



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

COUNTRIES

- The Bahamas
- Jamaica
- Trinidad and Tobago
- United States of America

PARTICIPANTS

- Policy
- Law Enforcement
- Forensic Science

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