Drug Supply Indicators: Qualitative Interviews

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Goal

- To capture contextual information to better understand the context of the drug market in selected countries

- To fill the gaps due to unavailability of data
Topics for Discussion

- Law Enforcement Activity
  - Seizures, arrest and prosecution
- Drug Trafficking
- Diversion of Controlled Chemical Substances and Clandestine Labs
- Price and Purity
- Production and Eradication
- Emerging Trends
- Information Sharing
- Drug policy framework
## Countries and Targeted Participants

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<th>COUNTRIES</th>
<th>PARTICIPANTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Bahamas</td>
<td>Policy</td>
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<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>Law Enforcement</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td>Forensic Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States of America</td>
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Interviews

- Interviews were scheduled over a three (3) month period (July to September)
- 9 sessions: 8 one-on-one interviews and 1 focus group with about 4 agencies represented
- Interviews lasted an average of 40 minutes

**MAIN CHALLENGES:**

1. technology
2. Transcription - accents
3. Scheduling
FINDINGS

Drug Trafficking

- Primarily cocaine and marijuana with increasing activity of ecstasy being trafficked into the Caribbean region
- Increasing demand for marijuana
- With advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, all participants reported increase incidents of attempts to traffic drugs via the courier services.
- Port security challenges
- Maritime security challenges
FINDINGS

COVID-19 Pandemic:

- initial stalling in supply chain as ports were closed.
- Initial frenzy to purchase,
- then rebounded with innovation
  - Postal shipment, More frequent areal drops
FINDINGS

**Forensic Testing**: challenges across the board in the Caribbean countries to conduct quantitative analysis of samples. Legislative limitations

**Diversion of Chemical Substances**: No clear relationship between regulatory agencies and counter drug agencies

**Clandestine labs**: no reports of such in Caribbean Countries interviewed, In US reports of decline of such labs, evidence of this operations moving south of the border.
FINDINGS

Data sharing:

There are established communications flow amongst counter narcotics agencies to share intelligence.

However, in the context of a DIN, these systems can be strengthened.

Slow development of EWS in Caribbean countries.
CONCERNS

- The environmental impact from illegal cultivation and eradication of marijuana
- The movement of people by criminal organizations to facilitate the growing of marijuana in other territories and the connection to other criminal activities such as the illicit gun trade
- Resource limitations of the Forensic Labs especially in Caribbean countries
- Use of the dark web and postal services to facilitate illegal drugs trade
- Increasing presence of counterfeit pills, mixing of fentanyl with other drugs,
THANK YOU