes in knowledge and skills of secondary students exposed to universal prevention programs
- Baseline and follow-up police statistics on arrests and seizure of perpetrators in and around schools



Evaluation Plan – Justifying Conclusions

- Based on efficiency of programme (process evaluation results)
- Based on changes measured in evaluation findings – expected outcomes would be lower prevalence, higher risk perceptions and increased enforcement of laws



Evaluation Plan – Ensuring Use of Evaluation Findings and Sharing Lessons Learned

- Stakeholder participation from beginning to maximize ensure uptake of evaluation findings
- Dissemination of NSS baseline and follow-up
- Dissemination of Program Outcomes
 - Ministry of Education
 - Schools
 - Vendors
 - Alcohol Industry
 - Ministry of National Security
 - National Drug Councils
 - NGOs – Mothers Against Drugs, RISE Life, Arrive Alive etc
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Thank you for your attention

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