BARDIN

Barbados Drug Information Network Report

An Analysis of the 2019 Data

Prepared by

The National Council on Substance Abuse

NCSA

OAS/OEA · CICAD

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1. Key Findings

1.1 National Council on Substance Abuse: Drug Prevention Programming

- The National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) is the lead agency responsible for drug education across the island.
- During 2019, NCSA's programming reached persons between the ages of 3 and 65 years.
- The Primary School Programme accounted for the largest number of recorded persons reached by the NCSA, followed by the Community and Counselling Programmes respectively.
- Data collection challenges prevented the inclusion of data from the Secondary School Programme.
- The Counselling Programme is facilitated by one full-time Counsellor and involves the delivery of treatment services on an individual basis. As such, it had the smallest reach of all NCSA programmes in 2019.

1.2 Edna Nicholls Centre

- Males accounted for approximately two-thirds (65%) of the 170 students admitted to the Edna Nicholls Centre in 2019.
- Forty-six students (27%) tested positive for marijuana use.
- The majority of students testing positive for marijuana use were 15 year old males.

1.3 Treatment

Psychiatric Hospital

- Persons presenting for drug treatment accounted for just under half (47%) of all admissions to the Psychiatric Hospital in 2019.
- Eight out of every 10 persons admitted for drug treatment were male.
- The percentage of persons seeking drug treatment generally increased with age, peaking between 31 and 40 years.
- Co-morbid diagnoses which included substance use disorders were more common among males.
- Twenty persons received drug treatment from the Hospital's Day Programme in 2019, the majority of whom were males, 40 years of age and under.
- Just over half of those receiving treatment in the Day Programme were treated for poly drug use.
- Cocaine powder was the most common primary drug among Day Programme clients, closely followed by marijuana.
- Marijuana, cocaine powder, alcohol and tobacco were the four substances used by Day Programme clients in the 30 days preceding treatment entry.
- Six persons received drug education via the Day Programme in 2019, five of whom were males.
- All persons receiving drug education were in the 16 to 20 age group.
- Marijuana was the most common primary drug among persons receiving drug education.

- Fifty-eight children were admitted to the Thrive Family Centre in 2019. Males accounted for just over half (55.2%) of the Centre's admissions.
- Eight of the children admitted to the Thrive Family Centre received drug-related diagnoses. Seven of these children were male while all eight were in the 14 to 17 age category.
- Marijuana was the main substance for which children with drug-related diagnoses were treated at the Thrive Family Centre in 2019.

Substance Abuse Foundation

- Eighty-nine persons were treated at the Substance Abuse Foundation in 2019, 82% of whom were males.
- More than half (57.1%) of persons treated at the SAF were between 40 years of age or younger.
- Seventy per cent of clients sought treatment for single drug use while 30% were treated for poly drug use.
- Crack cocaine was the most common primary drug for which treatment was sought at the SAF, closely followed by alcohol.
- The majority of persons treated at SAF either sought treatment voluntarily (38.2%) or were referred by the law courts (28.1%).
- Alcohol, marijuana, crack cocaine and cocaine powder were the drugs most commonly used by clients who reported drug use in the 30 days preceding treatment entry.
- Reports of lifetime drug use mainly included traditional drugs such as alcohol, marijuana, crack cocaine, nicotine (tobacco) and cocaine powder.
- Males and persons in the 40 and under age category were more likely to report the use of non-traditional substances (e.g. ecstasy, MDMA, acid, sleepers[1], mushrooms, speed, LSD) during their lifetime.

Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives

- Thirty-eight persons were treated at the Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives (CASA) in 2019, the majority of whom were males (95%), 45 years of age and younger (86.8%).
- Approximately half (49.9%) of CASA's clients were 25 years and younger.
- The criminal justice system and the Drug Treatment Court were the two largest referral sources for CASA in 2019.
- Most clients (89%) received treatment for single drug use.
- Marijuana was the most common primary drug which treatment was sought.
- Marijuana was the drug most commonly used by clients during their lifetime and in the 30 days preceding treatment.

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[1] 'Sleepers' is a slang term for benzodiazepines – a class of drugs which slow down the activity of the central nervous system and the messages travelling between the brain and the body. They are most commonly prescribed by doctors to relieve stress and anxiety and to help persons sleep. However, they can be misused whereby persons take them to get high or to alleviate the after-effects/'crash' that follows stimulant use e.g. methamphetamines or cocaine (Alcohol and Drug Foundation, 2021).

National Council on Substance Abuse

- Forty-seven persons received counselling at the NCSA in 2019 – 38 for substance abuse and 9 for non-drug related issues.
- Of the 38 persons receiving substance abuse treatment, the majority were males, 20 years of age and younger.
- The Edna Nicholls Centre was the single largest referral source for persons receiving substance abuse treatment at NCSA in 2019.
- Marijuana was the main drug for which persons received treatment.
- Marijuana was the drug most commonly used by clients during their lifetime as well as in the 12 months and 30 days prior to entering treatment.

Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling Programme

- One hundred and eleven persons were admitted to the Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling (IDRC) Programme at HMP Dodds in 2019, the majority of whom were males (89%).
- Just over half (54%) of the inmates receiving treatment were 35 years of age and under.
- Approximately half (49.9%) of persons admitted for treatment were referred by the Prison.
- Three-quarters (74.8%) of the inmates admitted to the IDRC programme were treated for poly drug use.
- Marijuana and crack cocaine were the main primary drugs for which treatment was sought in the IDRC.
- Marijuana was the primary drug for which treatment was sought by inmates between the ages of 16 and 40 while crack cocaine was the main treatment motivator for those 41 and over.

1.4 Supply Control

Royal Barbados Police Force

- Drug offences accounted for 20% of all offences recorded by the RBPF during 2019.
- Most persons charged with drug offences were male and between the ages of 20 and 39.
- Approximately 9 out of every 10 persons (87.7%) charged with drug offences were Barbadian.
- The majority (85.6%) of drug offences were cannabis-related.
- The remaining drug offences involved cocaine (13.6%), ecstasy/methamphetamine (0.7%), and Alprazolam (0.1%).
- The most common cannabis-related offences were "Possession of Cannabis" (44.1%), "Trafficking Cannabis" (21.1%) and "Offering to Supply" (20.6%).
- Cannabis, in plant, compressed and loose forms, was the primary drug seized by the RBPF.
- The majority of cannabis plant seizures took place in St. John and St. Andrew.
- Fourteen (38%) of the 37 deportees returned to Barbados in 2019 were deported for drug-related offences.

- Thirteen of the 14 drug-related deportees were male.
- Eleven of the 14 drug-related deportees were deported from North America, namely: Canada and the USA.
- The RBPF recorded 11 arrests for money laundering in 2019, none of which were drug-related.

Barbados Prison Service (Incarcerations)

- Drug Offences accounted for just 13% of the incarcerations at HMP Dodds in 2019.
- Just over three-quarters of persons (79%) incarcerated for drug offences were male while almost two thirds (64.6%) were between the ages of 20 and 39 years.
- "Drug Possession" was the most common drug-related offence for which persons were incarcerated.
- Persons were also incarcerated for "Possession of Drug Apparatus", "Drug Cultivation", "Drug Importation" and "Drug Trafficking".
- Males and persons between 25 and 49 years of age accounted for the majority of persons incarcerated for "Drug Possession".
- Incarcerations for "Drug Trafficking" were most common among males and persons ages 20 to 29.
- Only males were incarcerated for "Possession of Drug Apparatus" in 2019, all of whom were between the ages of 30 and 54.
- "Drug Importation" was the only drug-related offence for which females outnumbered males.
- Only males were incarcerated for "Drug Cultivation", almost all of whom were between 35 and 49 years of age.

Criminal Justice Research and Planning Unit

- Data compiled by the Criminal Justice Research and Planning Unit revealed that 684 persons were sentenced for various drug offences in the Law Courts of Barbados in 2019.
- The majority of drug-related cases were adjudicated in the Magistrates Courts and involved cannabis offences.
- "Possession", "Trafficking" and "Intent to Supply" were the most common cannabis offences tried in the Magistrates Courts. The most common sentence outcomes for these offences were "Reprimanded and Discharged" (R&D), "Convicted, Reprimanded and Discharged" (CRD) and "Fine".
- "Possession", "Trafficking" and "Importation" were the main cannabis charges heard in the Supreme Court. All of the "Trafficking" cases resulted in "Imprisonment" while all of the "Importation" cases resulted in "CRD". "CRD" was also the most common sentence outcome for "Possession" cases.
- "Possession", "Trafficking" and "Intent to Supply" were the top three cocaine-related charges adjudicated at the Magistrate Court level. "Fine" was the most common sentence

outcome for "Trafficking" while "CRD" was most common for "Possession" and "Intent to Supply".

- "Imprisonment" and "Fine" were the only sentence outcomes recorded for the small number of cocaine cases tried at the Supreme Court level.
- A small number of persons were tried in the Magistrates Courts for "Possession of Methamphetamine", "Intent to Supply Methamphetamine" and "Possession of Ecstasy". Sentences included "R&D", "Fine" and "Bond".
- "Imprisonment" was the only punishment meted out in the Supreme Court for "Possession", "Trafficking" and "Importation" of a controlled drug.

Financial Intelligence Unit

- Of the 267 Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) received, 4.1% were drug-related.
- A predicate offence[2] could not be easily identified for 52.8% of the STRs received and attention should be paid to these as law enforcement investigations may later reveal a drug-related link.

1.5 Trend Analysis

- Students testing positive for marijuana use at the Edna Nicholls Centre were consistently found to be male and between the ages of 14 and 15 years (2015-2019).
- Males and persons 40 years and under accounted for the majority of persons seeking treatment at the SAF between 2017 and 2019.
- Crack cocaine was the most common primary drug motivating the need for treatment among SAF clients between 2017 and 2019.
- Males and persons under 20 were the primary persons receiving treatment within the NCSA Counselling Programme during the period 2017 through 2019.
- In each year (2017-2019), marijuana was the main primary drug for which persons sought treatment at the Council.
- Males between 20 and 39 years accounted for the majority of persons charged with drug offences between 2015 and 2019.
- Cannabis-related offences far outranked all other drug offences between 2015 and 2019.
- "Possession of Cannabis" was the single most common cannabis offence between 2015 and 2019, accounting for just under half of all cannabis offences between 2016 and 2019 and just over half in 2015.
- Drug-related Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) accounted for between 4.1% and 6.3% of the STRs recorded by the FIU between 2017 and 2019.
- STRs for which a predicate offence could not be easily identified accounted for just over half of all STRs recorded in 2017 and 2019, and approximately one-third in 2018.

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[2] A predicate offence is a crime that is a component of a more serious crime (Low, 2020).

1.6 Recommendations to Improve National Response to Drug Situation

1. Drug education specialists need to increase drug education on drugs harms, focusing on new and dangerous drugs consumed in Barbados.

2. The continued emergence of new harmful illicit substances suggests the need for a mechanism to monitor trends associated with these drugs.

3. Drug prevention practitioners should give attention to the underlying factors predisposing young people to drugs.

4. Crime prevention practitioners should work with the drug prevention specialists to develop a range of sentences focusing on community treatment for problem drug users except where the offence's seriousness justifies incarceration on public protection grounds.

5. Drug treatment specialists may require adequate training to explore and apply various modalities to reduce drug addiction stemming from polydrug use and co-occurring disorders.

6. Policy makers should consider a balanced approach to drug prevention and addiction, focusing on health and public safety.

7. Drug treatment and criminal justice practitioners should create opportunities for offenders and non-offenders leaving drug treatment to find work.

8. There is a need for further research on the social issues linked to drug-related crime in Barbados.

2. Introduction

The Barbados Drug Information Network (BARDIN) is the mechanism used to gather and disseminate information regarding the drug demand reduction and supply control efforts across the island.

The objectives of BARDIN are as follows:
- To strengthen the capacity of Barbados to respond to changing drug use trends
- To provide current epidemiological and other information on substance abuse
- To regularly update this information
- To identify trends in drug consumption and offences related to illicit drugs
- To provide relevant information for the planning, evaluation and management of drug control programmes

The National Council on Substance Abuse coordinates BARDIN and uses *secondary data[3]* from stakeholder agencies to prepare annual reports which provide a comprehensive overview of the local drug situation. The current report covers the period January 1 to December 31, 2019.

The contributing agencies for this edition include: The National Council on Substance Abuse, the Edna Nicholls Centre, the Psychiatric Hospital, the Substance Abuse Foundation, the Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives, the Barbados Prison Service, the Financial Intelligence Unit and the Criminal Justice Research and Planning Unit.

This is the first report to include data provided by the Criminal Justice Research and Planning Unit. This agency joined the BARDIN ranks through the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission's (CICAD) Standardized Indicator Pilot which was initially launched in 2018. CICAD continues to play a significant role in the development of Drug Information Networks across the region. As such, the ongoing pilot project is aimed at expanding and standardizing the data collected by Caribbean countries, and will facilitate: a greater understanding of local drug situations, intra-regional comparisons and the development of appropriate responses.

This report contains three broad sections: Demand Reduction, Treatment and Rehabilitation, and Supply Control. Within each section, agency-specific data is provided. Most data is presented using percentages; however, in some instances, raw numbers are used due to the small numbers in reporting categories.

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[3] Secondary data is data that was collected by an individual or agency other than the user.

3. Demand Reduction

3.1 National Council on Substance Abuse

Drug Prevention Programming

Table 1 presents the distribution of persons reached by the National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) during 2019, with age and sex details where available. It is important to note that data collection challenges prevented the inclusion of comprehensive data from the Secondary School Programme. It should also be noted that the totals presented for each programme do not include mass-based events[4] given their ability to artificially inflate the number of persons taking part in the Council's programmes and interventions.

From the data presented, it can be seen that the Primary School Programme accounted for the majority of persons reached by the NCSA during the target period, followed by the Community and Counselling Programmes. With regards to demographics, the Table shows that NCSA's target audience included individuals across the lifespan, ranging in age from 3 to 65 years. Overall, the data suggests that the NCSA reached more males than females during 2019; however, this should be interpreted with caution given the large proportion of interventions and programmes for which sex-related data was not reported as well as the Secondary School Programme's missing data.

Special consideration should also be given to the Counselling Programme. By design, this Programme primarily involves the delivery of counselling services on an individual basis. As such, its numbers are disproportionately lower than those associated with the other three programmes, as would reasonably be expected.

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[4] Mass-based events include unstructured presentations and booth displays at large events such as health fairs, career showcases and open days at various organizations.

Table 1: Persons Targeted by NCSA's Programmes/Interventions during 2019 by Age and Gender

Intervention	Age Range/ Population Targeted	No. of Males Targeted	No. of Females Targeted	Total no. of Persons Targeted
Primary School Programme				
Jugs & Herrings	**6-8 years**	**40**	**33**	**73**
Games 4 Life	**10-11 years**	**274**	**223**	**497**
Life Education Centre (LEC)	**3-16 years**	**1654**	**1374**	**3028**
- **Nursery**	3-4 years	**36**	**50**	**86**
- **Reception**	4-5 years	**155**	**137**	**292**
- **Infants A**	5-6 years	**167**	**150**	**317**
- **Infants B**	6-7 years	**227**	**177**	**404**
- **Class 1**	7-8 years	**235**	**174**	**409**
- **Class 2**	8-9 years	**198**	**186**	**384**
- **Class 3**	9-10 years	**204**	**203**	**407**
- **Class 4**	10-11 years	**219**	**174**	**393**
- **Summer camp**	6-16 years	**213**	**123**	**336**
Cub Scouts, Beaver Scouts & Blossoms	**4-11 years**	**175**	**-**	**175**
General Drug Education	**3-11 years**	**-**	**-**	**602**
TOTAL		**-**	**-**	**4375**
Secondary School Programme				
General Drug Education	11-18 years	**Data not available**		
Drugs & Life Skills Awareness Programme	11-14 years	**Data not available**		
Drug Awareness & Life Skills Presentations	11-16 years	**Data not available**		
Mass-based Events	Various ages	**-**	**-**	**Approx. 200**
TOTAL		**Data not available**		
Community Programme				
Edna Nicholls Centre[5]	**11-16 years**	**-**	**-**	**170**
Drug Education Workshop – Social Workers	**Various ages**	**-**	**-**	**27**
Project SOFT Residential Camp	**11 years**	**16**	**19**	**35**
Prevention 1st Club – Parents	**Various ages**	**1**	**12**	**13**
STOP! THINK! CHOOSE!	**Various ages**	**-**	**12**	**12**

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[5] The aim of the Edna Nicholls Out-of-School Programme is to provide rehabilitative programmes for secondary school students who have been suspended, referred or expelled from school.

Intervention	Age Range/ Population Targeted	No. of Males Targeted	No. of Females Targeted	Total no. of Persons Targeted
Community Programme Cont'd				
Drug Education Sessions	**Various ages**	-	-	**1325**
Workplace Drug Interventions	**16-65 years**	-	-	**383**
SPORTS – Not Drugs Programme	**21-65 years**	**163**	**18**	**181**
Social Work Intern	**-**		**1**	**1**
Mass-based Events	**10-60 years**	-	-	-
TOTAL		-	-	**2147**
Counselling Programme				
Counselling	**11-50 years**	**36**	**11**	**47**
TOTAL		**36**	**11**	**47**

3.2 Edna Nicholls Centre

One hundred and seventy (170) students were admitted to the Edna Nicholls Centre between January 1 and December 31, 2019. The number of students admitted per term during this period is presented in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Admissions to the Edna Nicholls Centre between January 1 and December 31, 2019

Term	Academic Year	Number of Students
Term 2 (January - March, 2019)	2018/2019	58
Term 3 (April – July, 2019)	2018/2019	45
Term 1 (September – December, 2019)	2019/2020	67
TOTAL		**170**

Source: The Edna Nicholls Centre

The age and sex data for students revealed that most persons admitted to the Edna Nicholls Centre during the target period were males between the ages of 13 and 15 years (See Figures 1 and 2). This coincides with the demographic profile of students entering the Centre in previous years.

Figure 1: Sex Distribution of Students Admitted to the Edna Nicholls Centre during 2019

35%

65%

■ Males ■ Females
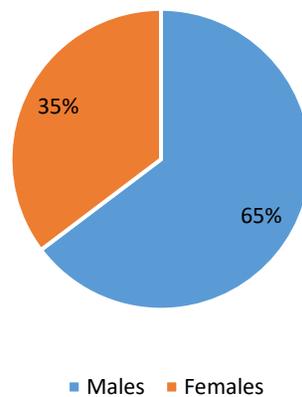
Source: The Edna Nicholls Centre

Figure 2: Age Distribution of Students Admitted to the Edna Nicholls Centre in 2019

3%
6%
18%
16%
31%
26%

■ 11 years ■ 12 years ■ 13 years ■ 14 years ■ 15 years ■ 16 years
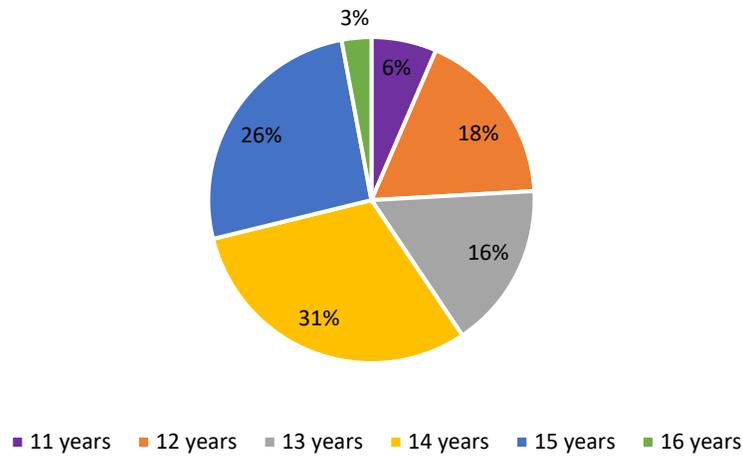
Drug Testing

Students are tested for marijuana and cocaine use upon admission to the Centre. While no students tested positive for cocaine use during 2019, 36 (21.2%) tested positive for marijuana use. Figures 3 and 4 show that 15 year old males accounted for the majority persons testing positive.

Figure 3: Students Testing Positive for Marjuana Use by Sex

14%
86%

■ Males ■ Females
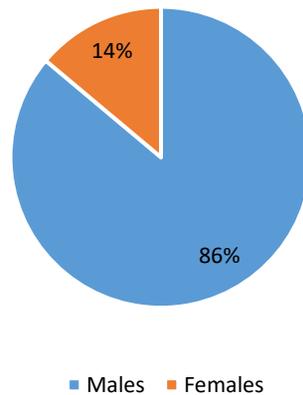
Figure 4: Students Testing Positive for Marijuana Use by Age

- 12 years
- 13 years
- 14 years
- 15 years
- 16 years
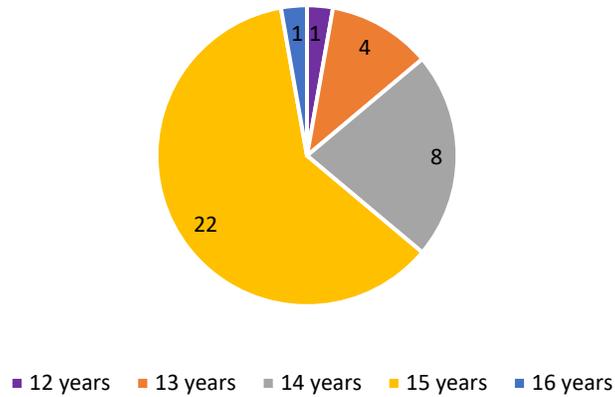
Figure 5 presents the drug test results for those testing positive for marijuana use. Just under two-thirds (64%) of the students had a result of 249 ng/ml or below. Of these students, 22% had trace amounts of the drug in their system (less than 50 ng/ml). Overall, the recorded test results ranged from a low of 25 ng/ml to a high of 546 ng/ml.

Figure 5: Test Results for Students Testing Positive for Marijuana Use during 2019

- Less than 50 ng/ml
- 50 - 149 ng/ml
- 150 - 249 ng/ml
- 250 - 349 ng/ml
- 350 - 449 ng/ml
- 450 - 549 ng/ml
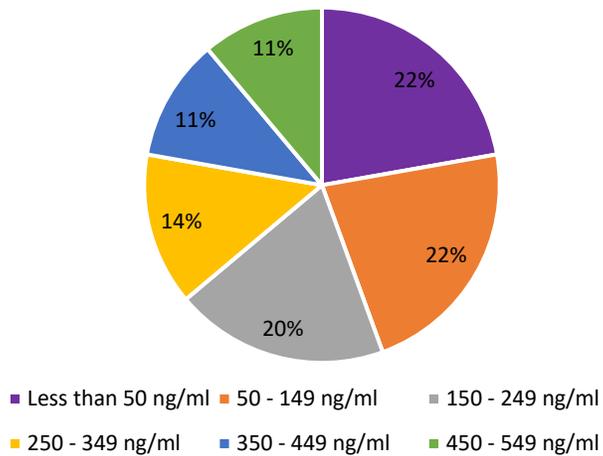
4. Treatment and Rehabilitation

4.1 Psychiatric Hospital

A total of 1209 persons were admitted to the Psychiatric Hospital during 2019, with males accounting for just under three-quarters (72%) of all admissions (See Figure 6).

Figure 6: Persons Admitted to the Psychiatric Hospital
Between January 1 and December 31, 2019 by Sex

■ Males ■ Females
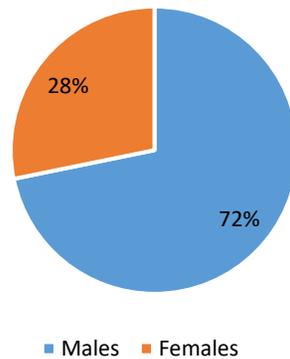
Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

Figure 7 shows that the persons admitted to the Hospital ranged from under 10 to over 61 years of age. Excluding the 61 and over category, the age distribution chart shows that the percentage of admissions generally increased with age, peaking between 31 and 40 years (See Figure 7). Despite this general trend, the chart also shows that the 61 and over age category represented the single largest group of admissions thereby making it an outlier within the distribution.

Figure 7: Persons Admitted to the Psychiatric Hostpital
between January 1 to December 31, 2019 by Age
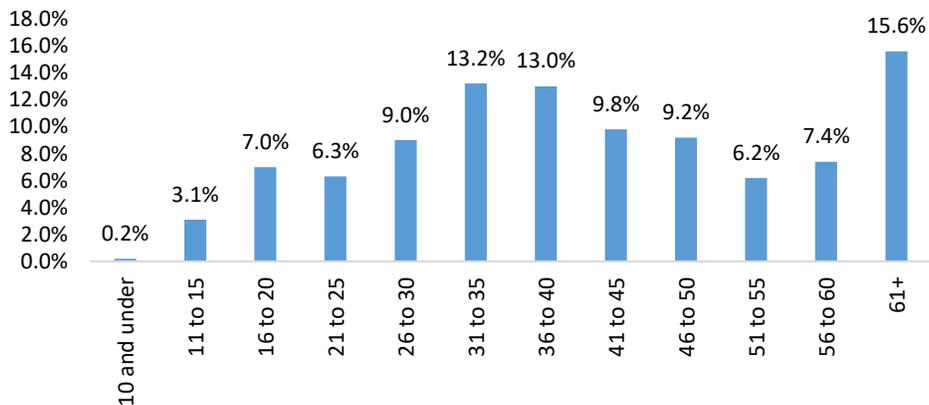
Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

Admissions Related to Drug Use

Persons presenting for treatment related to drug use accounted for just under half (47%)[6] of all admissions during the target period (See Figure 8). When sex was considered, the data revealed that approximately 8 out of every 10 patients admitted for drug-use-related treatment were male (See Figure 9).

Figure 8: Drug-related Treatment Admissions Vs. Other Admissions to the Psychiatric Hospital between January 1 and December 31, 2019

47%

53%

■ Drug-related Treatment Admissions   ■ Other
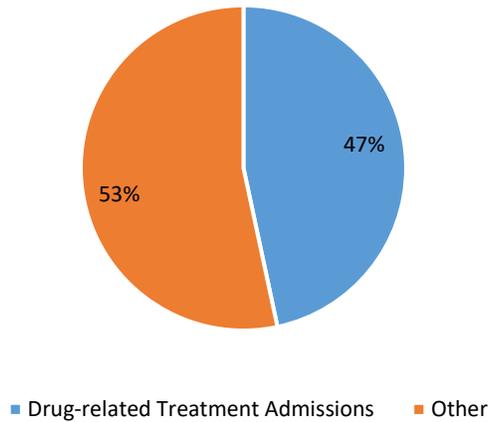
Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

Figure 9: Sex Distribution of Persons Seeking Drug-Use-Related Treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital between January 1 and December 31, 2019

88.1%

11.9%

Male   Female
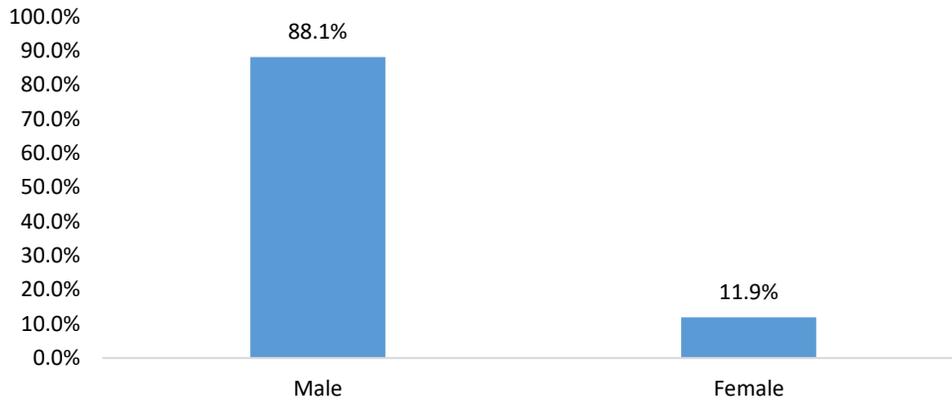
Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

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[6] A total of 564 persons presented for drug-use-related treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital. This total includes 393 persons with co-morbid diagnoses which include substance use disorders.

Figure 10 shows that, much like the general hospital admissions for 2019, the percentage of persons seeking drug-use-related treatment generally increased with age, peaking between 31 and 40 years. From the Chart it can also be seen that persons 31 and over accounted for approximately three quarters (72.9%) of the 2019 drug-related admissions while one-third (33.3%) of persons were between 31 and 40.

Figure 10: Age Distribution of Persons Seeking Drug-Use-Related Treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital between January 1 and December 31, 2019
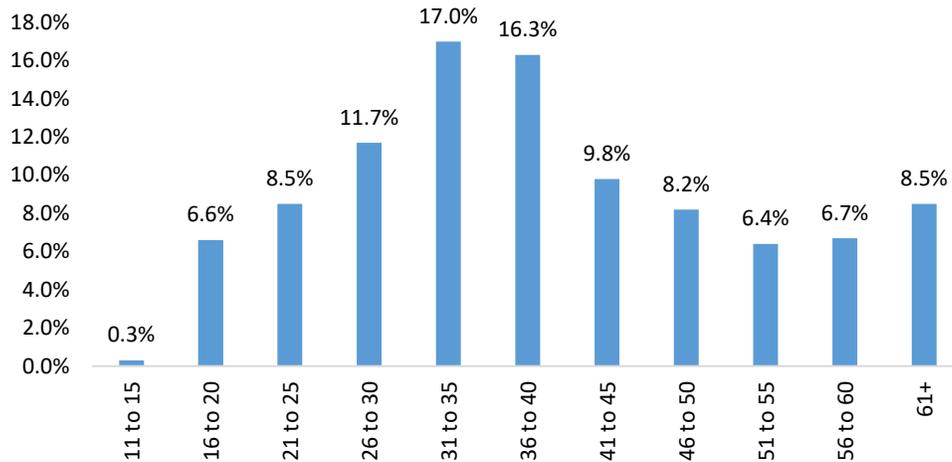
Comorbid Diagnoses including Substance Use Disorders

The term *comorbid diagnosis* refers to two or more disorders or illnesses occurring within the same person (National Institute on Drug Abuse, 2018). The Psychiatric Hospital reported that one third (33%) of the patients admitted in 2019 had comorbid diagnoses which included substance use disorders (See Figure 11).

Figure 11: Distribution of Patients in 2019 who had Comorbid Diagnoses including Substance Use Disorders vs. All Other Diagnoses
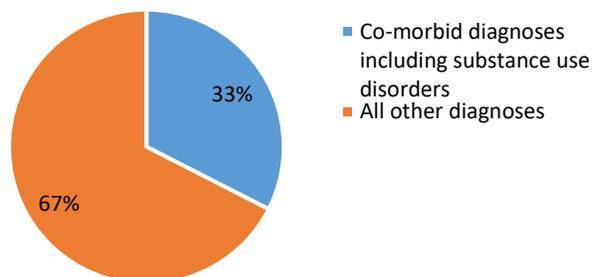
Figures 12 and 13 show that the demographic profile of persons with comorbid diagnoses including substance use disorders corresponds with the profiles for the 2019 general hospital admissions and substance use disorder admissions. As such, males received the majority of these diagnoses. Likewise, their frequency generally increased with age, peaking between 31 and 40 years.

Figure 12: Sex Distribution of Persons Admitted to the
Psychiatric Hospital in 2019 with Co-morbid Diagnoses
including Substance Use Disorders
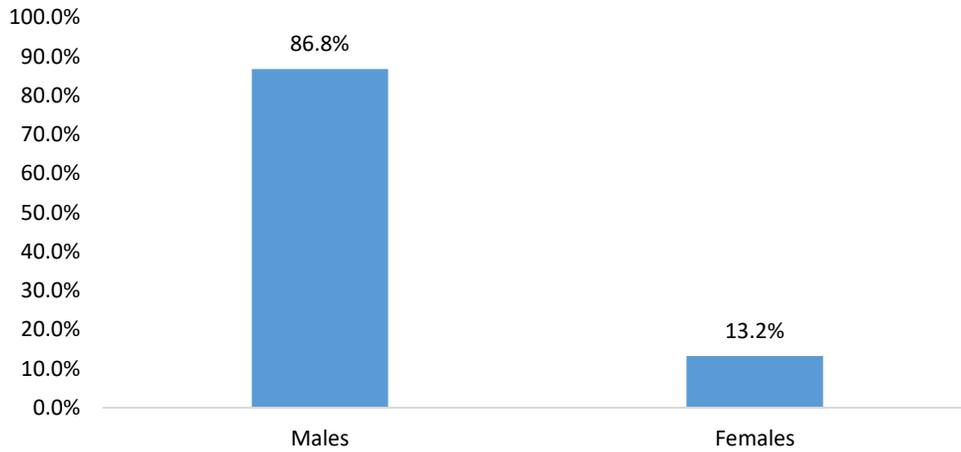
Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

Figure 13: Age Distribution of Persons Admitted to the
Psychiatric Hospital in 2019 with Co-morbid Diagnoses including
Substance Use Disorders
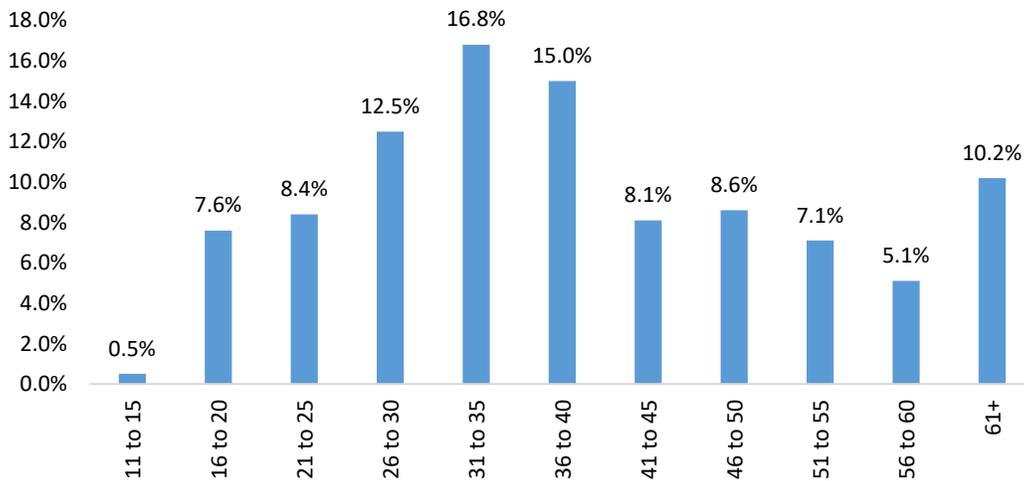
Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

Drug Rehab Unit

Ninety-two persons were assessed by the Drug Rehab Unit at the Psychiatric Hospital during 2019. Just under three-quarters (71%) of these persons were referred for treatment at the Substance Abuse Foundation while the remaining 29% (27 patients) were referred to the Psychiatric Hospital Day Programme (See Figure 14).

Figure 14: Distribution of Treatment Referrals for Persons Assessed by the Drug Rehab Unit during 2019

- Substance Abuse Foundation   - Psychiatric Hospital Day Programme
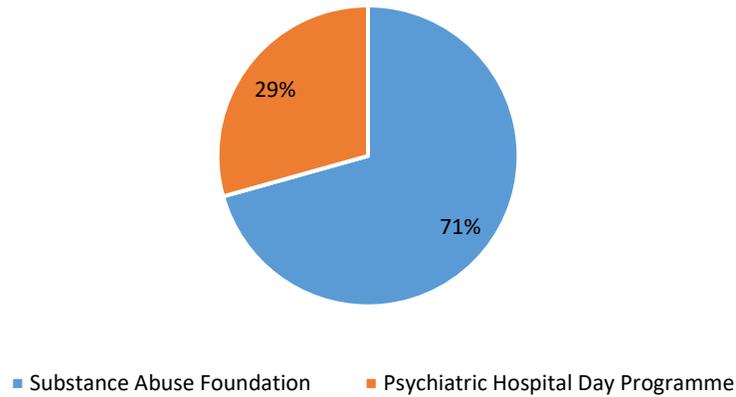
Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

Of the 27 patients referred to the referred to the Day Programme, 20 received drug treatment, 6 received drug education and 1 self-discharged before starting treatment (See Figure 15).

Figure 15: Services Received by Persons Admitted to the Drug Rehab Unit's Day Programme during 2019

Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

19
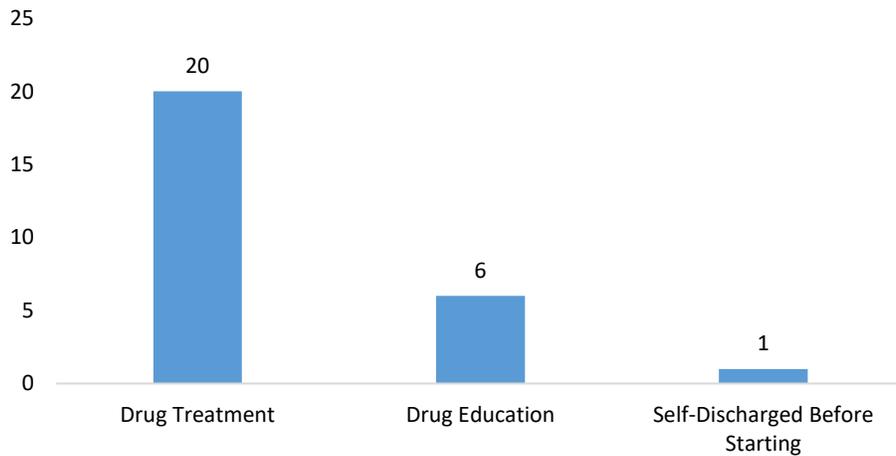
The remaining statistics in this section will focus on the 20 individuals who received drug treatment within the Day Programme.

Demographic Profile of Persons Receiving Drug Treatment

Figures 16 and 17 reveal that males and persons 40 years of age and under represented the majority of patients receiving drug treatment within the Hospital's Day Programme during 2019.

Figure 16: Sex Distribution of Persons Receiving
Substance Abuse Treatment from the Day Programme
during 2019
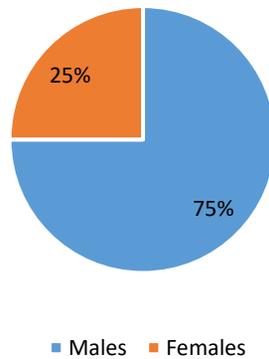
Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

Figure 17: Age Distribution of Persons Receiving
Substance Abuse Treatment from the Day Programme
during 2019
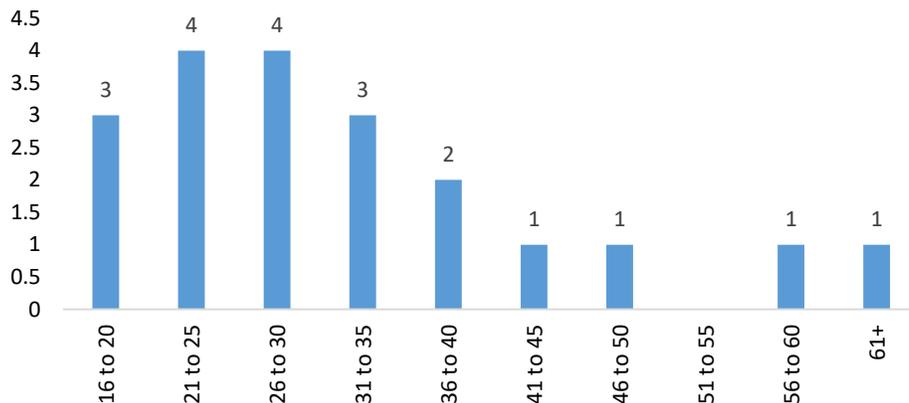
Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

Drug Use Profile

Just over half (55%) of those receiving drug treatment within the Day Programme were treated for poly drug use[7] (See Figure 18). The remaining 45% were treated for single drug use (See Figure 18).

Figure 18: Distribution of Persons Receiving Treatment for Single Drug vs Poly Drug Use within the Day Programme during 2019

■ Single Drug Use   ■ Poly Drug Use
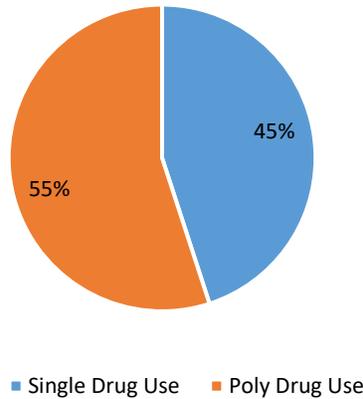
Cocaine powder and marijuana were the most common primary drugs for which persons received treatment, distantly followed by alcohol (See Figure 19).

Figure 19: Primary Drugs for which Substance Abuse Treatment was Sought from the Day Programme during 2019

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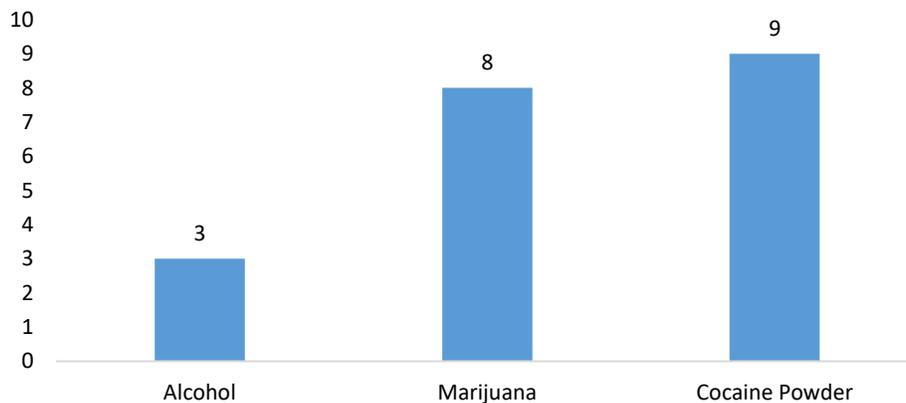
[7] The term 'poly drug use' is used to describe the use of more than one drug or type of drug by an individual either at the same time or sequentially. It encompasses use of both illicit drugs and legal substances, such as alcohol and medicines (European Monitoring Centre for Drugs & Drug Addiction, n.d.).

When sex was taken into account, Figure 20 shows that marijuana and cocaine powder were the only primary drugs reported by males while alcohol and cocaine powder were the only primary drugs reported by females.

Figure 20: Sex Distribution of Primary Drugs for which Substance Abuse Treatment was Sought from the Day Programme during 2019
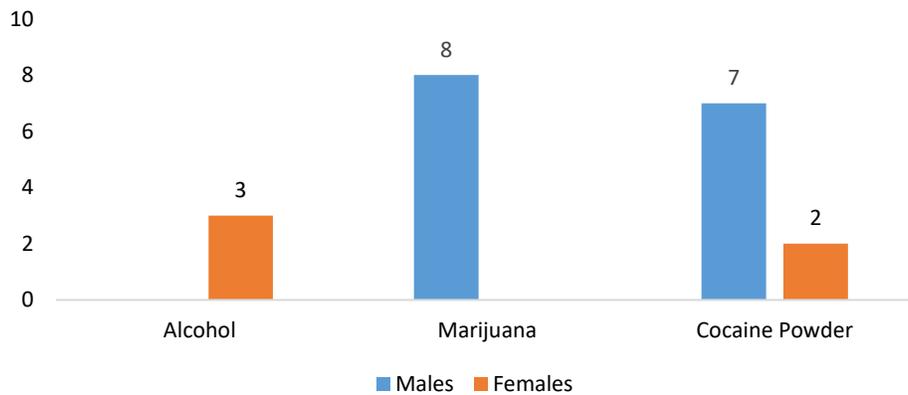
*Source: The Psychiatric Hospital*

With respect to age, marijuana was only reported as a primary drug by persons ages 40 and under and cocaine powder by those 45 and under (See Figure 21). In contrast, alcohol was only reported as a primary drug by persons 46 years of age and older (See Figure 21). This corresponds with data from previous years which suggests that marijuana and cocaine powder are more problematic among younger persons while alcohol abuse is more of an issue among those in the older age groups.

Figure 21: Age Distribution of Primary Drugs for which Substance Abuse Treatment was Sought from the Day Programme during 2019
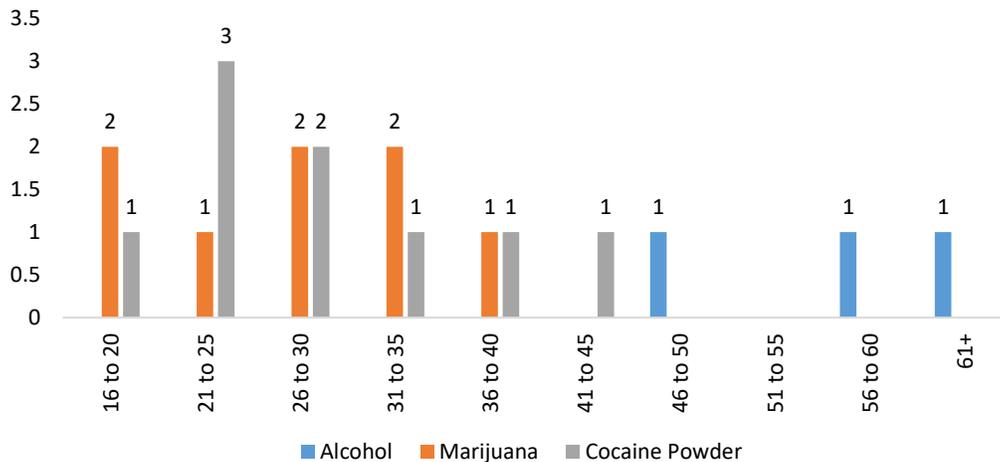
Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

Patients were asked to indicate the drugs which they used in the 12 months prior to entering treatment. Marijuana, cocaine powder, alcohol and tobacco were the four substances identified (See Figure 22). With regards to sex, males primarily reported using marijuana followed by cocaine powder and alcohol during the preceding year while females reported using all four substances (See Figure 22). Of these, alcohol was the most common for women followed by tobacco, cocaine powder and marijuana (See Figure 22).

With respect to age, only persons 40 years and under reported using marijuana during the year leading up to treatment while cocaine use was only reported by those 45 and younger (See Figure 23). Alcohol use was reported across the age groups and tobacco use was only reported by those 56 years and over (See Figure 23).

Figure 22: Drugs Used in the Past 12 Months by Persons Receiving Substance Abuse Treatment from the Day Programme during 2019
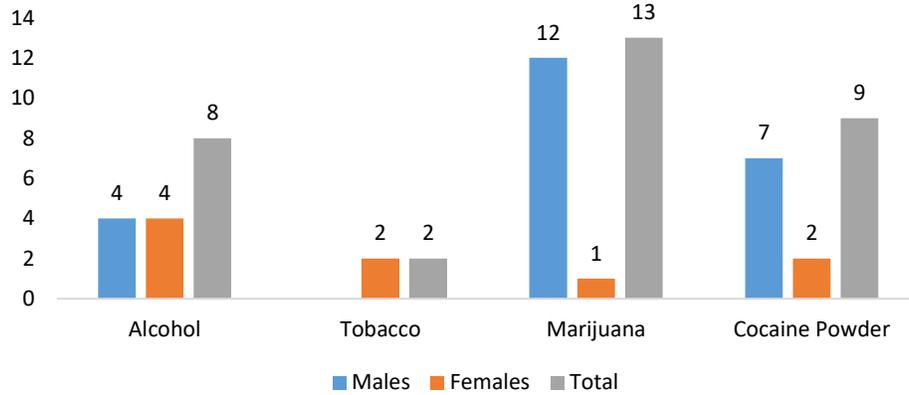
Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

Figure 23: Age Distribution of Drugs Used in the Past 12 Months by Persons Receiving Substance Abuse Treatment from the Day Programme during 2019
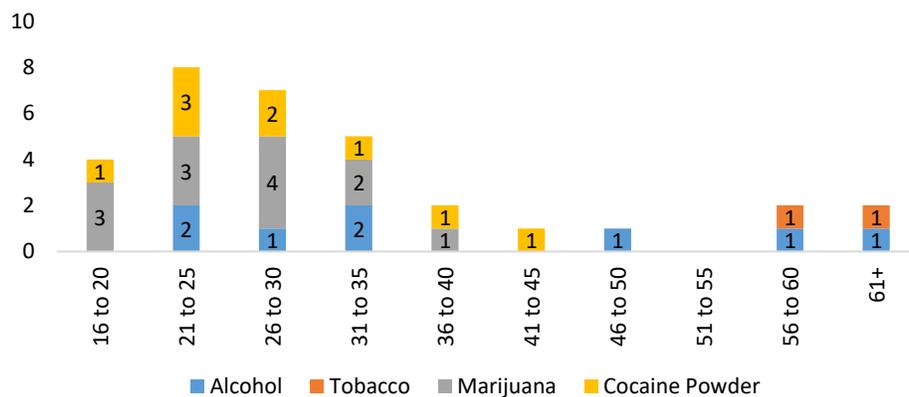
Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

The statistics reported for past 30 day drug use were identical to those reported for past year use. This can be seen in Figures 24 and 25.

Figure 24: Drugs Used in Past 30 Days by Persons Receiving Substance Abuse Treatment from the Day Programme During 2019
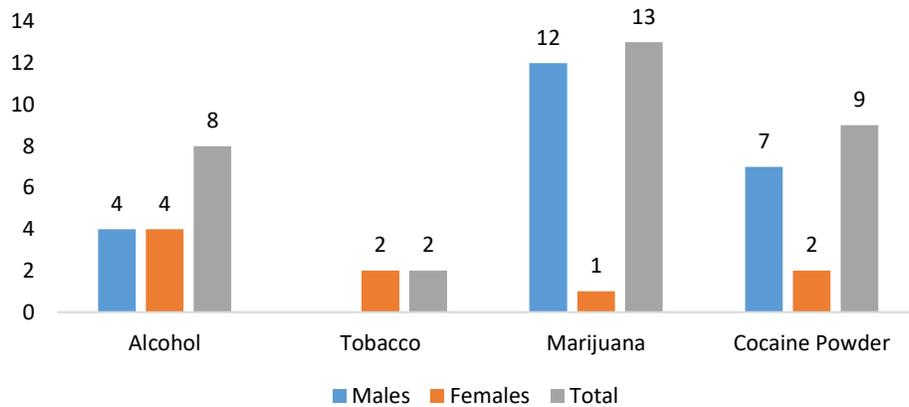
Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

Figure 25: Age Distribution of Drugs Used in the Past 30 Days by Persons Receiving Treatment from the Day Programme During 2019
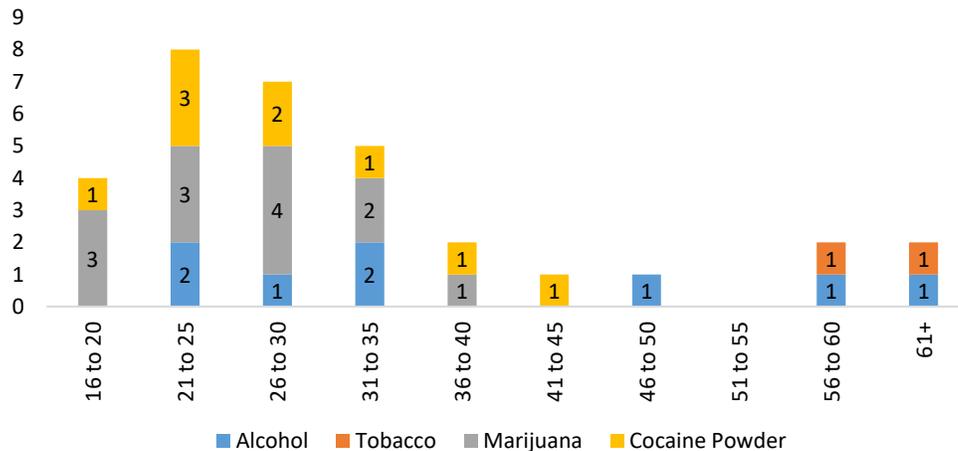
Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

When asked to indicate the most frequent method of administration for their primary drug, patients indicated that cocaine powder was inhaled, marijuana was smoked and alcohol was consumed orally (See Figure 26).

Figure 26: Most Frequent Method of Administration for
Primary Drug among Persons Receiving Treatment from the
Day Programme during 2019
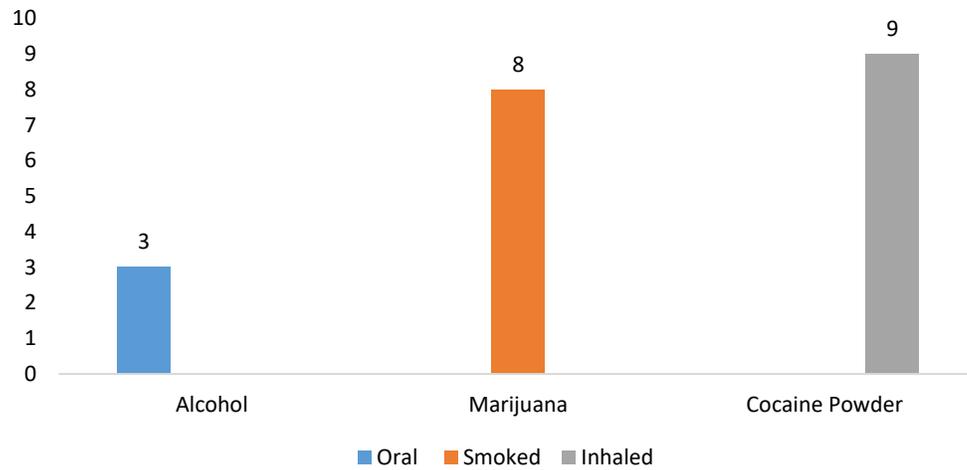
Drug Education

Five of the six persons receiving drug education from the Day Programme during 2019 were males while one was female (See Figure 27). All six individuals were in the 16 to 20 age group.

The primary drugs for those receiving drug education were marijuana and alcohol, with marijuana being the most common for males (See Figure 28). There was only one male who reported that his primary drug was alcohol (See Figure 28). Marijuana was also the primary drug for the lone female (See Figure 28).

Figure 27: Sex Distribution of Persons Receiving Drug
Education from the Drug Rehab Unit during 2019
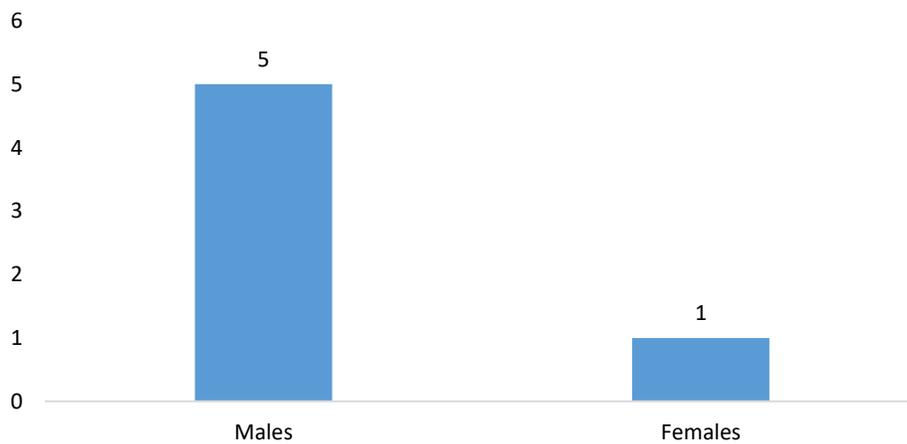
Figure 28: Primary Drug for which Persons Received Drug
Education from the Drug Rehab Unit during 2019
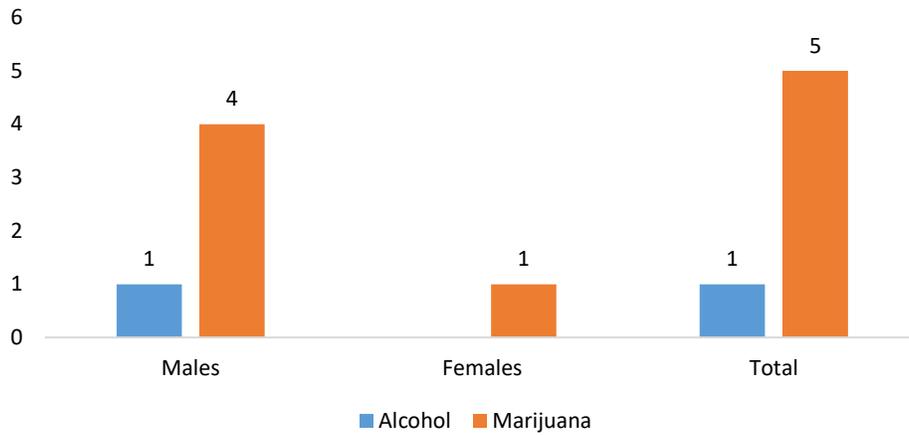
Thrive Family Centre

The Thrive Family Centre is a juvenile mental health facility which was opened at the Psychiatric Hospital in December 2018. It caters to school-age children between the ages of 7 and 17 years who have behavioural problems that may require early intervention. The Centre provides a day release programme and children attend for a period of two to six weeks. Duration depends on the presentation of the client.

During 2019, 58 children were admitted to the Centre. While this total includes more males than females, the percentage of males was not disproportionately higher (See Figure 29). With regards to age, the majority of persons admitted to the Centre during 2019 were between 14 and 17 years (See Figure 30).

Figure 29: Persons Admitted to the Thrive Family
Centre between January 1 and December 31, 2019 by
Sex
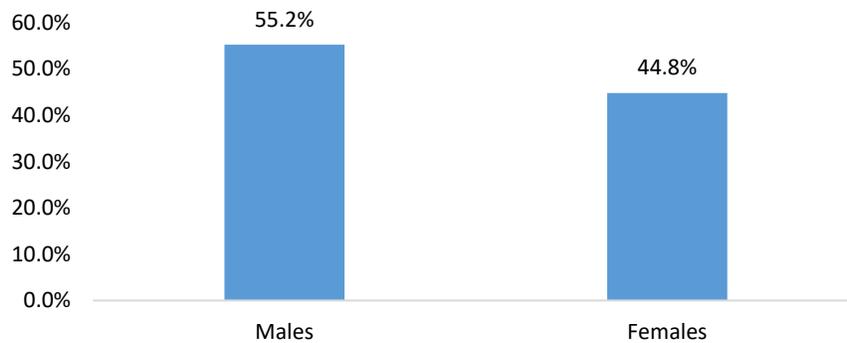
Figure 30: Persons Admitted to the Thrive Family Centre
between January 1 to December 31, 2019 by Age
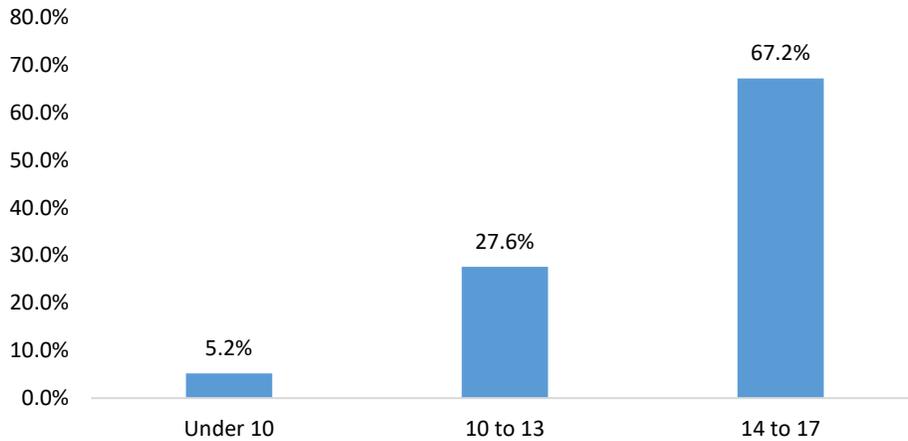
Of the 58 children admitted to the Centre in 2019, eight (13.8%) were admitted for drug-related diagnoses. Seven of these children were male, while all eight were in the 14 to 17 age category (See Figures 32 and 33).

Figure 31: Drug-related vs Other Admissions to the Thrive
Family Centre between January 1 to December 31, 2019
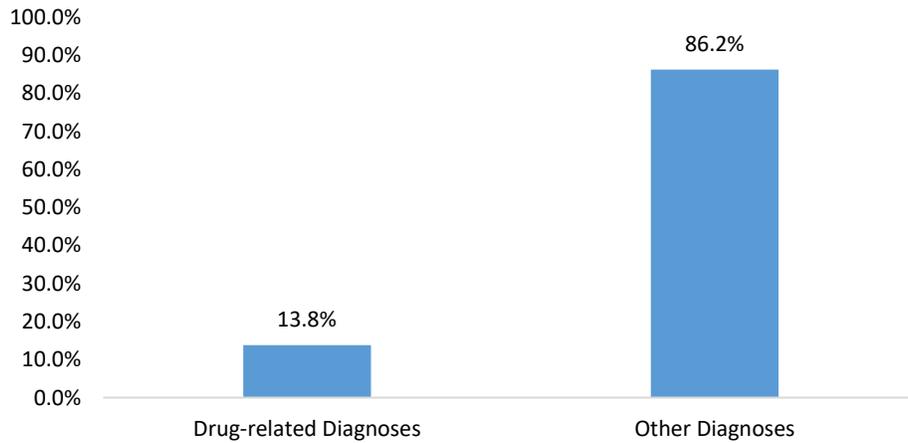
Figure 32: Sex Distribtion of Persons Admitted to the
Thrive Family Centre for Drug-related Diagnoses in 2019
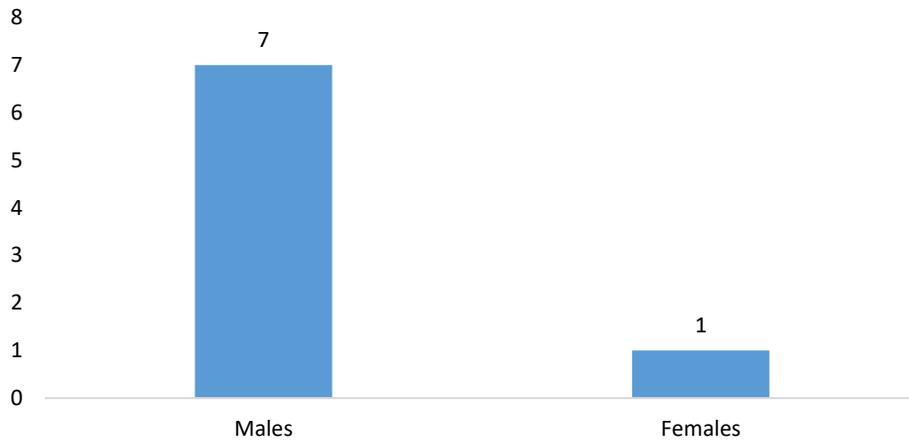
Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

Figure 33: Age Distribution of Persons Admitted to the
Thrive Family Centre for Drug-related Diagnoses during
2019
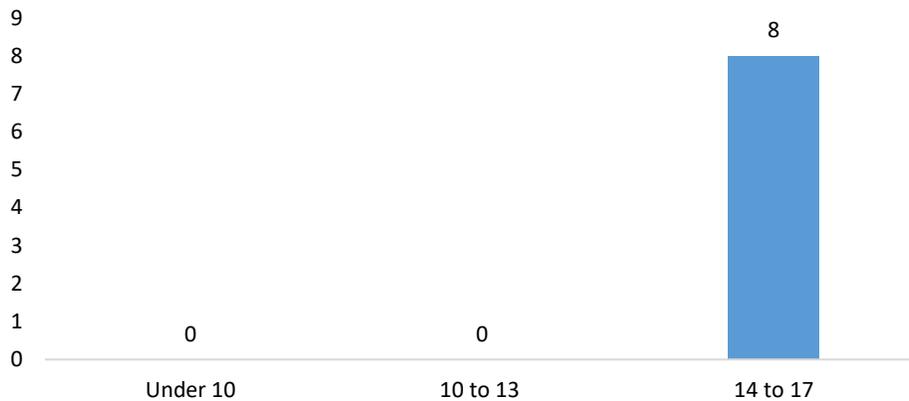
Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

Figure 34 presents the drugs for which treatment was sought by children admitted to the Thrive Family Centre during 2019. From the Chart, it can be seen that marijuana was the main substance for which treatment was sought by this group. Two males also sought treatment for alcohol. It should be noted that the sum of the totals in the chart is greater than the number of children with drug-related diagnoses during the period (10 versus 8), as two of the children received treatment for two drugs.

Figure 34: Drugs for which Treatment was Sought by Juveniles Admitted to the Thrive Family Centre during 2019
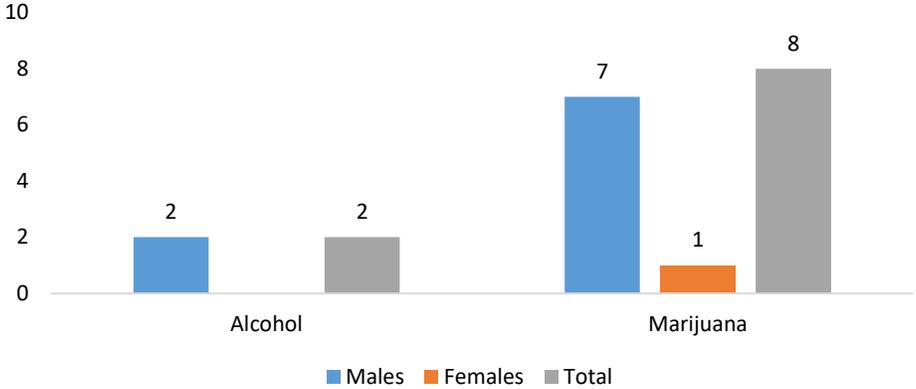
Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

4.2 Substance Abuse Foundation

Demographic Profile of Clients

Eighty-nine persons were admitted[8] to the Substance Abuse Foundation (SAF)[9] between January 1 and December 31, 2019. As in previous years, males outnumbered females, accounting for approximately eight out of every 10 (82%) admissions during the target period (See Figure 35).

Figure 35: Persons Seeking Treatment at the Substance Abuse Foundation in 2019 by Sex

■ Males ■ Females
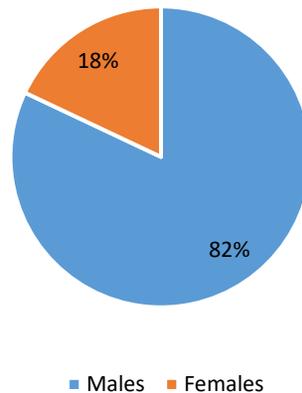
Source: Substance Abuse Foundation

From Figure 36 it can be seen that the percentage of admissions peaked in the 31 to 35 age category and generally declined thereafter. From the Chart it can also be seen that more than half (57.1%) of the 2019 admissions were 40 years of age and younger (See Figure 36).

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[8] For all treatment centres (residential and non-residential) highlighted in this Report, the term "admitted' refers to "being accepted into the substance abuse treatment programme and starting treatment".

[9] The Substance Abuse Foundation Inc. comprises of 2 treatment facilities: Verdun House and Marina House. Verdun House caters to males 18 years of age and older while Marina House caters to females 18 years and over.

Figure 36: Persons Seeking Substance Abuse
Treatment at the Substance Abuse Foundation in 2019
by Age
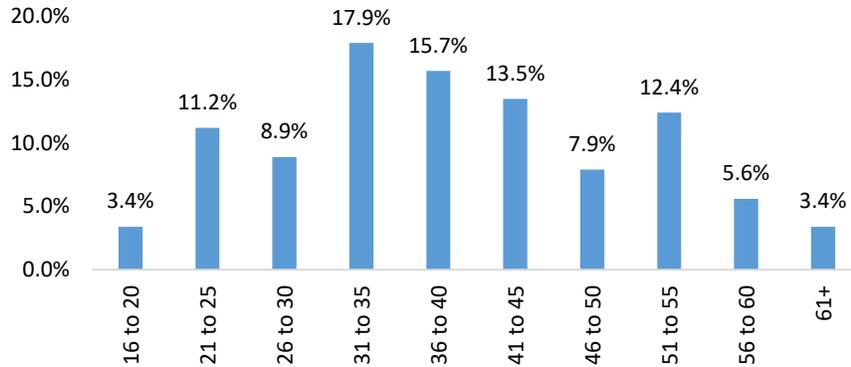
Source: Substance Abuse Foundation

The majority of persons seeking treatment at the SAF during 2019 were single, had no dependents[10], lived in their family home and had attained a secondary level education (See Figure 37, 38, 39, 40). This corresponds with the data from previous years. With respect to employment, the largest proportion (55.1%) of clients continued to be those in the unemployed category (See Figure 41). Nevertheless, it is noteworthy that approximately 4 out of every 10 persons (41.6%) reported that they were employed (See Figure 41).

Figure 37: Relationship Status of Persons Seeking Substance
Abuse Treatment at the Substance Abuse Foundation in 2019

Single Married Divorced Separated Living Together/Common Law
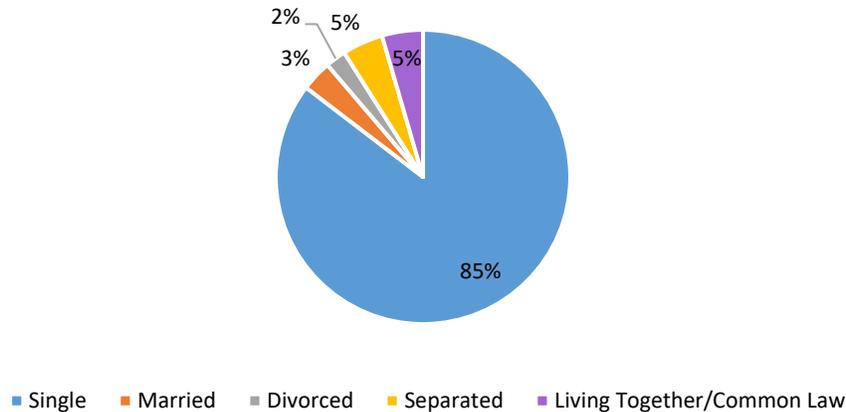
Source: Substance Abuse Foundation

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[10] For the purposes of BARDIN, "dependent" refers to an individual who relies on another person, especially a family member, for financial support.

Figure 38: Distribution of Persons With and Without
Dependents Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at the
Substance Abuse Foundation in 2019
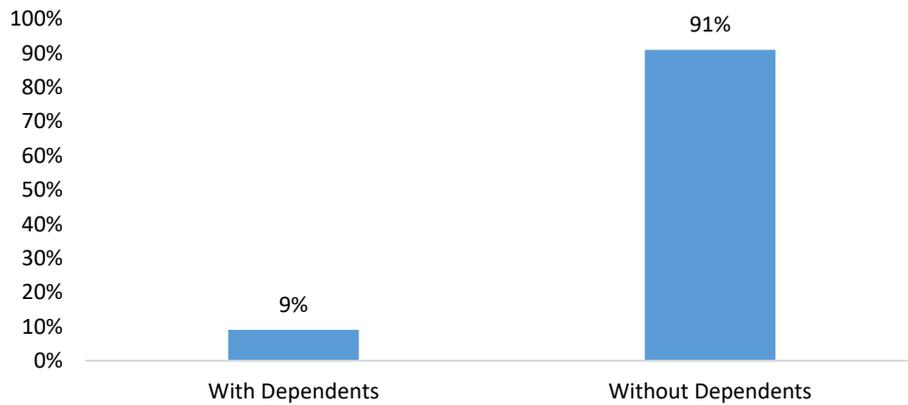
Figure 39: Living Arrangements for Persons Seeking Substance
Abuse Treatment at the Substance Abuse Foundation during 2019
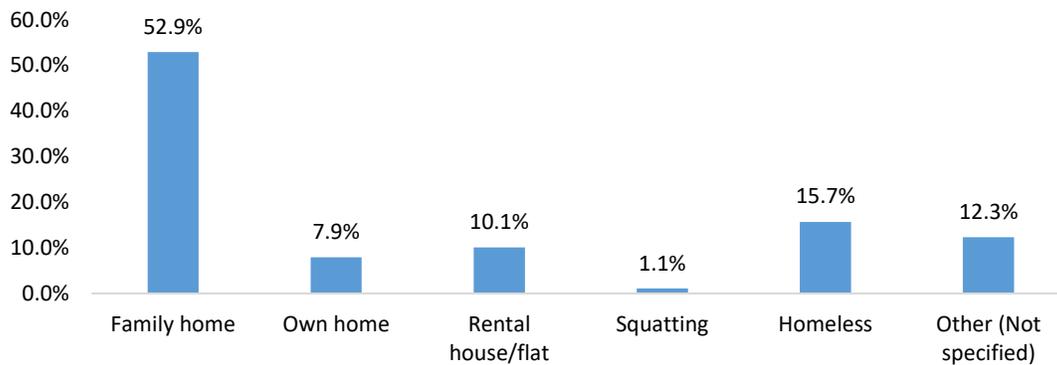
Figure 40: Highest Level of Education Attained by Persons Seeking
Substance Abuse Treatment at the Substance Abuse Foundation in 2019
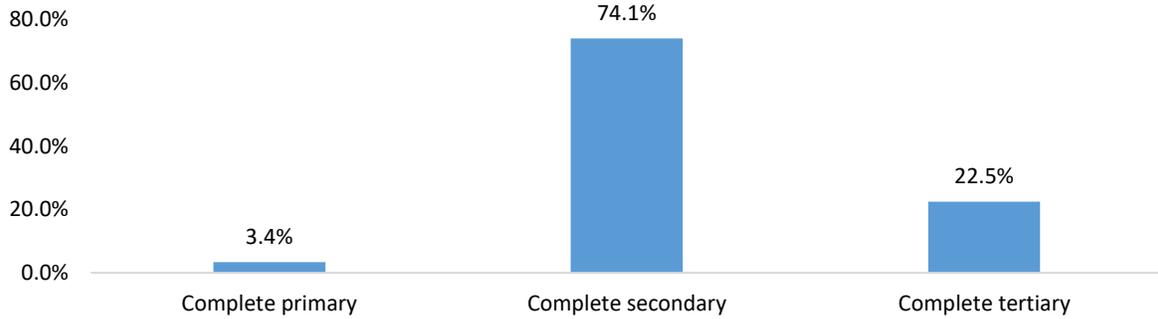
Figure 41: Employment Status of Persons Seeking Substance Abuse
Treatment at the Substance Abuse Foundation during 2019
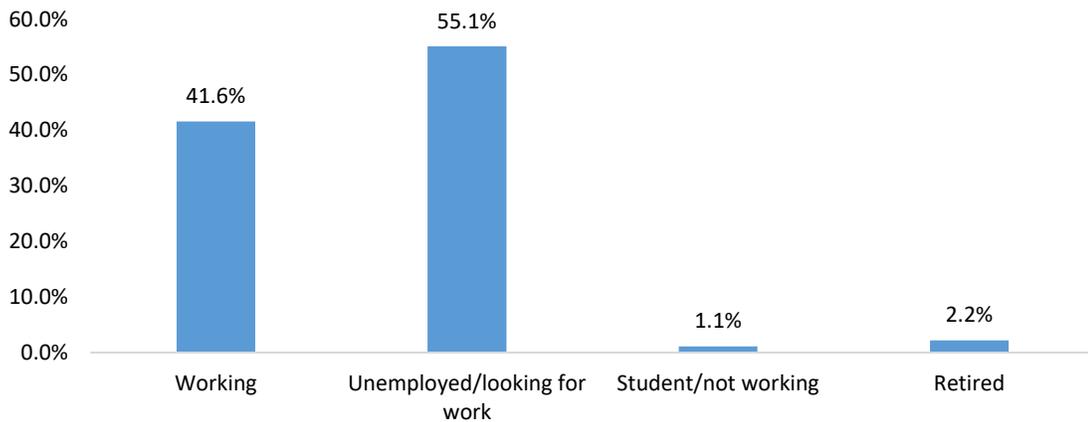
Family History of Drug Use

When asked about family history of drug use, clients' responses surrounded three substances: alcohol, marijuana and crack cocaine. Figure 42 shows that a family history of alcohol and marijuana use was more common than a family history of crack cocaine use. The Chart also shows that a history of drug use was more common among parents and siblings than any other relation (See Figure 42). In this regard, it should also be noted that persons were more likely to report drug use by their fathers and brothers than by their sisters and mothers (See Figure 42).

Figure 42: Family History of Drug Use by Drug Type among
Persons Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at the
Substance Abuse Foundation in 2019
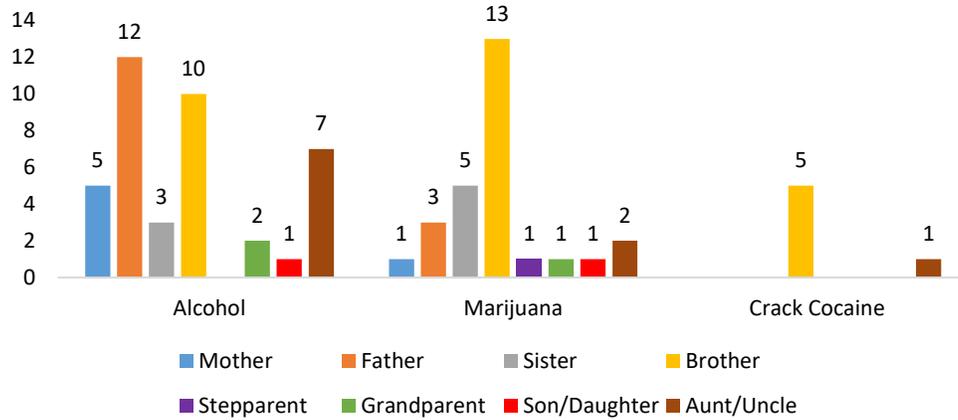
Source: Substance Abuse Foundation

Clients' Drug Use History

Alcohol, marijuana and nicotine (tobacco) were the top three drugs of first use among the 2019 SAF clients (See Figure 43). Of these, alcohol was the most common. When this data was analyzed by age, it was found that most persons initiated drug use by the age of 15 (See Figure 44).

Figure 43: First Drug Used in Lifetime by Persons Seeking
Treatment at the Substance Abuse Foundation in 2019

*Source: Substance Abuse Foundation*

34
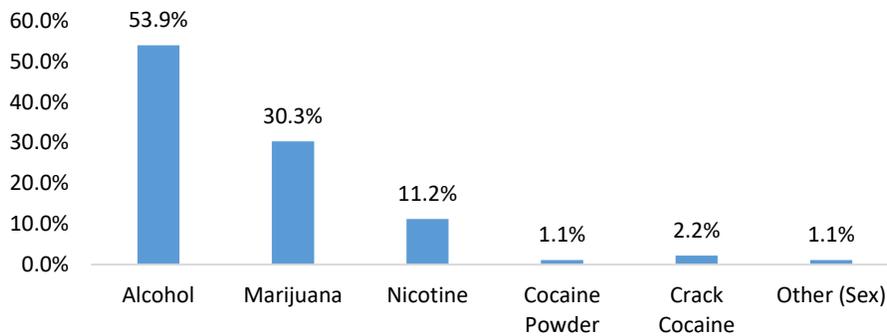
Figure 44: Age of First Drug Use by Drug Type
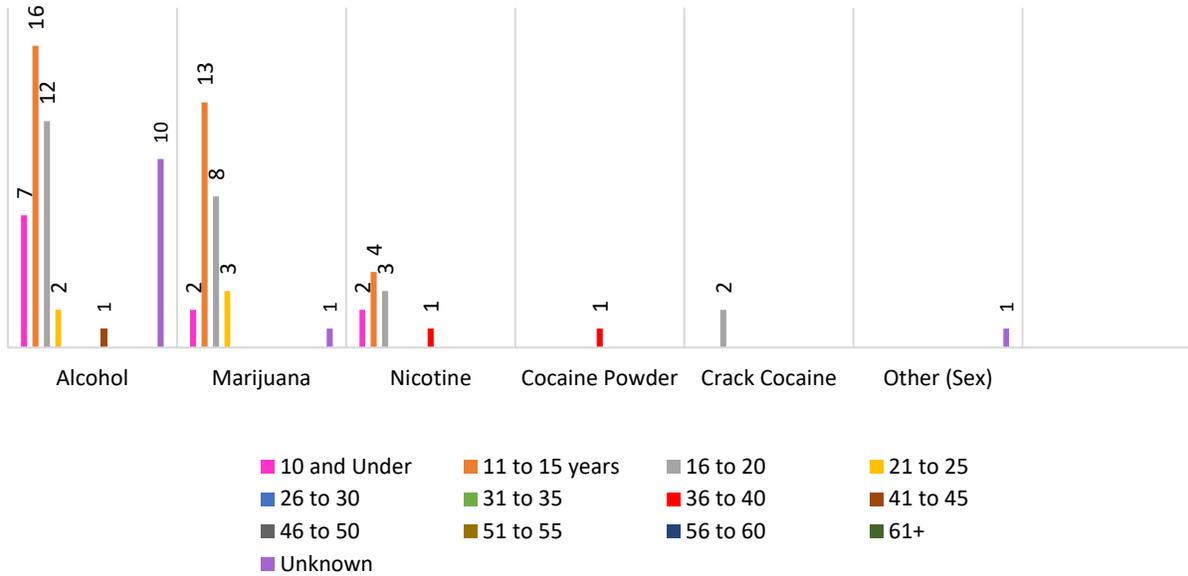
Figure 45 presents the drugs used by clients throughout their lifetime. Traditional substances, namely: alcohol, marijuana, crack cocaine, nicotine (tobacco) and cocaine powder, were the drugs most commonly used across both sexes (See Figure 45). Additionally, males were more likely to report the lifetime use of non-traditional substances such as: ecstasy, MDMA, acid, sleepers, mushrooms, speed and LSD (See Figure 45). However, this should be interpreted with caution given that male clients outnumbered female clients.

Figure 45: Sex Distribution of Drugs Used in Lifetime by Persons Seeking Treatment at the Substance Abuse Foundation in 2019
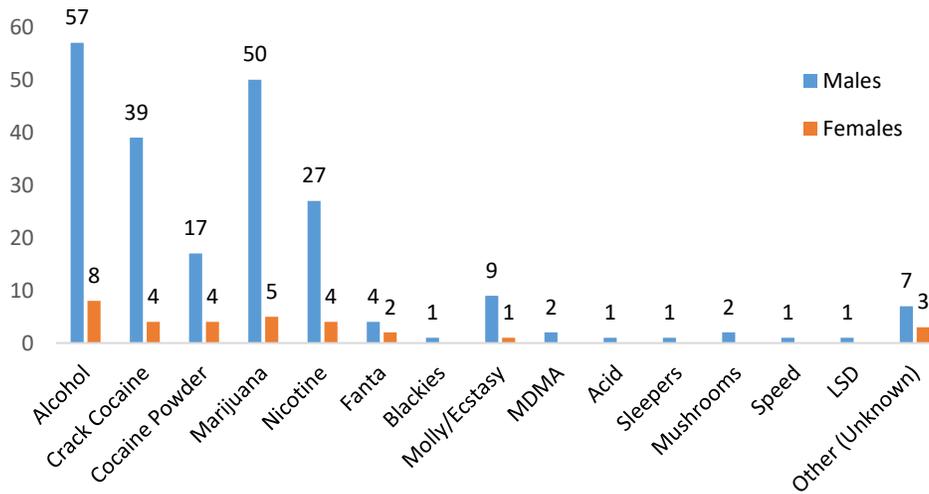
Lifetime drug use data is presented by age in Figure 46. The Chart shows that persons 40 years of age and under were more likely to report the lifetime use of all drugs, particularly non-traditional substances. This should also be interpreted with caution given that clients in the 40 and under age category outnumbered those 41 and over.

Figure 46: Age Distribution of Drugs Used in Lifetime by Persons Seeking Treatment at the Substance Abuse Foundation in 2019
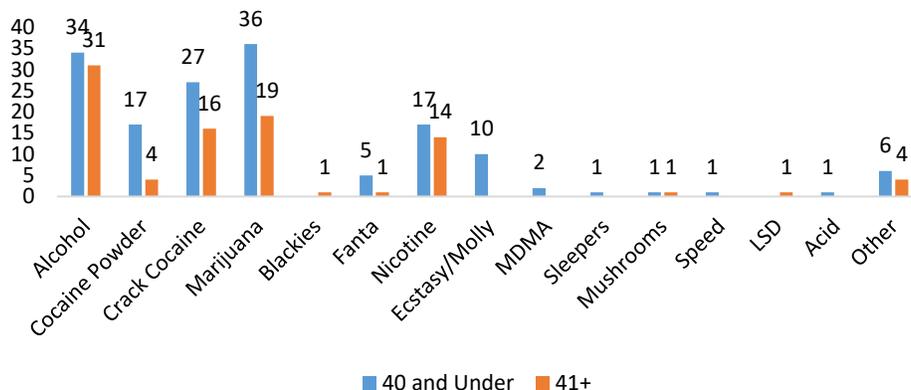
*Source: Substance Abuse Foundation*

Treatment Referral

The majority of persons admitted to the SAF during 2019 either sought treatment voluntarily (self-referral) (38.2%) or were referred by the law courts (28.1%) (See Figure 47). There were also a number of other, less common, referral sources, including the Psychiatric Hospital (11.2%)[11] and encouragement from family and friends (9.0%) (See Figure 47).

It is should be noted that the data presented in Figure 47 represents the *original* sources of referral for persons treated at the SAF during 2019. This is noteworthy as most persons seeking treatment at the SAF do so through the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the SAF and the Psychiatric Hospital. This MOU allows persons who are assessed at, and referred by, the Psychiatric Hospital to have their treatment at the SAF sponsored by the Government of Barbados. As a result, most SAF clients can be seen as having been *referred* by the Psychiatric Hospital. However, this generalization prevents a true understanding of how this group came to be in treatment. To avoid this shortcoming, a decision was taken to present the original sources of referral in this report.

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[11] This figure refers represents the percentage of SAF clients who, as Psychiatric Hospital *patients*, received referrals for treatment at SAF.

Figure 47: Sources of Referral for Persons Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at the SAF in 2019
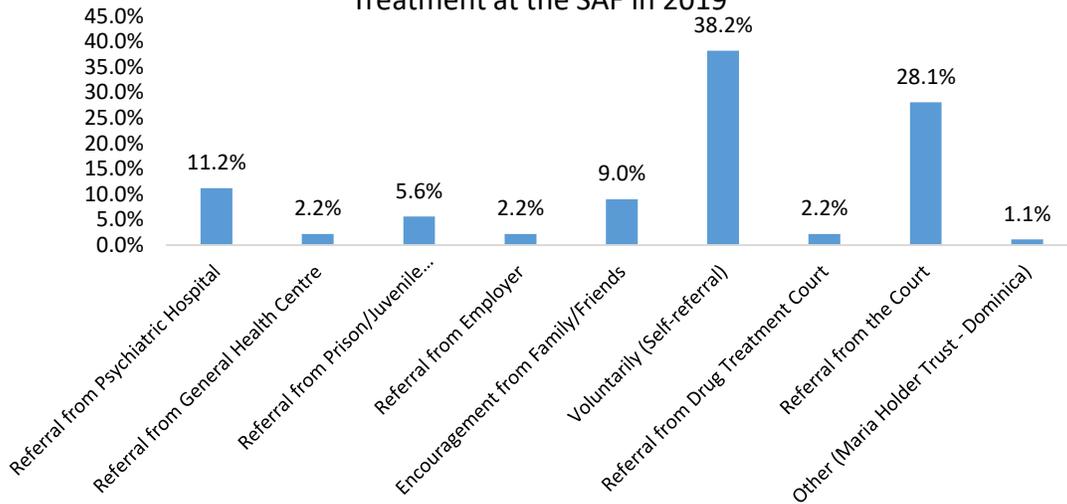

Source: Substance Abuse Foundation

Drug Treatment Profile

Single drug use was the primary reason for which persons sought treatment at the SAF during 2019. In fact, approximately seven out every 10 admissions (70%) were for single drug use while the remaining 30% were for poly drug use (See Figure 48).

Figure 48: Distribution of Persons Seeking Treatment for Poly Drug vs Single Drug Use at the Substance Abuse Foundation in 2019
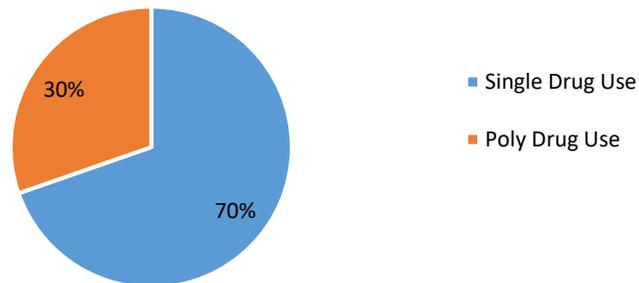

Source: Substance Abuse Foundation

Crack cocaine (36.0%) and alcohol (34.8%) were the two most common primary drugs for which treatment was sought, accounting for almost equal proportions of the clients admitted to the SAF during 2019 (See Figure 49). These were distantly followed by marijuana (14.6%) and cocaine powder (10.1%) (See Figure 49). Very few persons sought treatment for blackies[12], ecstasy and tobacco cigarettes (See Figure 49). Figure 49 also highlights the fact that one client sought treatment for sex addiction.

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[12] Blackies: A rolled cigarette which includes a combination of marijuana and cocaine.

Figure 49: Primary Drug For Which Persons Sought Substance Abuse Treatment at the Substance Abuse Foundation in 2019

Drug	Percentage
Alcohol	34.8%
Marijuana	14.6%
Cocaine Powder	10.1%
Crack Cocaine	36.0%
Blackies	1.1%
Ecstasy	1.1%
Tobacco cigarettes	1.1%
Other (Sex)	1.1%
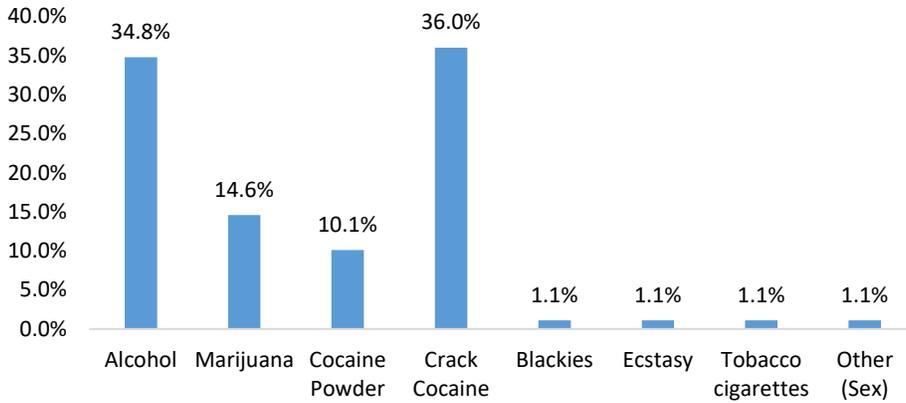
Source: Substance Abuse Foundation

The data was analyzed by sex, and Figure 50 shows that crack cocaine was the most common primary drug for males, closely followed by alcohol. In contrast, alcohol was the most common primary drug for females followed by cocaine powder (See Figure 50). While crack cocaine was the predominant primary drug overall, it ranked third – tying with marijuana – among females (See Figure 50). Additionally, it should be noted that blackies, ecstasy and tobacco were identified as primary drugs among male clients only (See Figure 50).

Figure 50: Primary Drugs for which Treatment was Sought at the Substance Abuse Foundation in 2019 by Sex

| Drug	Males	Females
Alcohol	34.2%	37.5%
Marijuana	13.7%	18.7%
Cocaine Powder	6.8%	25.0%
Crack Cocaine	39.7%	18.7%
Blackies	1.4%	
Ecstasy	1.4%	
Tobacco cigarettes	1.4%	
Other (Sex)	1.4%	
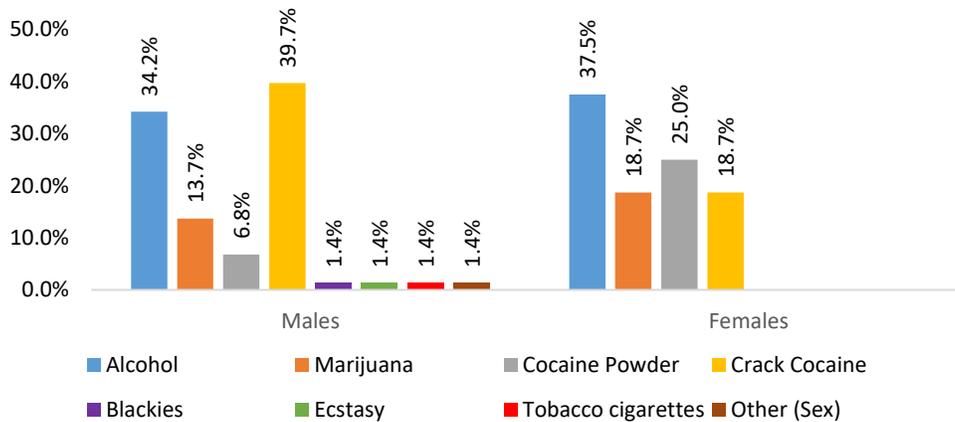
Source: Substance Abuse Foundation

When the data was analyzed by age, the results showed that alcohol was the most common primary drug for persons 41 years of age and over, followed by crack cocaine, cocaine powder and blackies respectively (See Figure 51). For those 40 years and under, crack cocaine was the most common primary drug followed somewhat closely by marijuana, alcohol and cocaine powder (See Figure 51). Reports of

ecstasy and tobacco use were far less common. Attention should also be paid to the fact that only persons 40 years and under sought treatment for marijuana, tobacco or ecstasy (See Figure 51).

Overall, the data suggests that alcohol continues to be more problematic among older persons seeking treatment at the SAF, while marijuana is of greater issue among the younger generation. In 2019, the percentage of persons seeking treatment for cocaine (powdered and crack) was similar in both age cohorts.

Figure 51: Primary Drugs for Which Treatment was Sought at the Substance Abuse Foundation in 2019 by Age
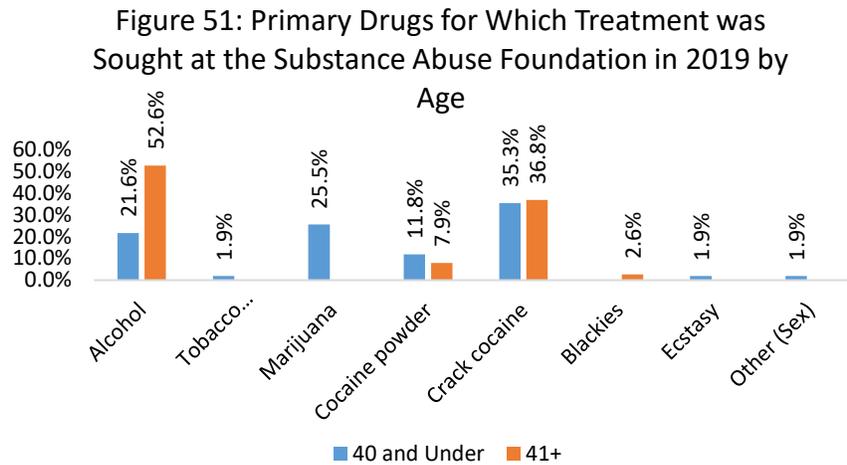
Source: Substance Abuse Foundation

When asked about the method of administration for their primary drugs, the clients identified one of three routes: oral, smoked or inhaled. Figure 52 shows that for alcohol and ecstasy, all persons reported consuming these substances "orally" while "smoked" was the predominant, or only, method identified for marijuana, crack cocaine, nicotine and blackies. "Inhaled" was the preferred method for cocaine powder (See Figure 52).

Figure 52: Most Frequent Method of Drug Administration for Primary Drug Among Persons Seeking Treatment at the Substance Abuse Foundation in 2019
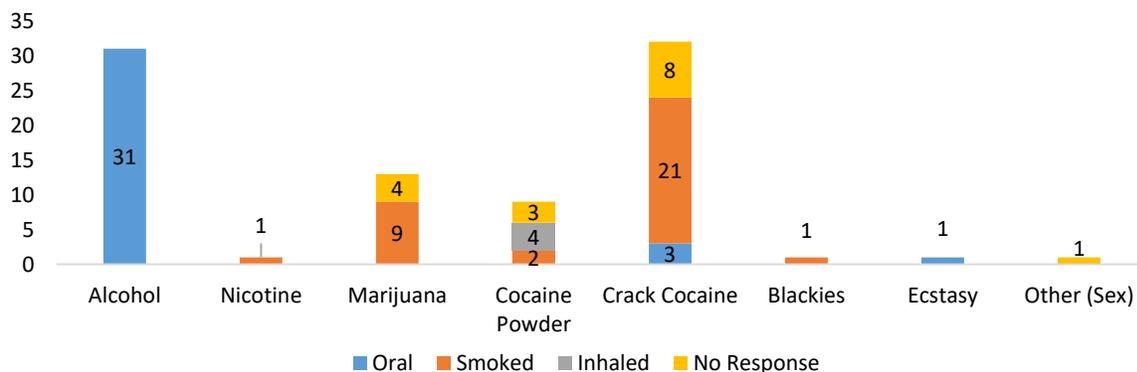

Source: Substance Abuse Foundation

Figures 53 and 54 present the drugs used by clients in the 30 days preceding treatment entry - Figure 53 by sex and Figure 54 by age. Both charts show that a large proportion of clients reported no drug use in the 30 day lead up. They also show that alcohol, marijuana, crack cocaine and cocaine powder were the most commonly used substances during this period (See Figures 53 and 54). Overall, males reporting drug use outnumbered females (See Figure 53). Likewise, reports of drug use were also greater among those 40 years and under (See Figure 54). In both cases, this may be due to the demographic profile of the clients whereby the majority of persons seeking treatment were males, 40 years of age and younger. Therefore, this data should be interpreted with caution.

Figure 53: Sex Distribution of the Drugs Used in the Past 30 days by Persons Seeking Treatment at the Substance Abuse Foundation in 2019
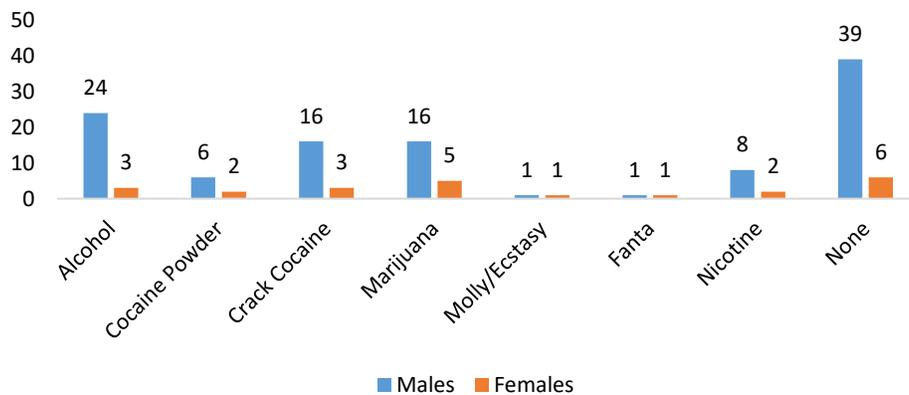
Source: Substance Abuse Foundation

Figure 54: Age Distribution of Drugs Used in Past 30 Days by Persons Seeking Treatment at the Substance Abuse Foundation in 2019
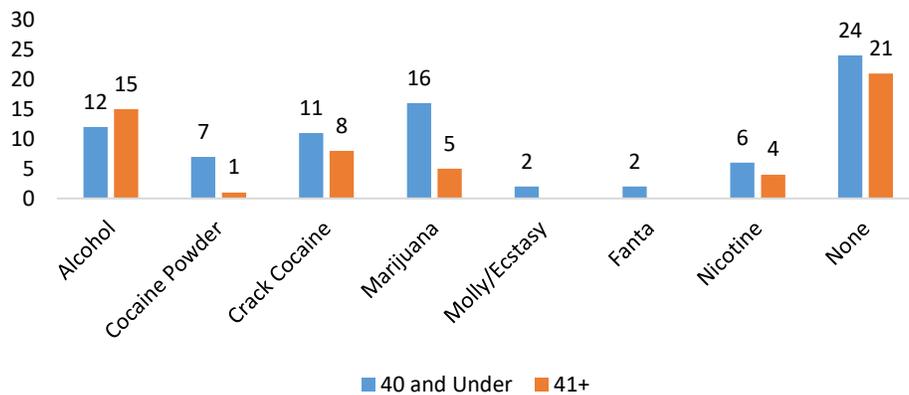

Source: Substance Abuse Foundation

Most Recent Treatment Prior to Admission

Clients were asked to indicate the most recent type of treatment received prior to entering the SAF. All 89 clients identified some form of previous treatment, with residential treatment being the most common (See Figure 55).

Figure 55: Most Recent Type of Drug Treatment Prior to Enrollment among Persons Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at the SAF in 2019
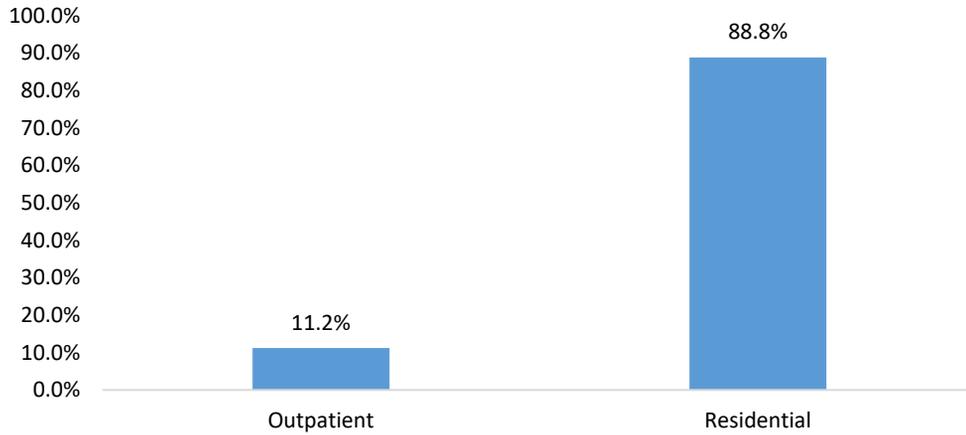

Source: Substance Abuse Foundation

4.3 Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives

Demographic Profile of Treatment Clients

Thirty-eight persons sought substance abuse treatment at the Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives (CASA) during 2019. Males accounted for 95% of admissions during the target period (See Figure 56).

Figure 56: Sex Distribution of Persons Seeking Treatment
at CASA during 2019
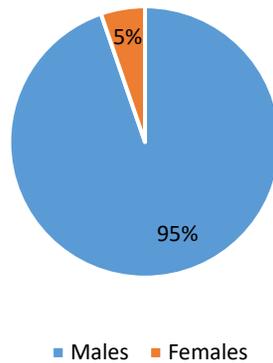
Source: Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives

With regards to age, 86.8% of clients were 45 years of age or under while approximately half (49.9%) were 25 or younger (See Figure 57).

Figure 57: Age Distribution of Persons Seeking Treatment
at CASA in 2019
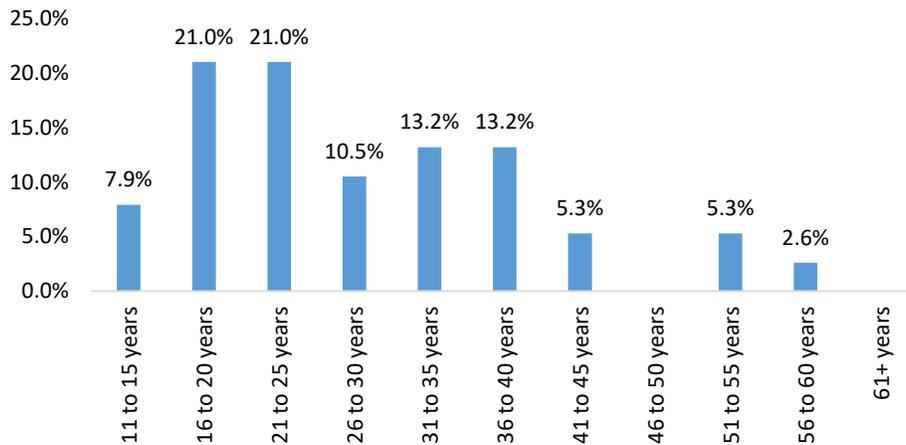
*Source: Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives*

Overall, the majority of persons seeking treatment at CASA during 2019 were single, had no dependents, lived in their family home and had attained either a primary or secondary level education (See Figures 58, 59, 60 and 61). With regards to employment status, most clients were either working or unemployed and looking for work (See Figure 62). Very few reported being a student (See Figure 62).

Figure 58: Relationship Status of Persons of Persons Seeking Treatment at CASA during 2019
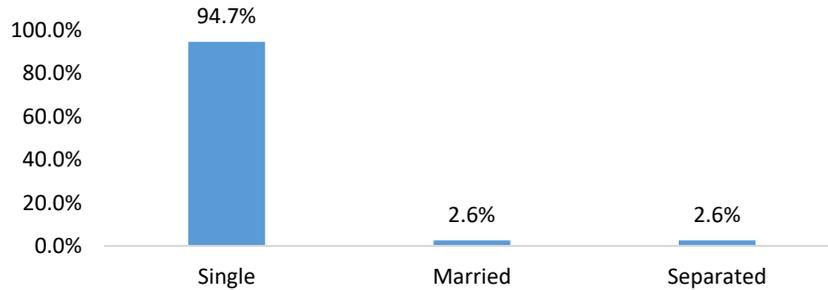
Source: Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives

Figure 59: Distribution of Persons With and Without Dependents Seeking Treatment at CASA during 2019
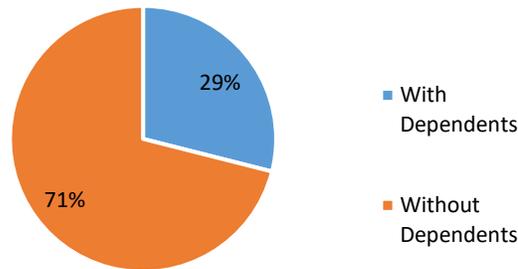

Source: Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives

Figure 60: Living Arrangements of Persons Seeking Treatment at CASA during 2019

Source: Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives

43
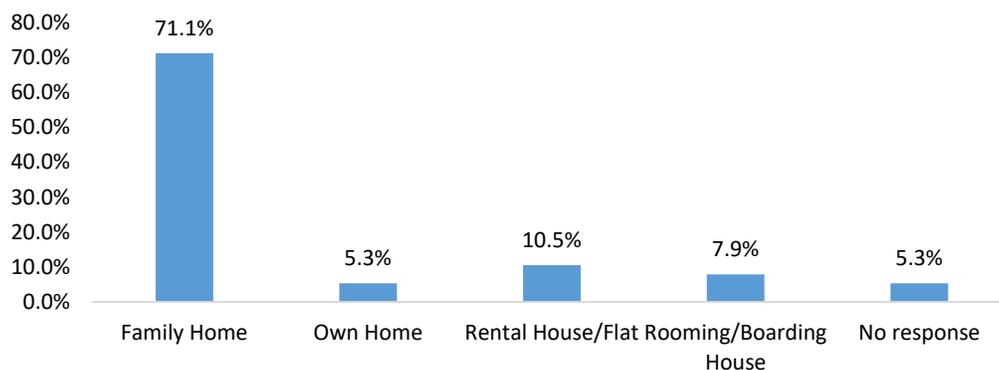
Figure 61: Highest Level of Education Completed by
Persons Seeking Treatment at CASA during 2019
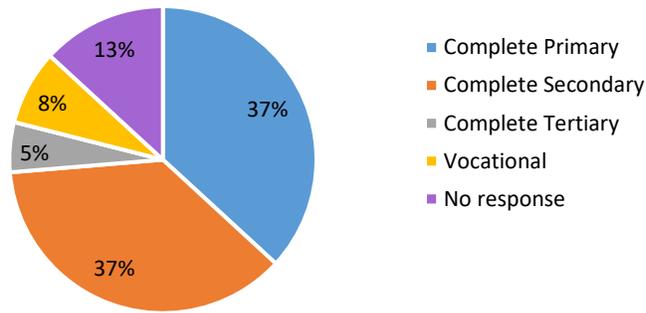
Figure 62: Employment Status of Persons Seeking
Treatment at CASA during 2019
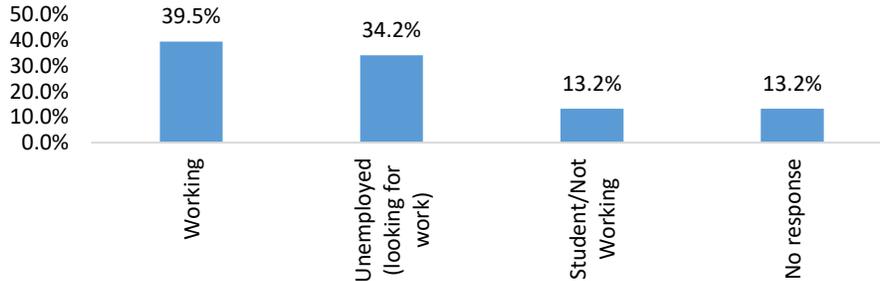
Family History of Drug Use

When asked about family history of drug use, clients reported that family members had used alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and crack cocaine (See Figure 63). Of these, marijuana was most common (See Figure 63). Additionally, persons were more likely to indicate previous drug use by parents and siblings than any other relation (See Figure 63).

Figure 63: Family History of Drug Use among
Persons Seeking Treatment at CASA during 2019
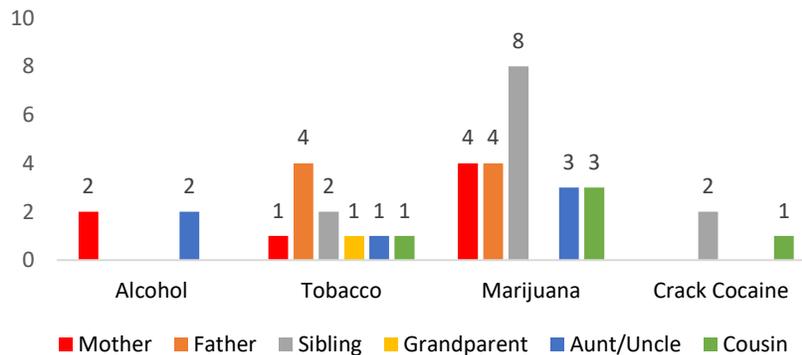
Clients' Drug Use History

Figure 64 shows that marijuana was the first drug ever used by the majority of persons seeking treatment at CASA during 2019. This was distantly followed by alcohol, crack cocaine, tobacco and cocaine powder (See Figure 64). When this data was analyzed in conjunction with age of first use, the results show that most persons, regardless of substance, initiated drug use by the age of 15 (See Figure 65). Cocaine powder was the only substance for which this did not hold true (See Figure 65).

Figure 64: First Drug Used by Persons Seeking Treatment at CASA during 2019
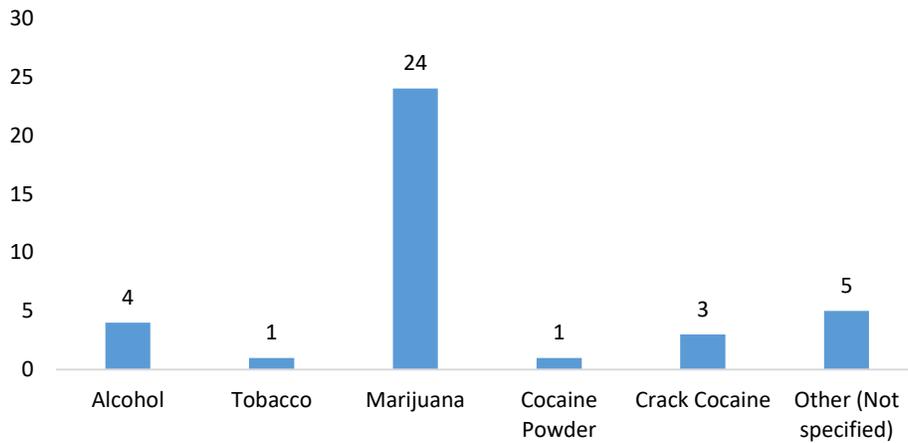
Source: Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives

Figure 65: Age of First Drug Use by Drug Type Among Persons Seeking Treatment at CASA during 2019
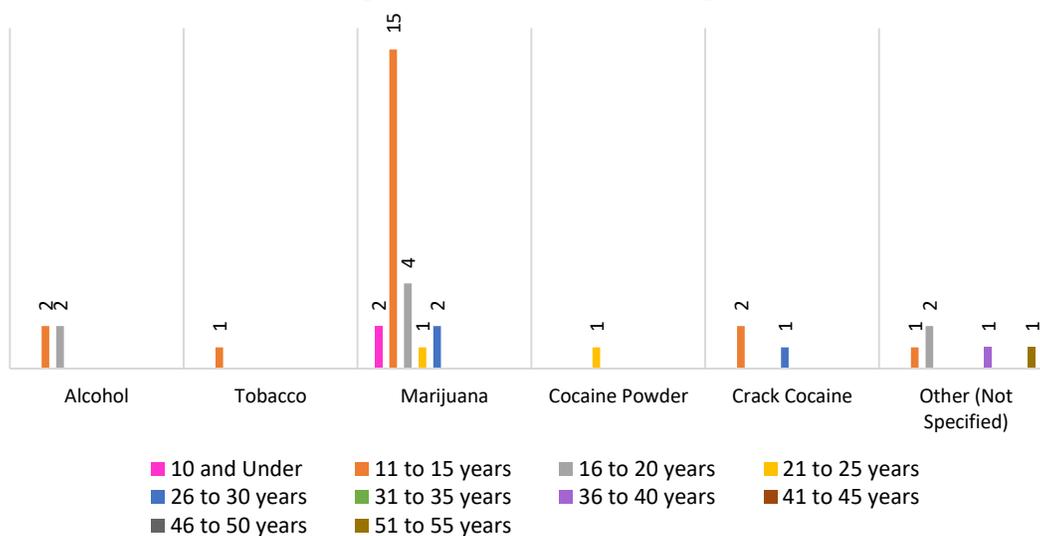
Source: Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives

Figures 66 and 67 present the sex and age distributions for lifetime drug use. Both Charts show that the 2019 CASA clients only reported using traditional substances during their lifetime. These include: alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, cocaine powder, crack cocaine and fanta[13]. With regards to sex, males were more likely to report the use of multiple drugs (See Figure 66). In contrast, the two female clients only reported use of their primary drug (marijuana) during their lifetime (See Figure 66). Figure 67 shows that persons 40 years of age and under were more likely to report using a wider variety of substances; however, this should be interpreted with caution as the majority of treatment seekers were age 40 or below.

Figure 66: Sex Distribution of Drugs Used in Lifetime by Persons Seeking Treatment at CASA during 2019
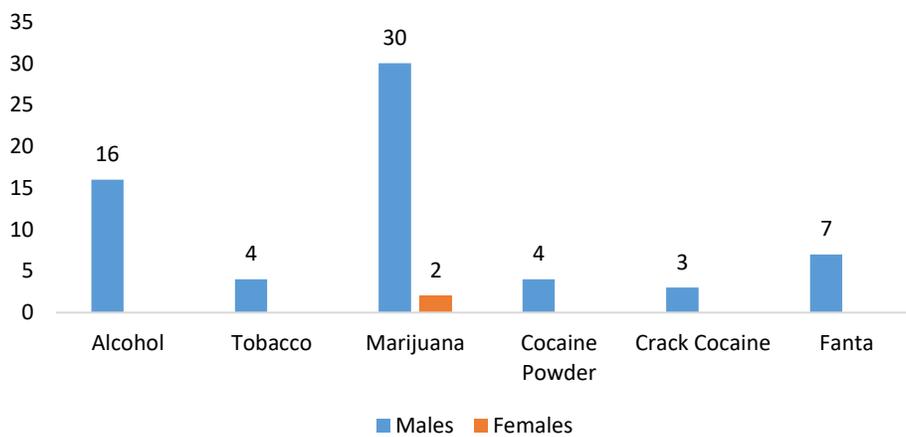
Source: Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives

Figrue 67: Age Distribution of Drugs Used in Lifetime by Persons Seeking Treatment at CASA during 2019
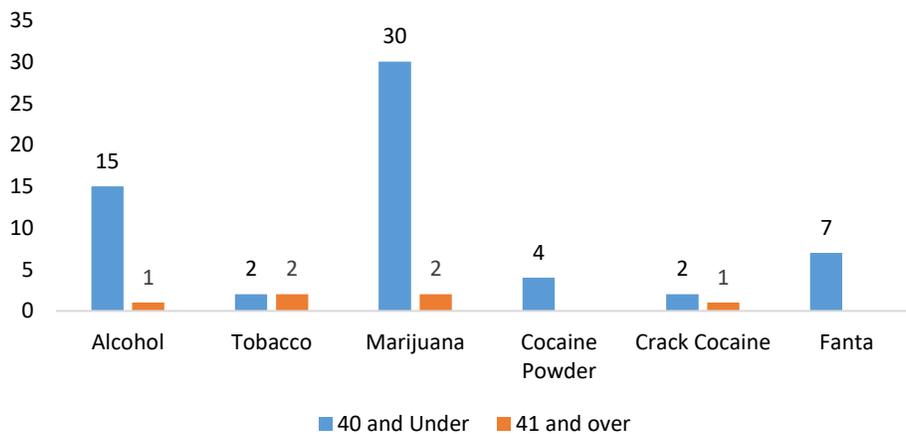
*Source: Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives*

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[13] Fanta is wild tobacco smoked in rolled cigarettes.

Treatment Referral

From Figure 68 it can be seen that the majority of persons seeking treatment at CASA during 2019 were referred from the Justice System/Police Department or the Drug Treatment Court.

Figure 68: Referral Sources for Persons Seeking Treatment
at CASA during 2019
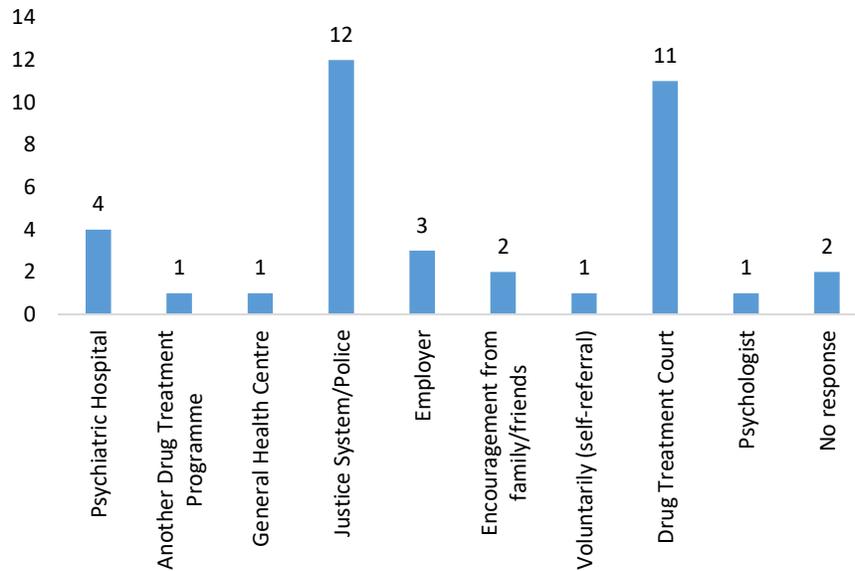
Drug Treatment Profile

Approximately 9 out of every 10 persons (89%) treated at CASA during 2019 sought treatment for single drug use (See Figure 69). The remaining 11% sought treatment for poly drug use (See Figure 69).

Figure 69: Distribution of Persons Seeking Treatment for
Single Drug vs Poly Drug Use at CASA during 2019
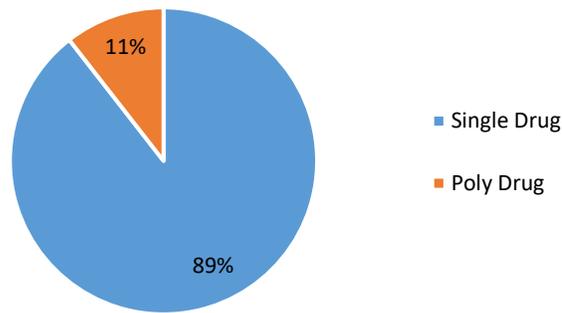
Marijuana was reported as the primary drug motivating the need for treatment by just under three-quarters (73.7%) of all clients; thus, making this the most common primary drug among CASA clients in 2019 (See Figure 70). This was distantly followed by alcohol, cocaine powder, crack cocaine and tobacco respectively (See Figure 70). When the data was analyzed by sex and age, marijuana remained the most common primary drug across all groups, with the exception of the 36 to 40 and 51 to 55 age categories (See Figures 71 and 72). For these persons, crack cocaine was the most common primary drug (See Figure 72).

Figure 70: Primary Drug for which Persons Sought Treatment at CASA during 2019
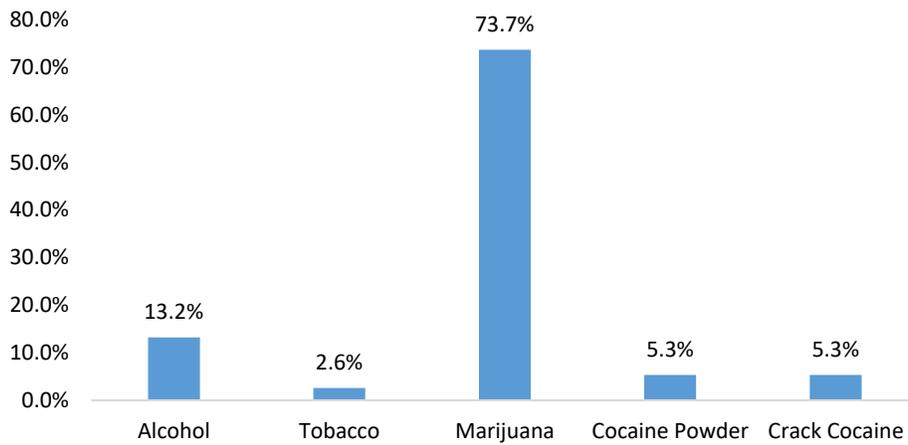
Source: Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives

Figure 71: Primary Drug for which Treatment was Sought at CASA during 2019 by Sex
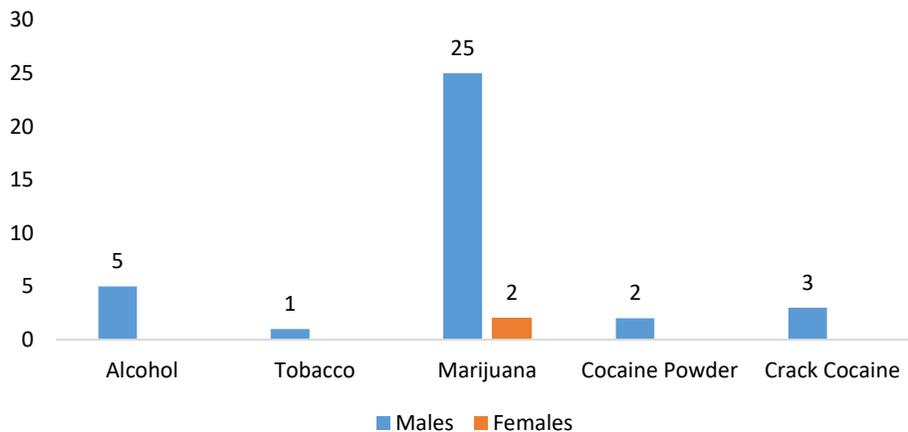
Source: Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives

Figure 72: Primary Drug for which Treatment was Sought at CASA
during 2019 by Age
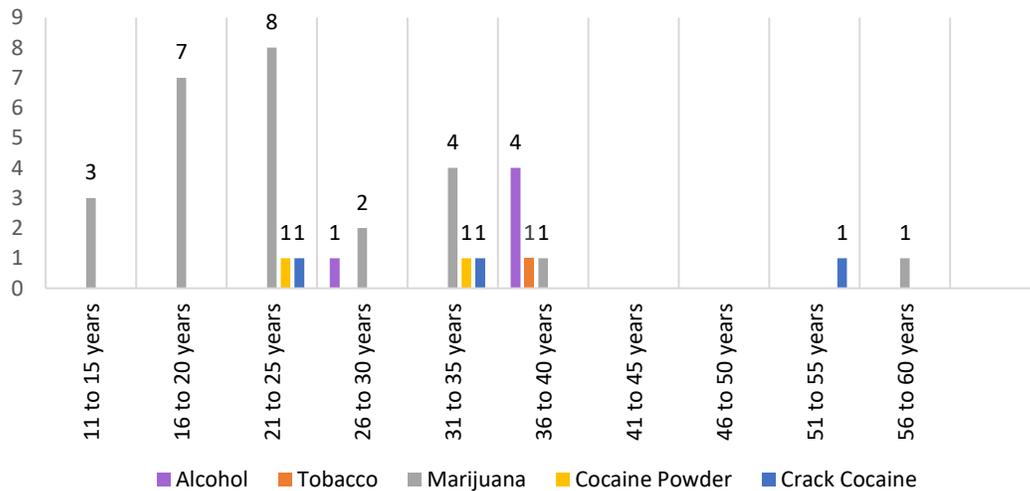
Source: Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives

When asked to indicate any drugs used in the 30 days leading up to treatment entry, most persons reported marijuana use. Other less commonly used drugs included: alcohol, tobacco, cocaine powder, crack cocaine, and fanta (See Figure 73). This data corresponds with the finding that marijuana was the most common primary drug for which treatment was sought at CASA during 2019.

Figure 73: Drugs Used in the Past 30 Days by Persons
Seeking Treatment at CASA during 2019
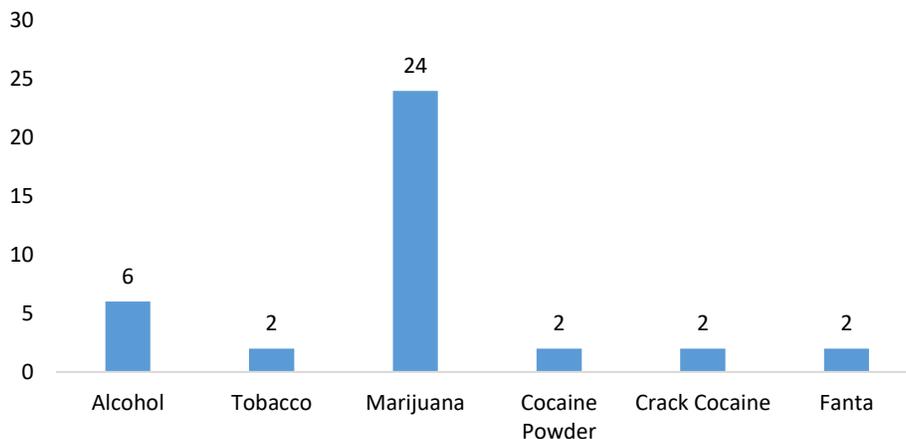
Source: Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives

Most Recent Treatment Prior to Admission

Limited data was available regarding the most recent type of treatment clients received prior to being admitted to CASA in 2019. In fact, this information was "missing" for most individuals. Figure 74 shows

that this data was only available for five clients and there was a near equal distribution of these persons across the "Detoxification", "Psychiatric Counselling" and "Residential" categories.

Figure 74: Most Recent Type of Drug Treatment Priod to Admission among Persons Seeking Treatment at CASA during 2019
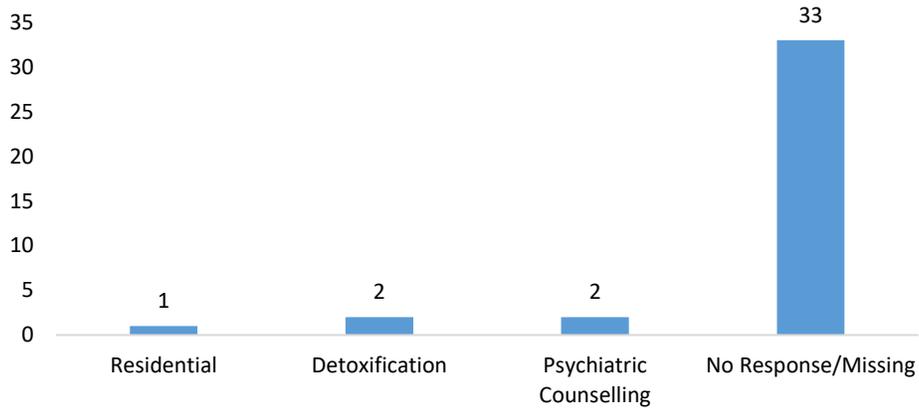
Source: Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives

4.4 National Council on Substance Abuse

Forty-seven persons received counselling at the NCSA in 2019, 81% of whom sought treatment for substance abuse (See Figure 75). Figures 76 and 77 shows that males, 20 years of age and younger accounted for the majority of persons accessing the counselling services at the Council during the target period.

Figure 75: Distribution of NCSA Counselling Clients in 2019 by Nature of Presenting Issue

■ Drug-related clients   ■ Non-drug related clients
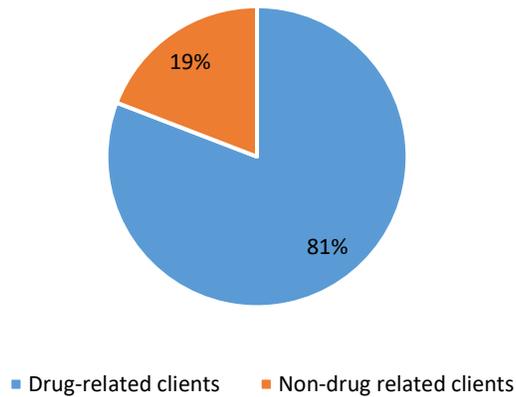
Source: National Council on Substance Abuse

Figure 76: Sex Distribution of All Clients Accessing Counselling Services at the NCSA during 2019

■ Males   ■ Females
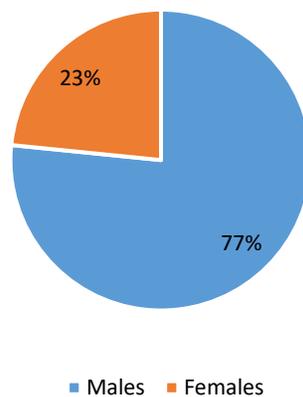
Source: National Council on Substance Abuse

Figure 77: Age Distribution of All Clients Accessing
Counselling Services at NCSA during 2019
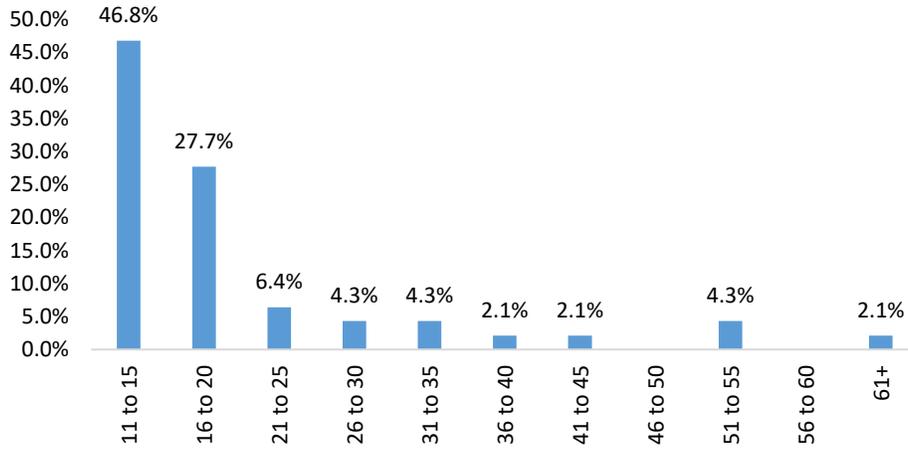
Demographic Profile of Drug Treatment Clients

Like the wider client population, males (89%) and persons 20 years of age and younger (73.7%) accounted for the majority of persons seeking substance abuse treatment at the NCSA in 2019 (See Figures 78 and 79). It should also be noted that just under half (47.4%) of these clients were between the ages of 11 and 15 years (See Figure 79).

In addition, most persons were single, had no dependents and lived in their family home (See Figures 80, 81 and 82). With regards to education and employment status, Figures 83 and 84 show that just under two-thirds had attained a primary level education (63.2%) and were students (65.8%) at the time of intake. These statistics align with the overall young age of the clients, most of whom were still enrolled in secondary school.

Figure 78: Distribution of NCSA Clients Seeking
Substance Abuse Treatment in 2019 by Sex
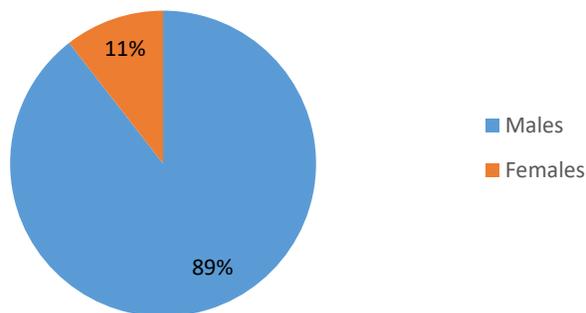
Figure 79: Age Distribution of Clients Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at the NCSA in 2019
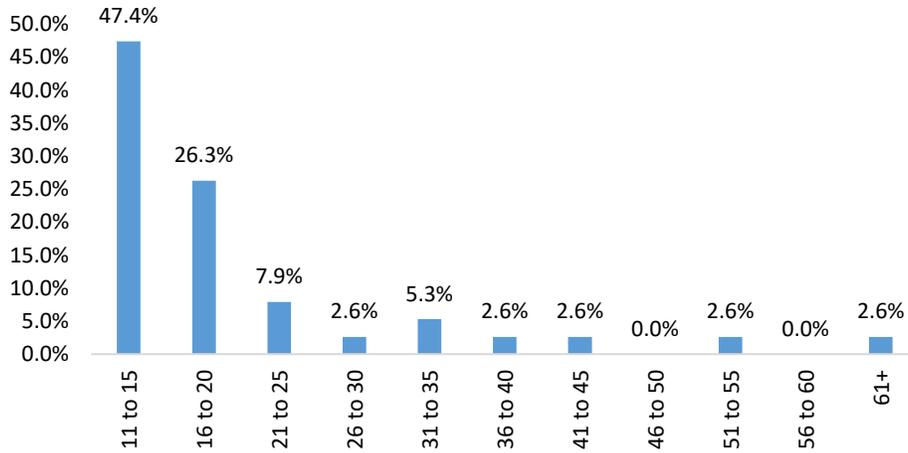
Figure 80: Relationship Status of Persons Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at the NCSA in 2019

- Single
- Married
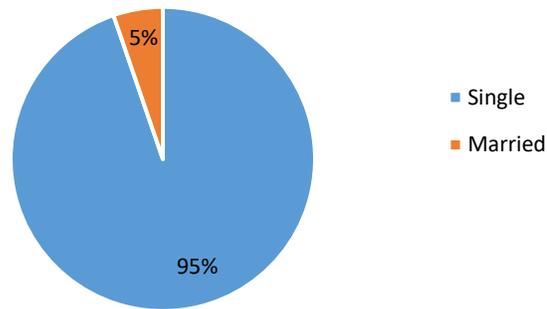
Figure 81: Distribution of Persons With and Without Dependents Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at the NCSA in 2019
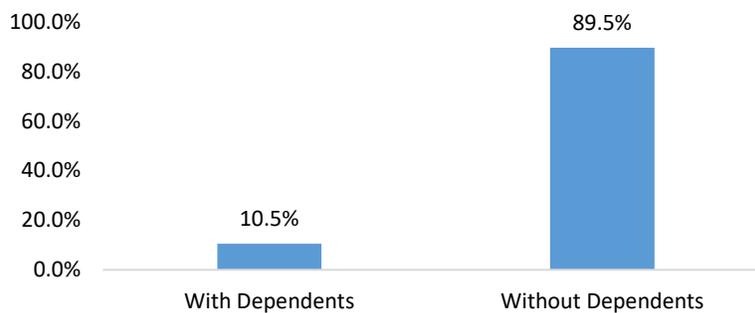
Figure 82: Living Arrangements for Persons Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at the NCSA in 2019
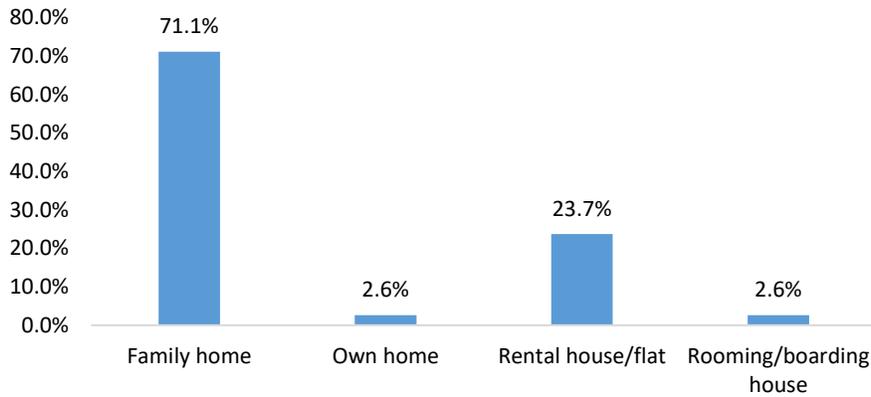
Figure 83: Highest Level of Education Attained by Persons Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at the NCSA in 2019
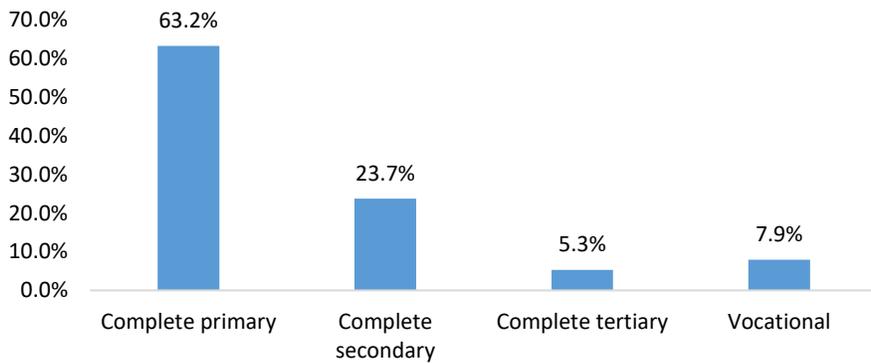
Figure 84: Employment Status of Persons Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at the NCSA in 2019
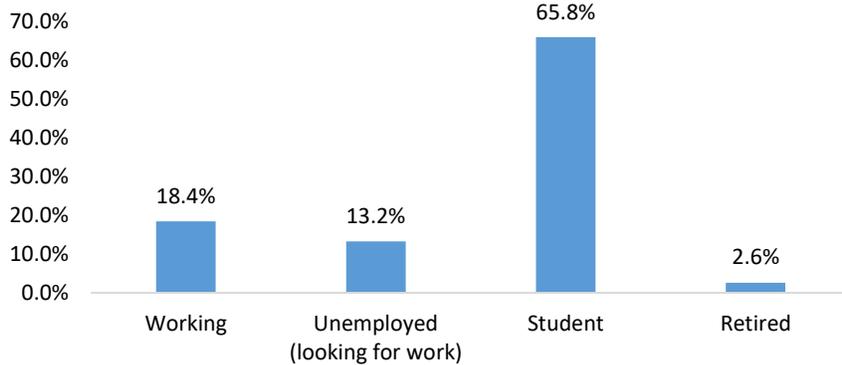
Family History of Drug Use

Figure 85 presents data regarding family history of drug use for those seeking substance abuse treatment at the Council in 2019. From the Chart, it can be seen that alcohol and marijuana were the substances most commonly used by family members. Reports of alcohol use were greater among parents and siblings. For marijuana, the combined totals for parents and siblings (22) equaled the combined totals for aunt/uncle and cousin (22) (See Figure 85). There were also reports of drug use by other relatives such as grandparents and sons (See Figure 85).

Figure 85: Family History of Drug Use by Drug Type among Persons Seeking Substance Abuse Treatmetn at NCSA in 2019
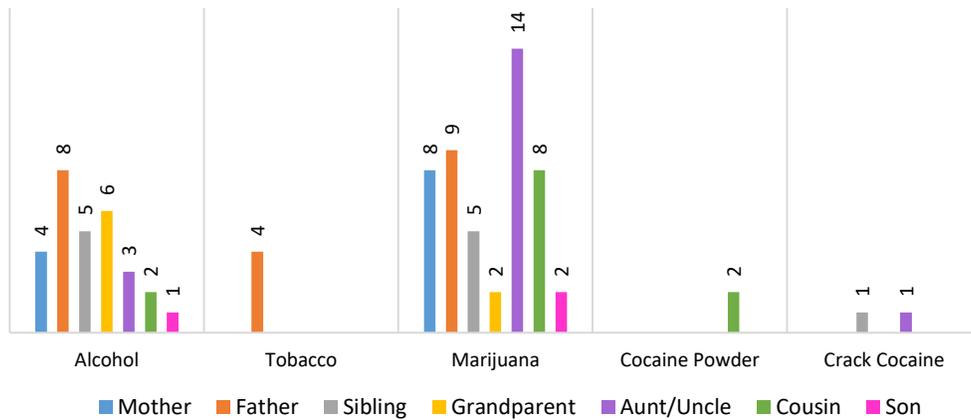
Source: National Council on Substance Abuse

Clients' Drug Use History

Marijuana, fanta and alcohol were the top three drugs used by clients during their lifetime (See Figure 86). Other less commonly used drugs included tobacco, lean[14], prescription medication, ecstasy and crack cocaine (See Figure 86). When the data was analyzed by sex and age, marijuana, alcohol and fanta remained the three most commonly used drugs across the lifetime for males and females as well as those in the 20 and under and 21 to 40 age categories (See Figures 87 and 88). The Chart also shows that persons age 40 and under were more likely to report using a wider variety of drugs (See Figure 88). In contrast, those in the 41 and over age category only reported the use of alcohol, tobacco and marijuana (See Figure 88).

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[14] Lean also known as "Purple Drank" or "Sizzurp" is a mixture of codeine cough syrup, soda and hard candy – typically sprite and Jolly Rancher.

Figure 86: Drugs Used in Lifetime by Persons Seeking
Aubstance Abuse Treatment at the NCSA in 2019
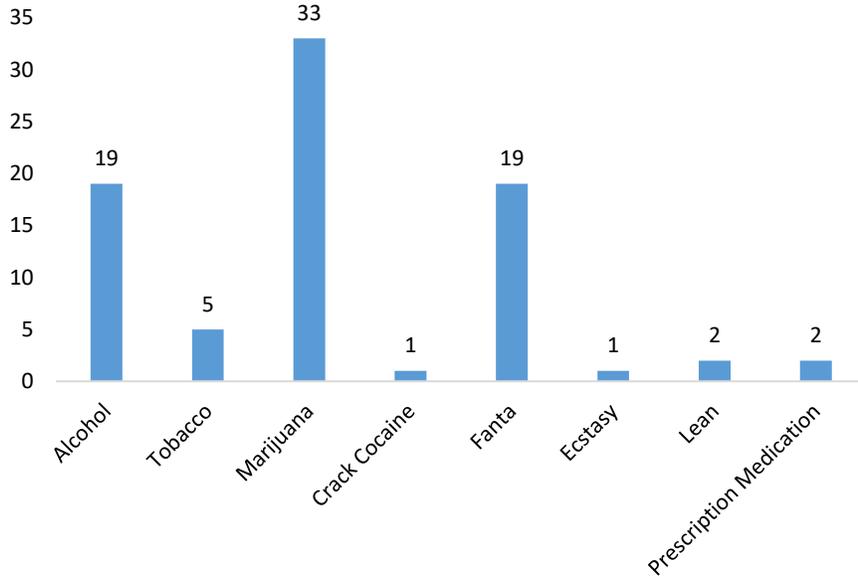
Source: National Council on Substance Abuse

Figure 87: Sex Distribution of Drugs Used in Lifetime by
Persons Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at the NCSA in
2019
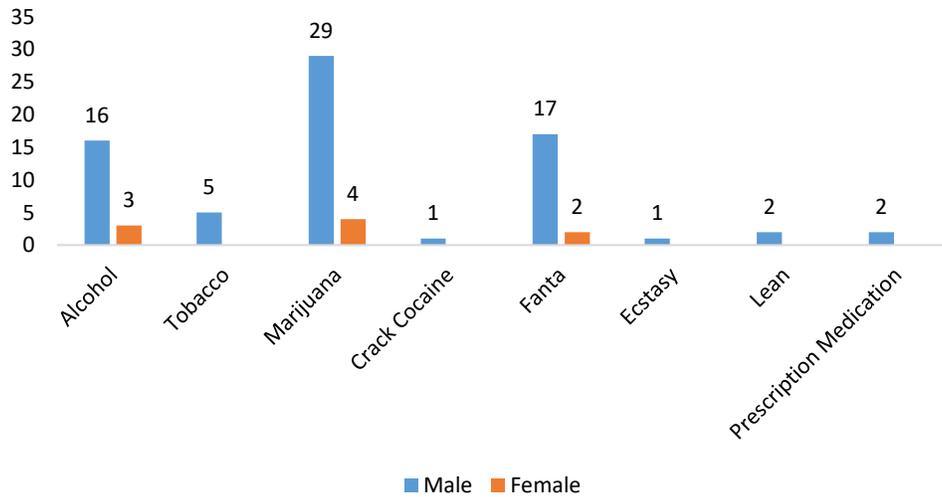
Source: National Council on Substance Abuse

Figure 88: Age Distribution of Drugs Used in Lifetime by
Persons Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at the NCSA in
2019
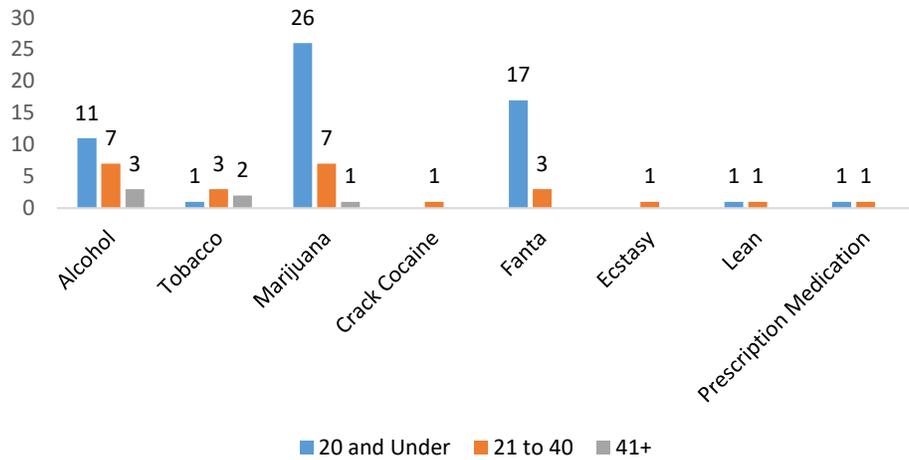
Treatment Referral

Figure 89 shows that the Edna Nicholls Centre was the single largest referral source for clients receiving substance abuse treatment at the NCSA during 2019. Other less common sources included the justice system/police department, encouragement from family and friends, the school system, self-referral, general health centres, employers and the Drug Treatment Court (See Figure 89).

Figure 89: Sources of Referral for Persons Seeking Substance Abuse
Treatment at NCSA during 2029
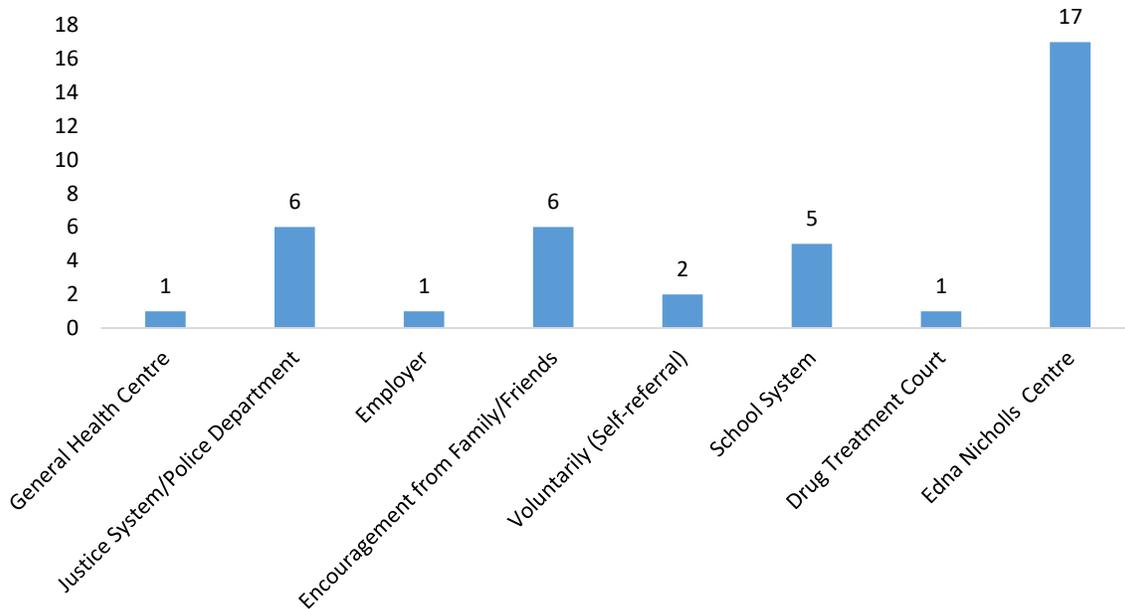
Drug Treatment Profile

All clients seeking substance abuse treatment at the NCSA in 2019 were treated for single drug use, with marijuana being the most common drug for which treatment was sought (See Figure 90). Alcohol was the only other substance for which treatment was sought, accounting for just under one-fifth (18.4%) of clients (See Figure 90).

Figure 90: Primary Drug for which Substance Abuse Treatment was Sought at the NCSA in 2019
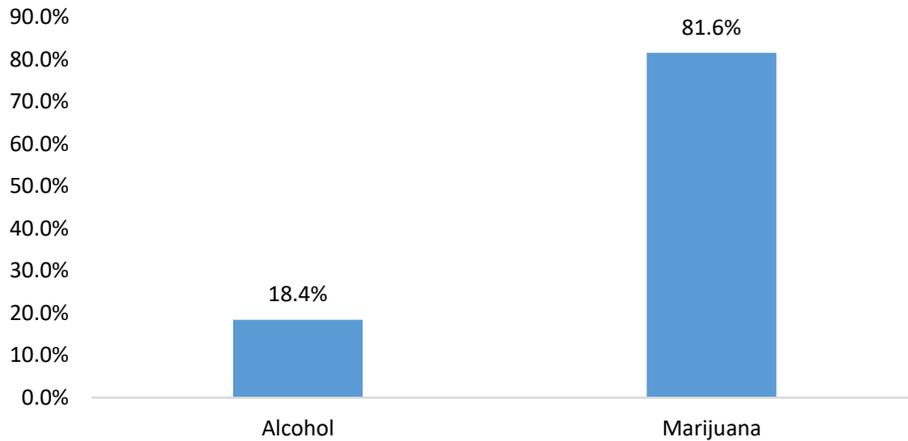
Source: National Council on Substance Abuse

When the data was analyzed by sex, marijuana remained the main drug motivating the need for treatment among both males and females (See Figure 91).

Figure 91: Primary Drug for which Treatment was Sought at the NCSA in 2019 by Sex
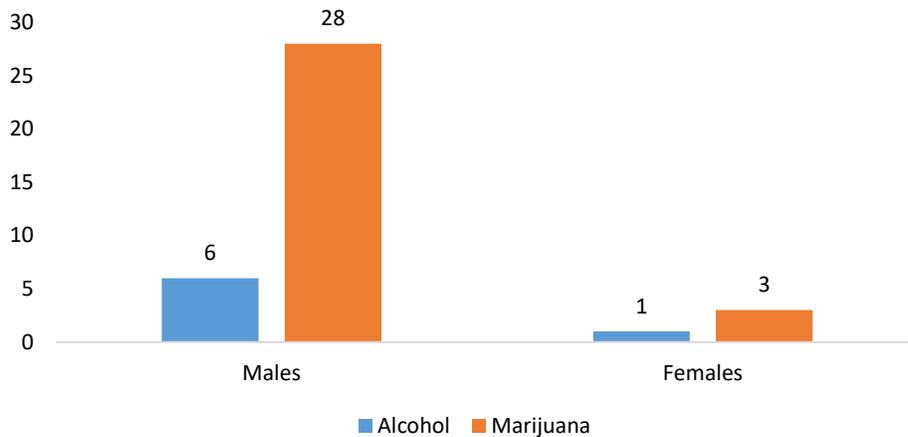
Source: National Council on Substance Abuse

With regards to age, Figure 92 shows that marijuana was the only primary drug for persons 20 and under; while alcohol and marijuana were both reported as primary drugs among those in the 21 to 40 age category. Persons 41 years of age and over only sought treatment for alcohol use (See Figure 92).

Figure 92: Primary Drug for which Treatment was Sought at the NCSA during 2019 by Age

Legend: ■ 20 and under ■ 21 to 40 ■ 41+
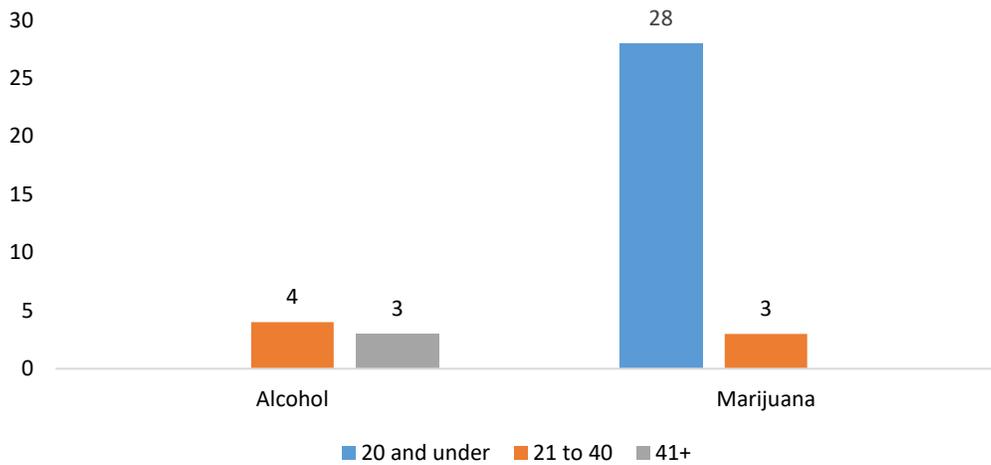
Source: National Council on Substance Abuse

Figure 93 presents the drugs used by clients in the thirty days preceding treatment entry. From the Chart, it can be seen that marijuana and alcohol were the two most commonly used substances during this period (See Figure 93). A small number of persons also reported the use of fanta and tobacco while others reported no drug use during the 30 day lead up (See Figure 93).

Figure 93: Drugs Used in Past 30 Days by Persons Seeking Treatment at the NCSA in 2019
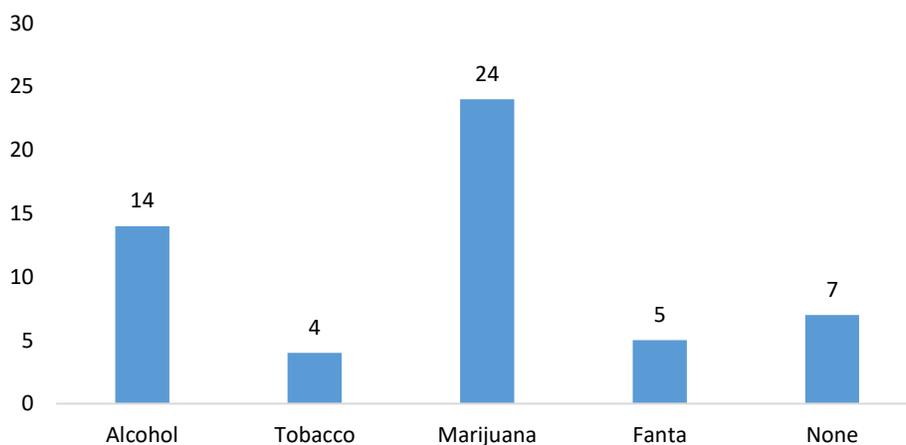
Source: National Council on Substance Abuse

When the data was analyzed by sex, marijuana and alcohol remained the substances most commonly used by both males and females. In addition to these two substances, males also reported the use of fanta and tobacco (See Figure 94).

Figure 94: Sex Distribution of Drugs Used in the Past 30 days by Persons Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at the NCSA in 2019
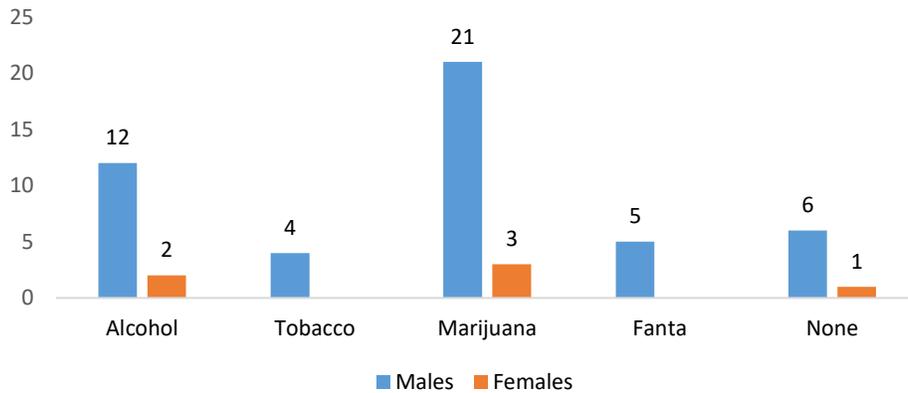
Age-related analysis revealed that persons in the 20 and under age category used marijuana, alcohol, fanta and tobacco in the 30 days prior to treatment entry (See Figure 95). In contrast, older persons reported the use of fewer drugs. More specifically, those in the 21 to 40 age group only reported the use of marijuana, alcohol and tobacco while those 41 years of age and over admitted to using alcohol and tobacco (See Figure 95).

Figure 95: Age Distribution of Drugs Used in Past 30 Days by Persons Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at NCSA in 2019
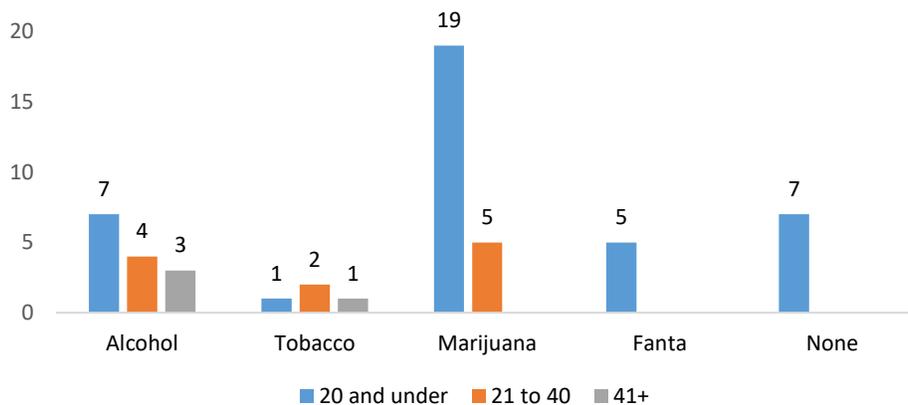
Most Recent Treatment Prior to Admission

Only 4 clients reported previous substance abuse treatment. Of the four, three indicated that they had most recently received outpatient treatment while the remaining individual had undergone detoxification (See Figure 96).

Figure 96: Most Recent Type of Drug Treatment Prior to
Enrollment Among Persons Seeking Substance Abuse
Treatment at NCSA during 2019
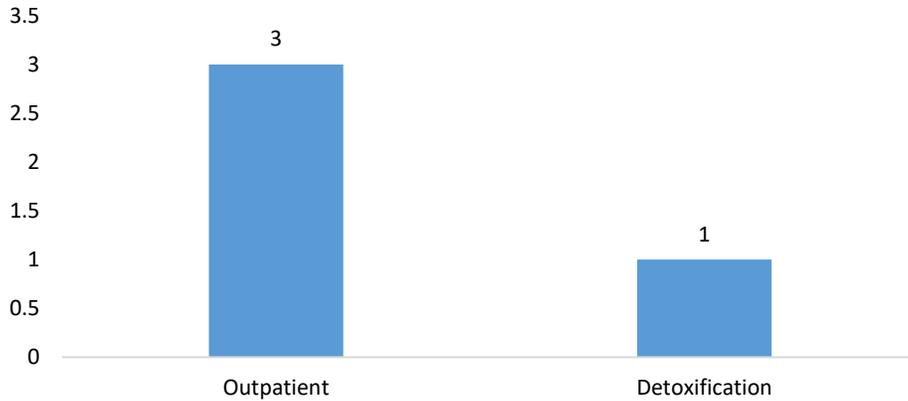
Source: National Council on Substance Abuse

4.5 Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling Programme

Demographic Profile of Clients

One hundred and eleven persons sought substance abuse treatment from the Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling (IDRC) Programme at HMP Dodds in 2019. Males seeking treatment far outnumbered their female counterparts (See Figure 97). With regards to age, Figure 98 shows that just over half (54%) of the inmates receiving treatment were 35 and under.

Figure 97: Sex Distribution of Persons Admitted to the Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling Programme in 2019

■ Males ■ Females
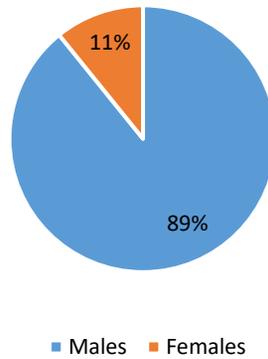
Source: Barbados Prison Service

Figure 98: Age Distribution of Persons Admitted to the Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling Programme during 2019
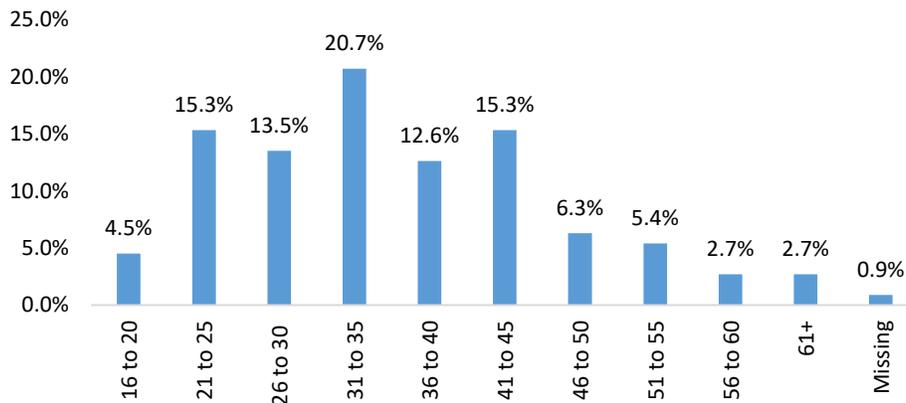
Source: Barbados Prison Service

Treatment Referral

Figure 99 presents the sources of referral for inmates admitted to the IDRC programme in 2019. From the Chart, it can be seen that approximately half of the clients (49.5%) were referred for treatment by the Prison. The remaining individuals were either referred by the justice system/police department or sought treatment voluntarily (self-referral) (See Figure 99).

Figure 99: Sources of Referral for Inmates Admitted to the IDRC Progamme in 2019
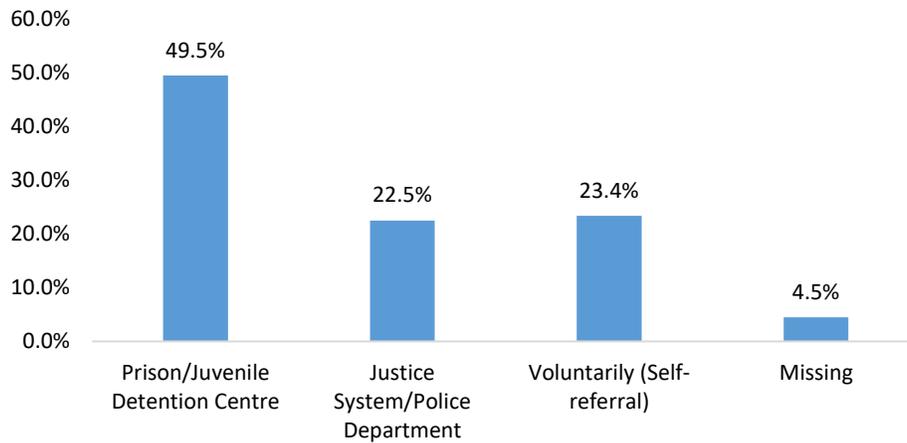
Source: Barbados Prison Service

Drug Treatment Profile

Figure 100 shows that the majority of inmates admitted to the IDRC during 2019 were treated for poly drug use.

Figure 100: Persons Seeking Treatment for Poly Drug and Single Drug Use from the Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling Programme in 2019
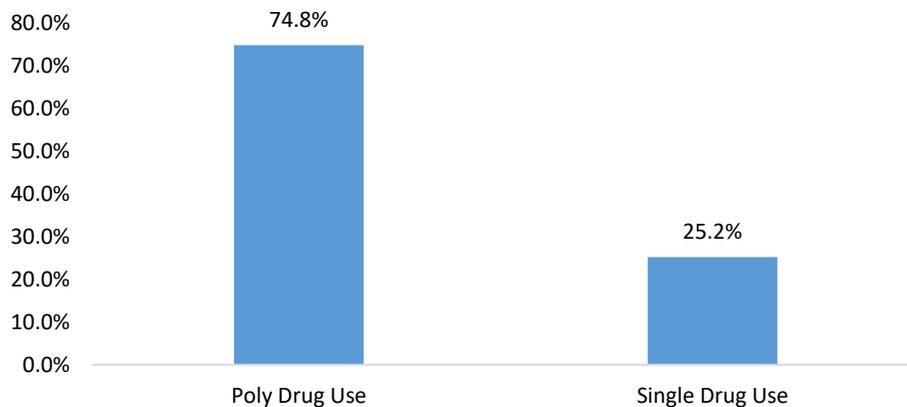
Source: Barbados Prison Service

Marijuana was the most common primary drug for which treatment was sought, accounting for just over half (53.2%) of the inmates admitted to the programme (See Figure 101). This was distantly followed by crack cocaine, alcohol, cocaine powder, blackies and tobacco (See Figure 101).

Figure 101: Primary Drugs for Which Treatment was Sought in the IDRC Programme during 2019
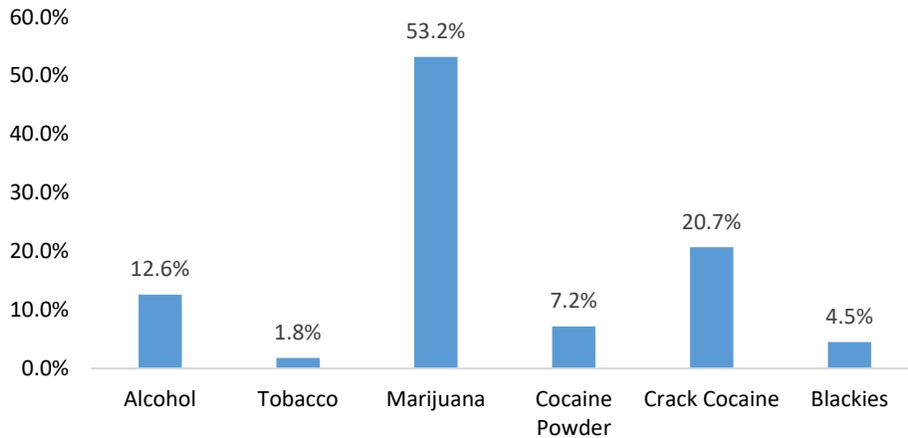
When the data was analyzed by sex, marijuana, crack cocaine and alcohol remained the top three primary drugs for which males sought treatment (See Figure 102). Alcohol was found to be the most common primary drug for females, followed by marijuana, tobacco and blackies (See Figure 102). Of note is the fact that no females reported seeking treatment due to cocaine (crack or powdered) use (See Figure 102). However, this should be interpreted with caution due to the small number of female clients.

Figure 102: Primary Drugs for which Treatment was Sought in the IDRC Programme in 2019 by Sex
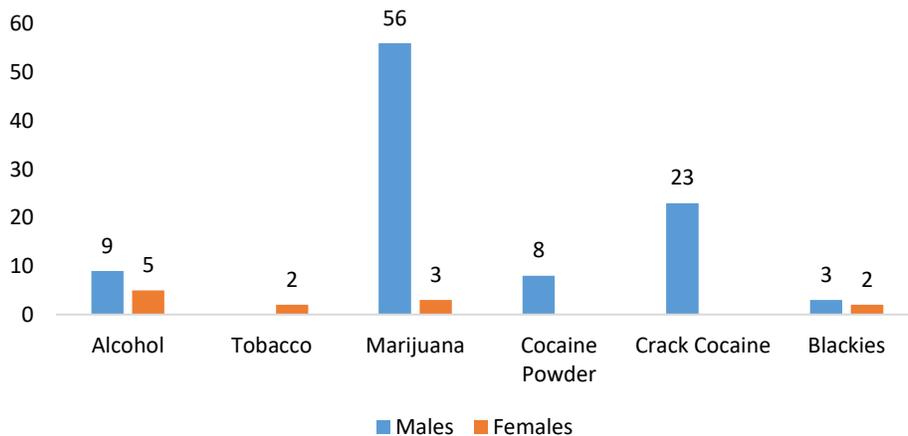
When age was considered, marijuana was found to be the most common primary drug for those 40 and under, outranking all other primary drugs reported for this age category (See Figure 103). For those 41 and over, crack cocaine was the main drug motivating the need for treatment, closely followed by marijuana and alcohol (See Figure 103). In contrast to these three main substances, very few persons in the 41 and over age category sought treatment for the use of cocaine powder and blackies (See Figure 103).

Figure 103: Primary Drug for which Treatment was Sought in the IDRC Programme in 2019 by Age
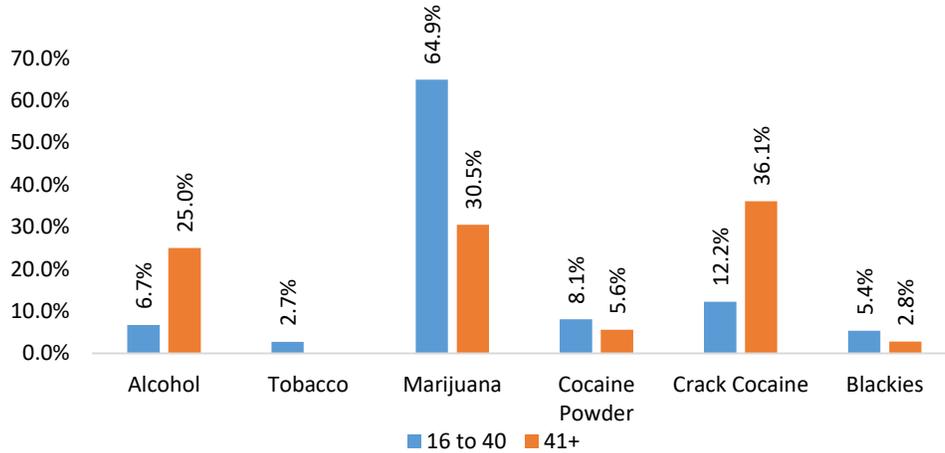
Figure 104 presents the most frequent method of administration for the inmates' primary drugs. From the Chart, it can be seen that "smoked" was the only reported method of administration for tobacco, marijuana, crack cocaine and blackies while "oral" was the only method for alcohol (See Figure 104). With regards to cocaine powder, three quarters of the inmates seeking treatment for this substance indicated that they typically "inhaled" the drug while one quarter reportedly "smoked" it (See Figure 104).

Figure 104: Most Frequent Method of Drug Administration for Primary Drug Among Inmates Admitted to the IDRC Programme in 2019
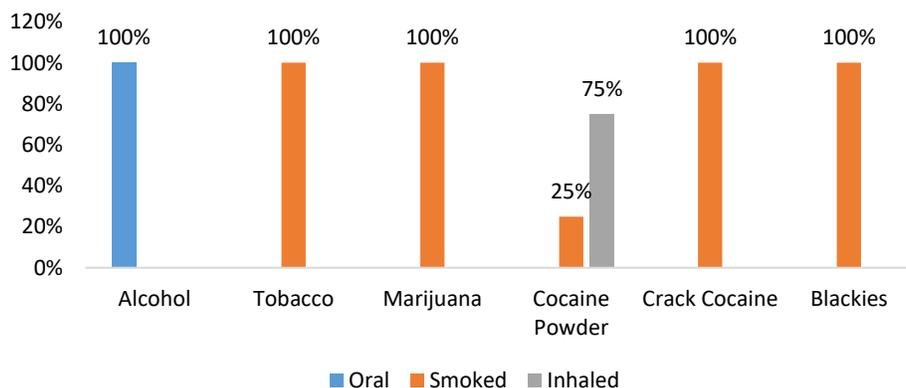
Only four of the 111 inmates treated within the IDRC programme in 2019 reported drug use in the 30 days preceding treatment entry. Of these four individuals, two stated that they had used marijuana, one had used alcohol and one had used crack cocaine (See Figure 105).

Figures 106 and 107 show that only males and persons in the 41 to 45 and 56 to 60 age groups reported drug use in the preceding 30 day period. Alcohol, marijuana and crack cocaine use were reported by inmates in the 56 to 60 age group while the lone individual in the 41 to 45 age group reported marijuana use (See Figure 107).

Figure 105: Drugs Used in Past 30 Days by Persons Admitted to the IDRC in 2019

■ Alcohol ■ Marijuana ■ Crack Cocaine
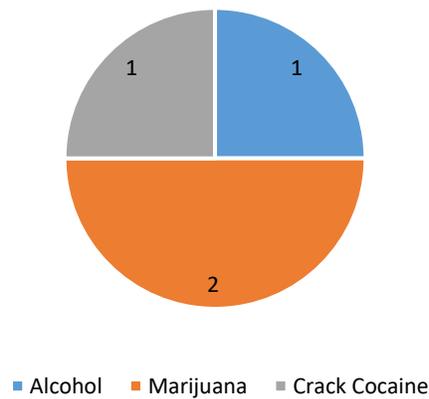
Source: Barbados Prison Service

Figure 106: Sex Distribution of Drugs Used in Past 30 Days by Persons Admitted to the IDRC Programme in 2019

■ Males ■ Females
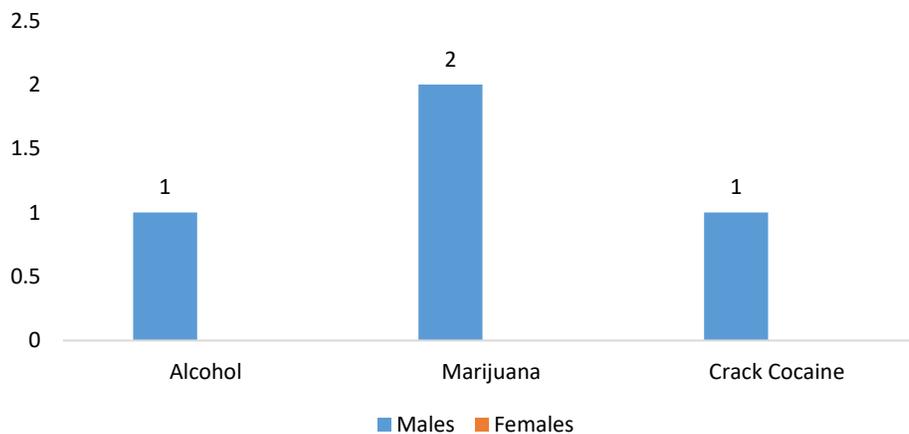
Source: Barbados Prison Service

Figure 107: Age Distribution of Drugs Used in Past 30 Days by Inmates Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment from the IDRC Programme in 2019
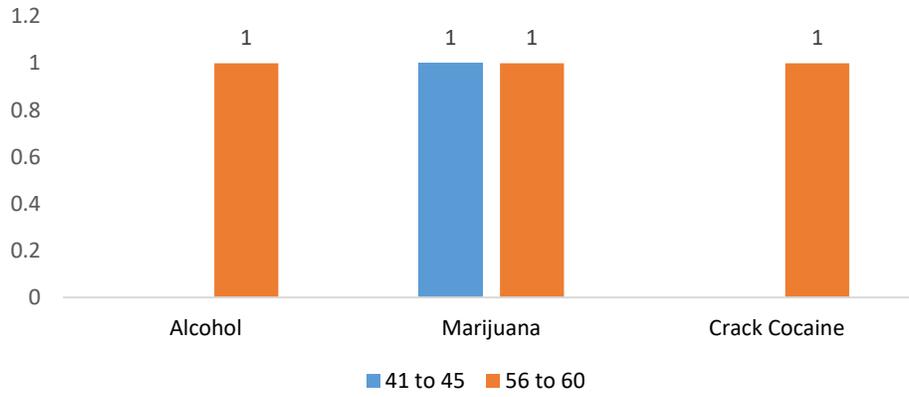
Source: Barbados Prison Service

5. Supply Control

5.1 Royal Barbados Police Force

The Royal Barbados Police Force (RBPF) recorded 7660 criminal offences during the period January 1 to December 31, 2019. Of these, 1525 (20%) were drug-related offences (See Figure 108).

Figure 108: Drug Offences vs Other Offences Recorded during the period January 1 to December 31, 2019
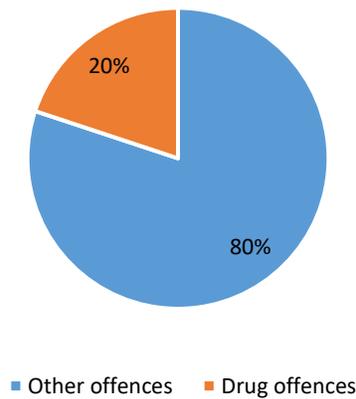
Source: Royal Barbados Police Force

Demographic Profile of Persons Charged with Drug Offences

Males accounted for approximately 9 out of every 10 persons (91%) charged with drug offences during the target period (See Figure 109). With respect to age, Figure 110 shows that the single largest group of drug offenders included persons between the ages of 20 and 29. The age distribution chart also shows that from age 30 onwards, the percentage of drug offenders steadily declined (See Figure 110). Overall, it should be noted that persons between 20 and 39 years accounted for approximately two-thirds (65.7%) of the drug offenders during 2019 (See Figure 110).

Figure 109: Sex Distribution of Persons Charged with Drug Offences during 2019
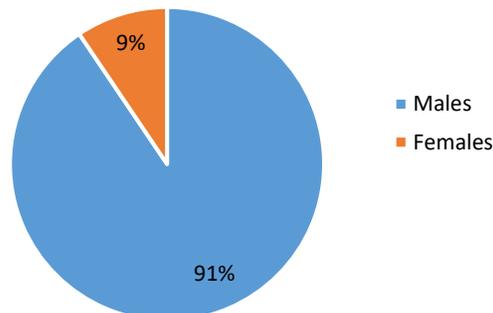
Source: Royal Barbados Police Force

Figure 110: Age Distribution of Persons Charged with Drug Offences during 2019

Age Group	Percentage
10-19 years	6.2%
20-29 years	35.9%
30-39 years	29.8%
40-49 years	18.4%
50-59 years	8.6%
60+ years	1.0%
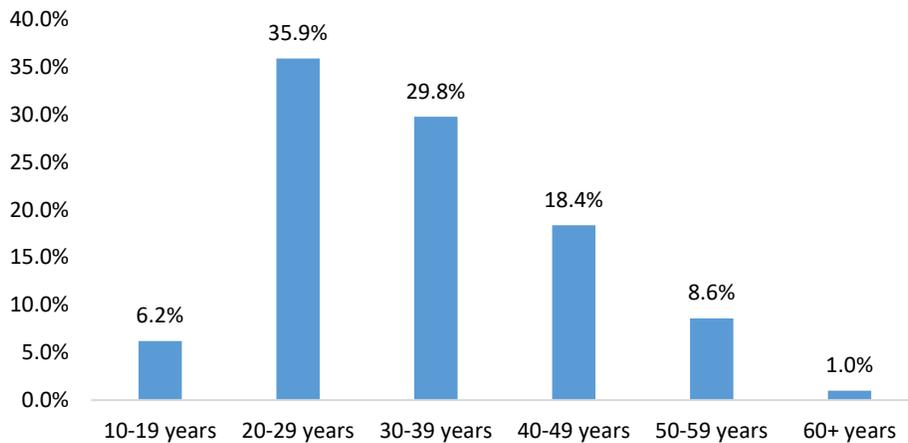
Source: Royal Barbados Police Force

Persons from various regional and international countries were charged with drug offences during 2019 (See Figure 111). However, the majority (87.7%) of persons charged with such offences were Barbadian (See Figure 111).

Figure 111: Distribution of 2019 Drug Offenders by Nationality

Nationality	Percentage
Barbadian	87.7%
American	1.0%
Canadian	1.8%
Congolese	0.3%
English	0.3%
Guyanese	1.7%
Haitian	0.2%
Jamaican	3.5%
Moldovan	0.2%
St. Lucian	0.7%
Surinamese	0.8%
Trinidadian	0.5%
Vincentian	1.2%
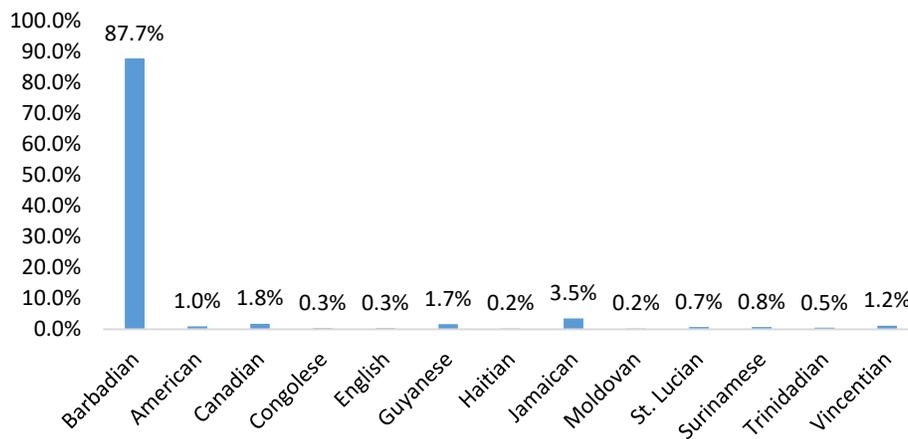
Source: Royal Barbados Police Force

Distribution of Drug Offences by Drug Type

Marijuana offences were the most common drug-related offences recorded by the RBPF during 2019 (See Figure 112). These were distantly followed by cocaine-related offences, ecstasy/methamphetamine-related offences and alprazolam-related offences (See Figure 112).

Figure 112: Distribution of Drug Offences by Drug Type for the period January 1 to December 31, 2019
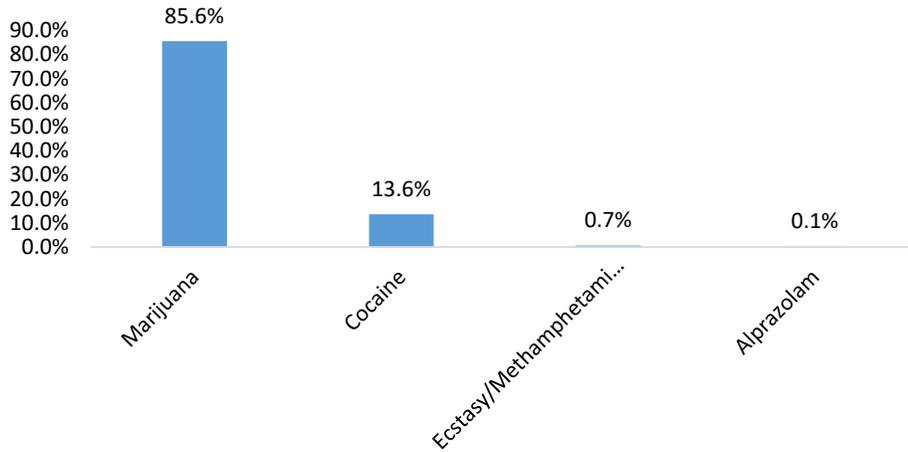
Cannabis Offences

During 2019, "Possession of Cannabis" was the most common cannabis-related offence, accounting for just under half (44.1%) of all such offences (See Figure 113). This was followed by "Trafficking" (21.1%) and "Offering to Supply" (20.6%), each of which accounted for approximately one-fifth of cannabis offences during the period (See Figure 113). Other less common offences included "Cultivation", "Importing", "Possession of Apparatus", "Acts Preparatory to Trafficking", "Permit Premises to be Used", "Conspiracy to Traffic" and "Handling Cannabis" (See Figure 113).

Figure 113: Distribution of Cannabis Offences Recorded by The RBPF during 2019
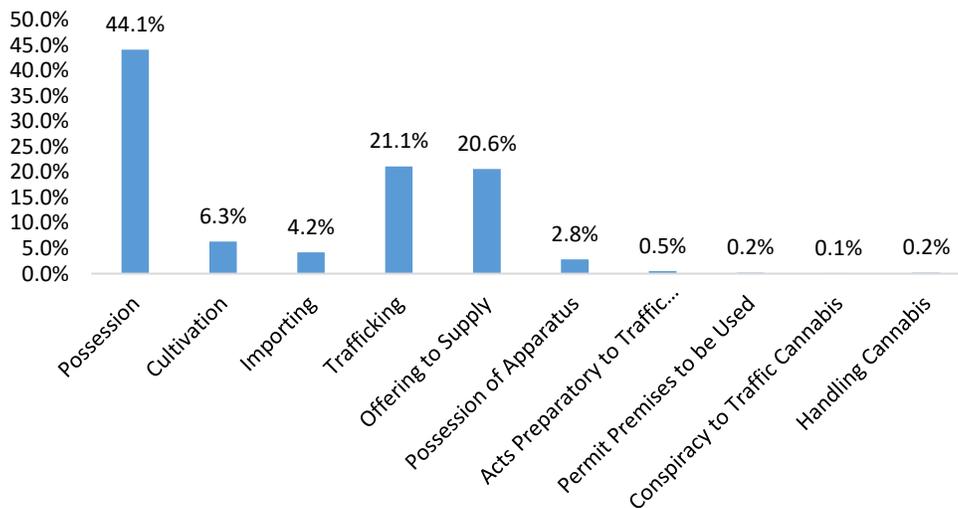
Cocaine Offences

The most common cocaine-related offences were "Possession", "Trafficking", "Offering to Supply" and "Possession of Apparatus" (See Figure 114). These were distantly followed by "Importing" and "Handling" (See Figure 114).

Figure 114: Distribution of Cocaine Offences Recorded by the RBPF During 2019
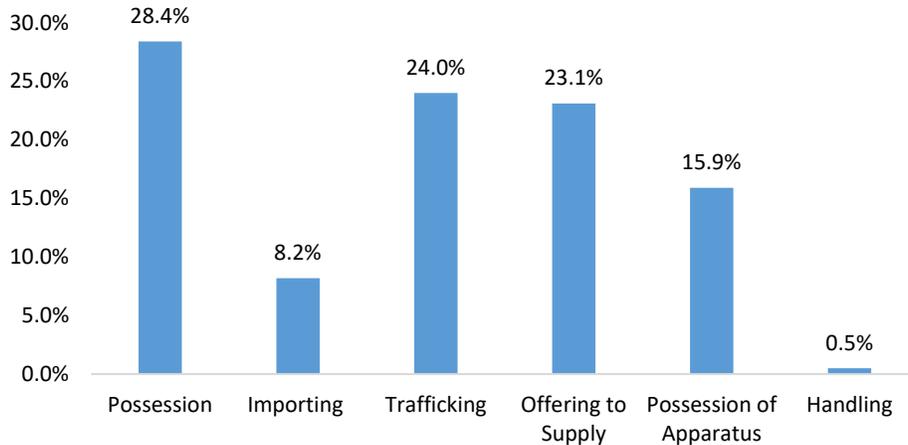
Other Drug Offences

From Figure 115 it can be seen that all of the ecstasy/methamphetamine and Alprazolam offences on record for 2019 were "Possession"-related.

Figure 115: Distribution of Other Drug Offences Recorded by the RBPF During 2019
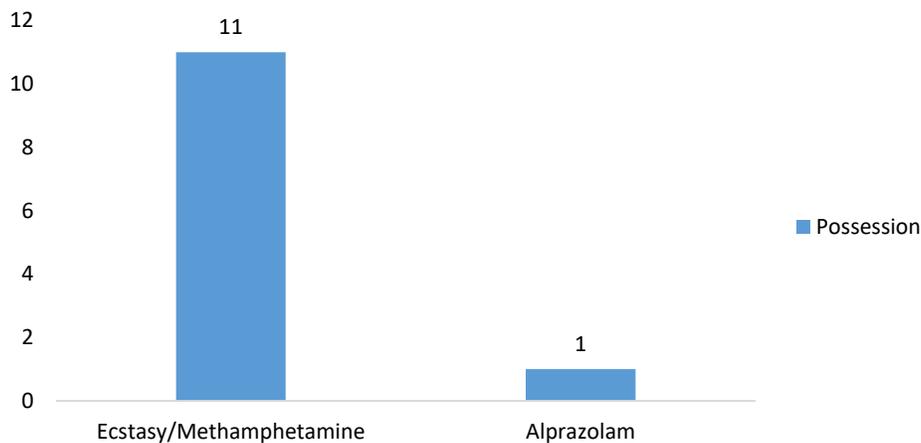
Drug Seizures

Cannabis (compressed, plant and loose) was the primary drug seized during 2019 (See Figure 116). There were also seizures of cocaine, ecstasy and methamphetamine, but these were far less numerous (See Figure 116). The seizures of ecstasy and methamphetamine are noteworthy as this can now be officially classified as an emerging trend given similar seizures in 2017 and 2018 (National Council on Substance Abuse [NCSA], 2020a; NCSA, 2020b).

Figure 116: Distribution of Drug Seizures during 2019 by Drug Type
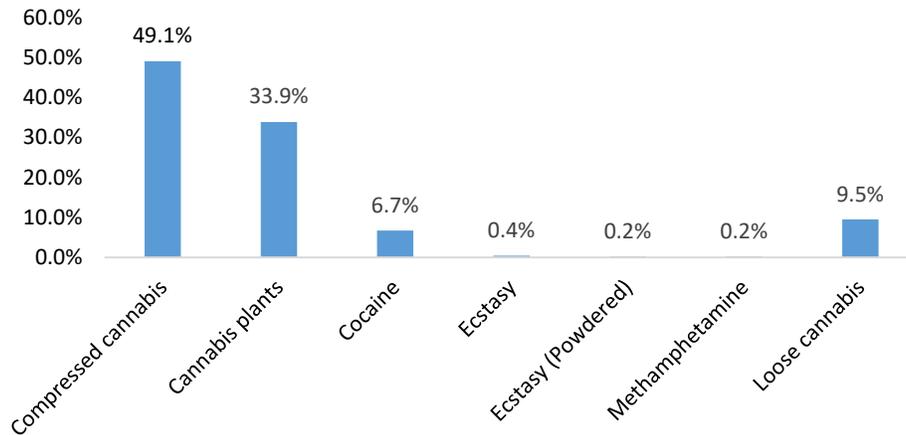
Source: Royal Barbados Police Force

The quantity statistics for drug seizures confirms the fact that cannabis was the most commonly seized drug during the period (See Table 3).

Table 3: Drug Seizure Data by Quantity for 2019

Drug/Substance	Quantity
Compressed cannabis	4226.92 Kg
Cannabis plants	59, 692
Loose cannabis	0.89 Kg
Cocaine	46.59 Kg
Ecstasy (tablets)	13 tablets
Ecstasy (powdered)	93 gm
Methamphetamine	1 tablet

Source: Royal Barbados Police Force

Figure 117 presents data regarding the modes of transport for drug seizures during 2019. The Chart shows that that "baggage", "mail" and "courier services" were the top three modes among the seizures for which this data was reported (See Figure 117).

Figure 117: Mode of Transport for Drug Seizures recoded by the RBPF during 2019
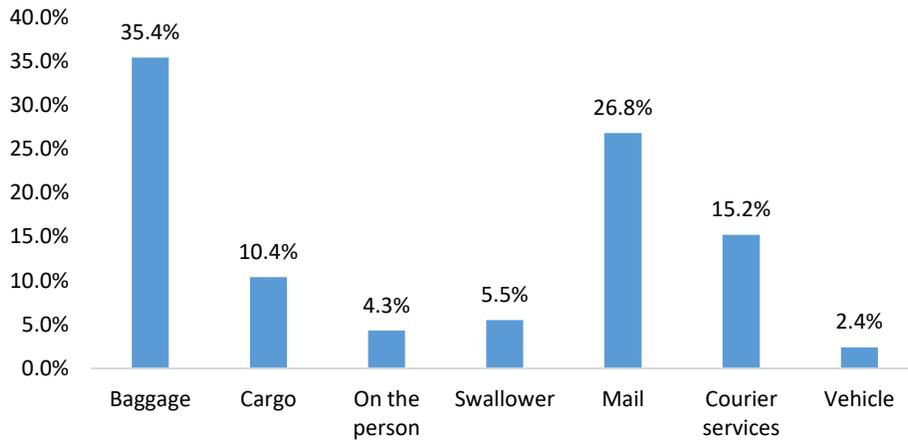
When seizure location was considered, Figure 118 reveals that "streets", "dwelling house", "on the person", and "post courier" were the most common.

Figure 118: Locations Where Drug Seizures Occurred during 2019
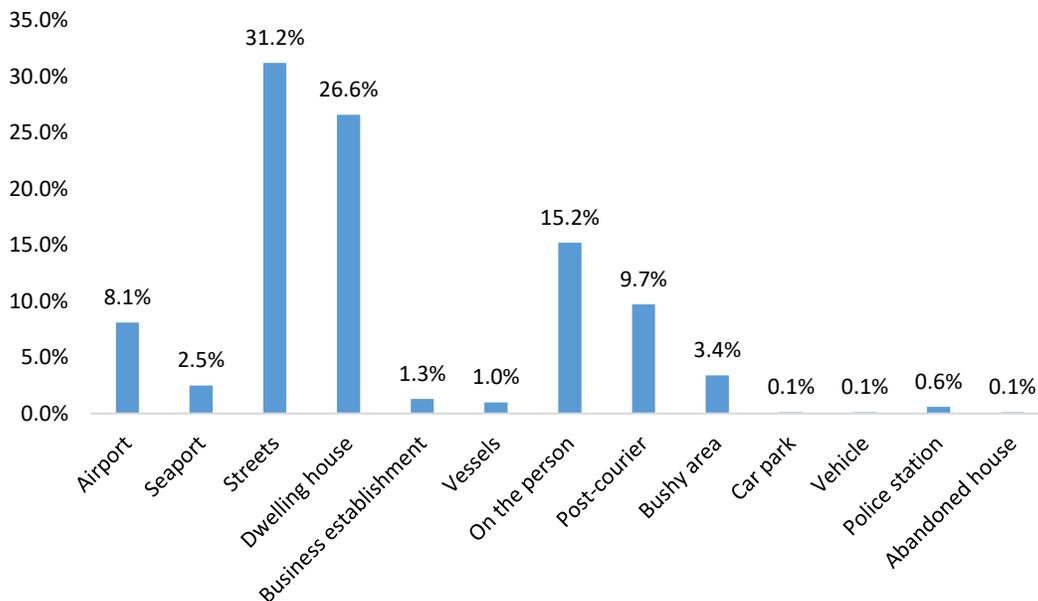
In addition to general seizure locations, the data surrounding the seizures of cannabis plants was analyzed by parish. Plant seizures were recorded in all 11 parishes; however, the results showed that the majority of seizures took place in St. John and St. Andrew (See Figure 119). St. Lucy had the least number of seizures (See Figure 119).

Figure 119: Distribution of Marijuana Plant Seizures
during 2019 by Parish
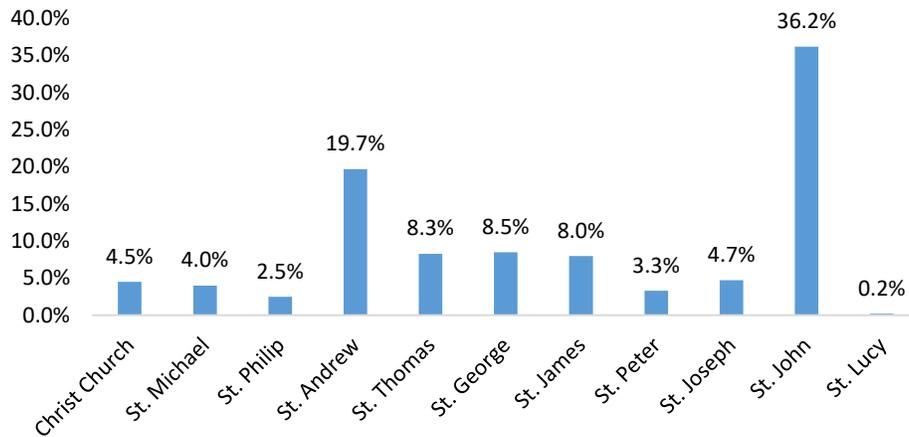
Source: Royal Barbados Police Force

Street Values of Drugs

The street value for illicit drugs is obtained via intelligence reports and estimates vary depending on origin and availability. The 2019 estimates recorded by the RBPF are presented in Table 4. From the Table it can be seen that some values are by weight while others are by tablet. This differs in accordance with the form of the drug e.g. tablet, powder, plant.

Table 4: Street Values of Drugs Recorded by the RBPF during 2019

Drug	Estimated Street Value
Marijuana	$4000 BDS per Kg
Cocaine	$50,000 BDS per Kg
Ecstasy	$20 BDS per tablet
Alprazolam	$50 BDS per tablet
Methamphetamine	$100 BDS per gram

Source: Royal Barbados Police Force

Deportation Statistics

Barbados received 37 deportees during 2019, 14 (38%) of whom were returned to the island for drug-related offences (See Figure 120).

Figure 120: Drug-related Deportees vs All Other Deportees during 2019
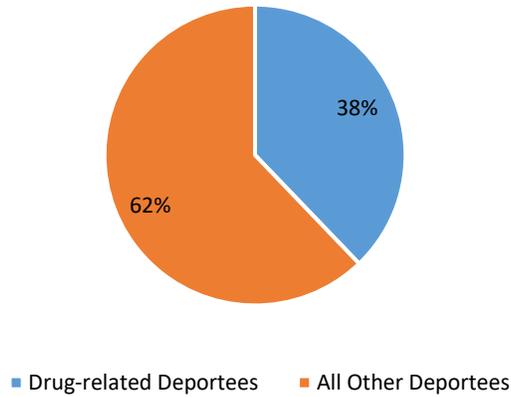
Source: Royal Barbados Police Force

The majority of drug-related deportees were males between the ages of 20 and 34 (See Figure 121).

Figure 121: Age and Sex Distribution of Drug-related Deportees during 2019
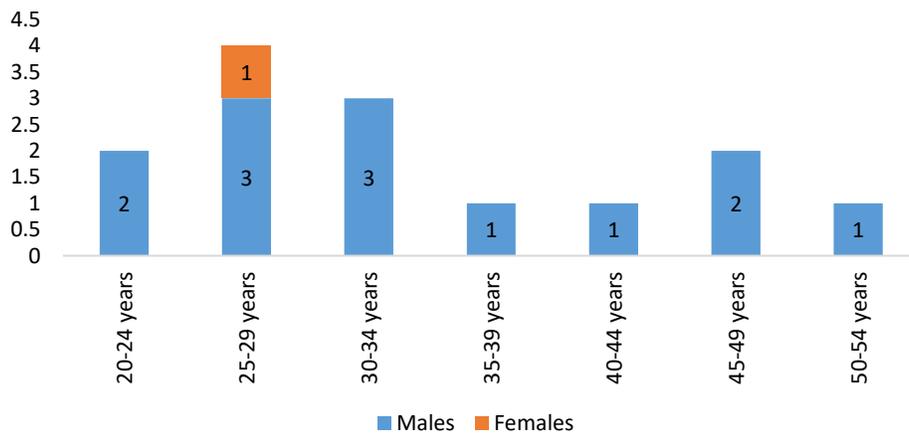
Source: Royal Barbados Police Force

Figure 122 shows that 11 of the 14 drug-related deportees were returned to Barbados from North America, specifically from the United States of America (USA) and Canada. In fact, the USA accounted for more than half of all drug-related deportees. The remaining three individuals were deported from Caribbean countries, namely Guyana, Jamaica and St. Lucia (See Figure 122).

Figure 122: Distribution of 2019 Drug-related Deportees by Country
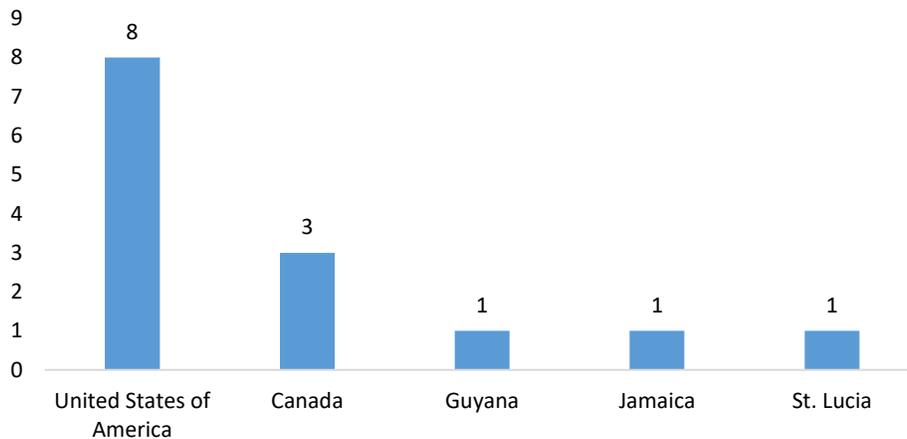
Source: Royal Barbados Police Force

Firearm and Ammunition Seizures

Table 5 presents the firearm and ammunition seizures recorded by the RBPF during 2019.

Table 5: Firearm and Ammunition Seizures Recorded by the RBPF during 2019

Item Seized	Quantity
Firearms	86
Cartridges	1302

Source: Royal Barbados Police Force

Money Laundering Arrests

During 2019, the RBPF recorded 11 arrests for money laundering (See Table 6), none of which were drug-related (See Table 6).

Table 6: Money Laundering Offences Recorded by the RBPF during 2019

	Number of Offences
Number of Money Laundering Offences	11
Number of Money Laundering Offences related to drugs	0

Source: Royal Barbados Police Force

5.2 Barbados Prison Service

On average, 870 persons were incarcerated at HMP Dodds during the period January 1 to December 31, 2019. The demographic profile of the inmates shows that males far outnumbered their female counterparts, accounting for approximately 9 out of every 10 inmates (See Figure 123).

Figure 123: Sex Distribution of Inmates Incarcerated at HMP Dodds during 2019

■ Male ■ Female
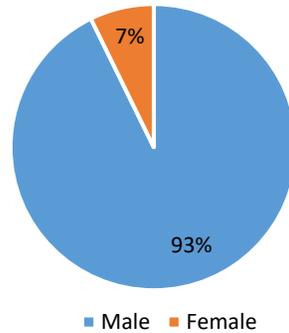
Source: Barbados Prison Service

Figure 124 shows that persons of various ages were incarcerated at HMP Dodds during the period under review, ranging from those in late adolescence to those 60 years and over. Overall, the age distribution chart shows that incarcerations peaked in the 25 to 29 age category and steadily declined thereafter (See Figure 124). The 20 to 29 and 30 to 39 age ranges each accounted for approximately 30% of inmates (See Figure 124). As such, more than half (60.2%) of those incarcerated were between the ages of 20 and 39 years (See Figure 124).

Figure 124: Age Distribution of Inmates Incarcerated at HMP Dodds in 2019
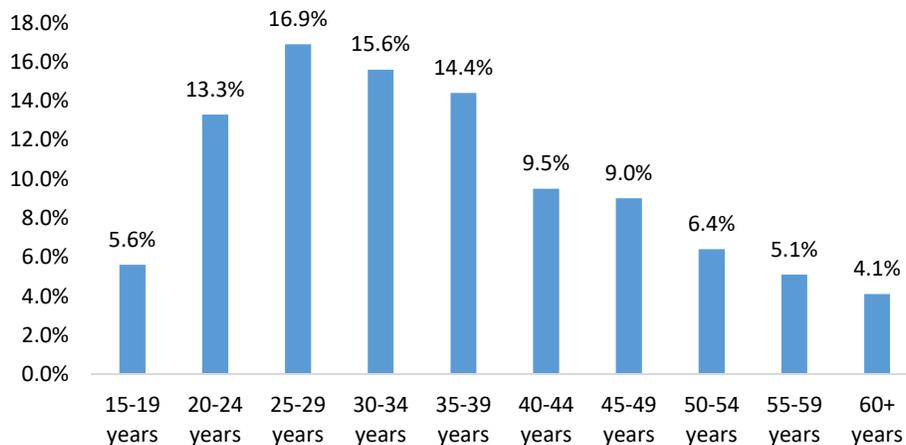
Source: Barbados Prison Service

Drug-related Incarcerations

Of the 870 persons incarcerated at HMP Dodds during 2019, 109 (13%) were incarcerated for drug offences (See Figure 125). The majority (79%) of these individuals were male (See Figure 126).

Figure 125: Drug-related Offences vs. All Other Offences for which Inmates were Incarcerated at HMP Dodds in 2019

■ Drug Offences ■ Other Offences
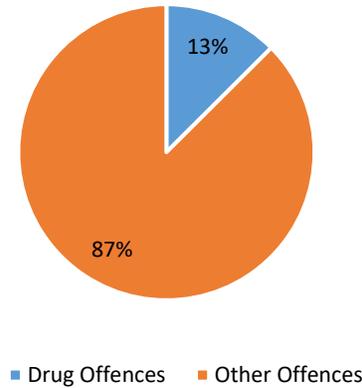
Source: Barbados Prison Service

Figure 126: Sex Distribution of Inmates Incarcerated for Drug Offences at HMP Dodds in 2019

■ Males
■ Females
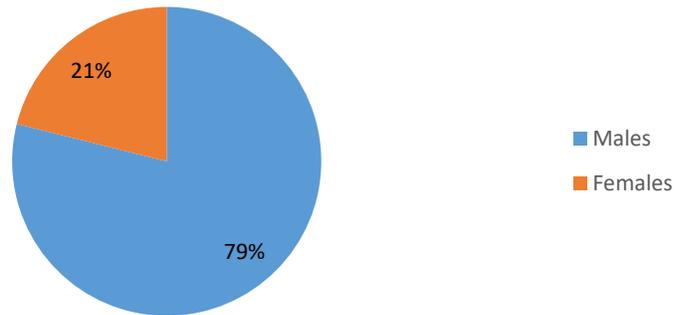
Source: Barbados Prison Service

As was the case with the wider inmate population, more than half (64.6%) of those incarcerated for drug offences were between the ages of 20 and 39 years (See Figure 127). Likewise, there was also a near equal division of persons in the 20 to 29 (31.9%) and 30 to 39 (32.7%) age ranges (See Figure 127).

Figure 127: Age Distribution of Persons Incarcerated for Drug Offences during 2019

Figure 127: Age Distribution of Persons Incarcerated for Drug Offences during 2019
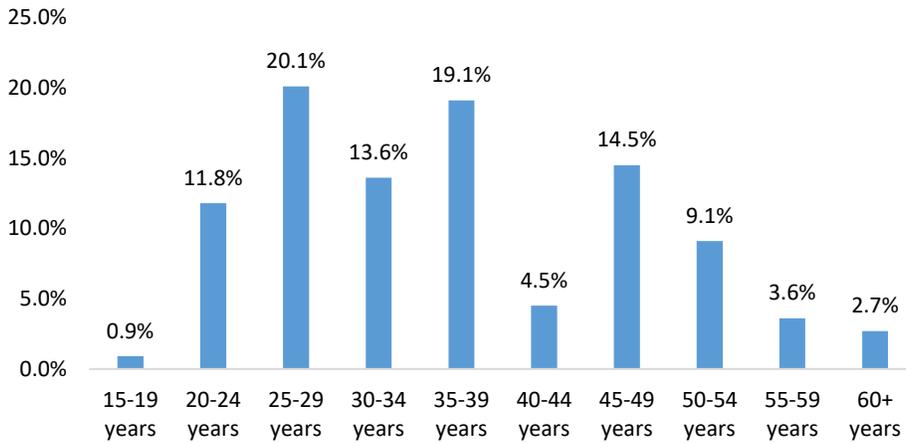
From Figure 128 it can be seen that "Drug Possession" was the most common drug-related offence for which persons were incarcerated during 2019, accounting for approximately half (50.4%) of all such incarcerations. This was distantly followed by "Drug Trafficking", "Possession of Drug Apparatus", "Drug Importation" and "Drug Cultivation" (See Figure 128).

Figure 128: Distribution of Drug Offences for which Inmates were Incarcerated in 2019

Figure 128: Distribution of Drug Offences for which Inmates were Incarcerated in 2019

Males (81.8%) and persons between the ages of 25 and 49 (76.4%) accounted for the majority of individuals incarcerated for "Drug Possession" (See Figure 129).

Figure 129: Persons Incarcerated for Drug Possession during 2019 by Age and Sex
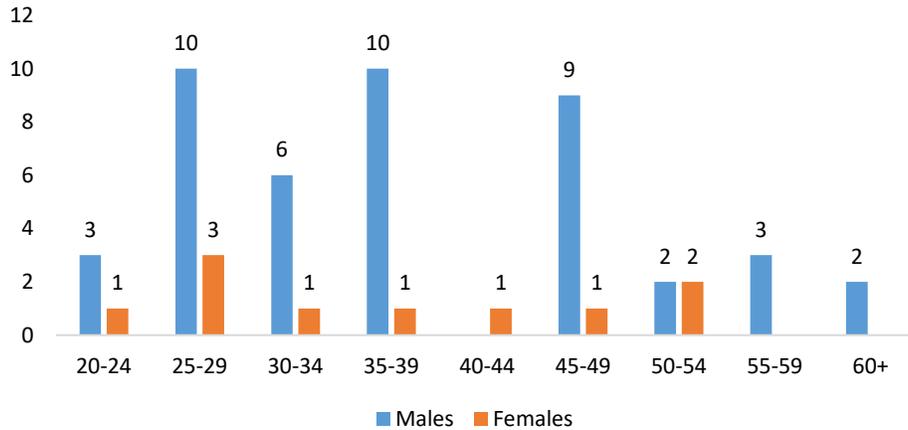
Source: Barbados Prison Service

Figure 130: Persons Incarcerated for Drug Trafficking during 2019 by Age and Sex
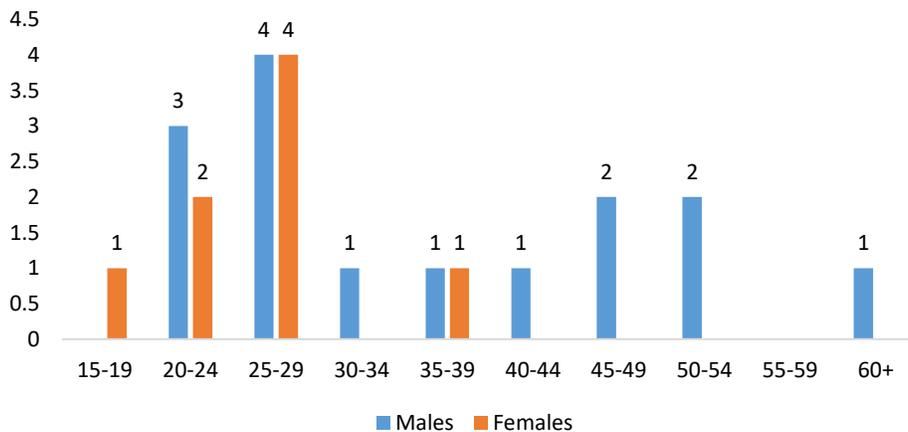
Source: Barbados Prison Service

The number of males incarcerated for "Drug Trafficking" was greater than the corresponding number of females (See Figure 130). However, the overall ratio of males to females was noticeably smaller than that for all other drug-offences. With regards to age, approximately half (56.5%) of all persons

incarcerated for "Drug Trafficking" were between 20 and 29 years (See Figure 130). It is also noteworthy that "Drug Trafficking" was the lone drug-related offence for which an individual in the 15 to 19 age category was incarcerated (See Figure 130).

Figure 131: Persons Incarcerated for Possession of Drug Apparatus during 2019 by Age and Sex
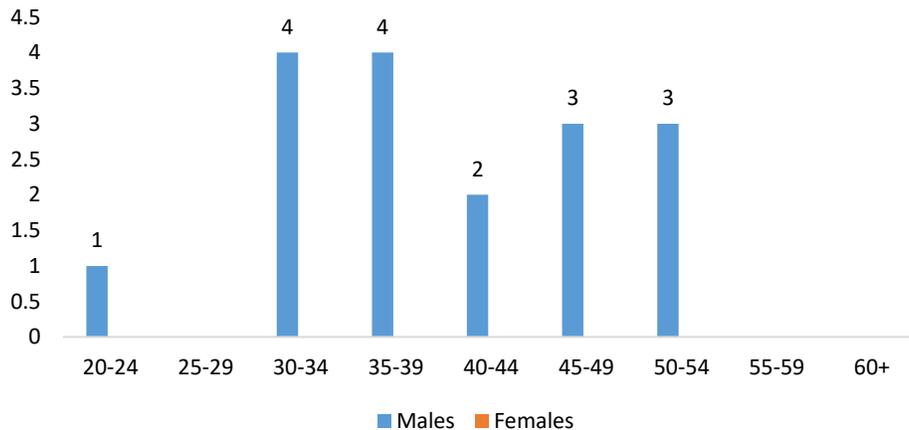
Source: Barbados Prison Service

Figure 131 shows that only males were incarcerated for "Possession of Drug Apparatus" during 2019. All but one of these individuals were between the ages of 30 and 54 years (See Figure 131).

Figure 132: Persons Incarcerated for Drug Importation during 2019 by Age and Sex
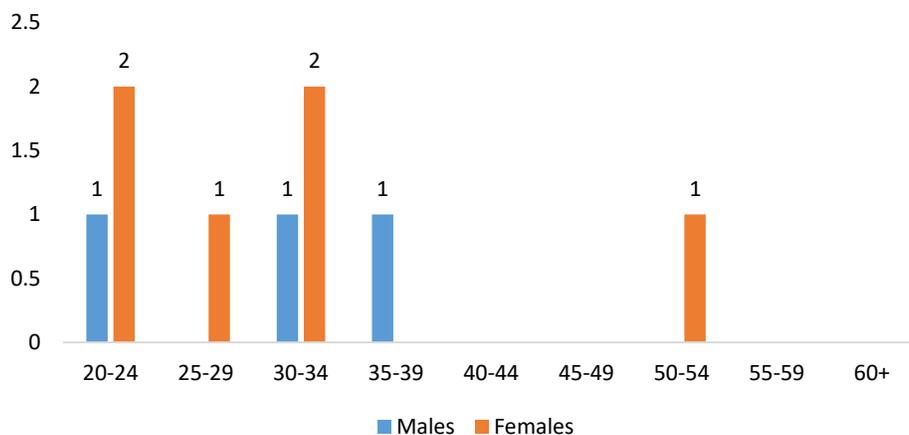
Source: Barbados Prison Service

"Drug Importation" was the only drug-related offence for which females outnumbered males (See Figure 132). In fact, females accounted for two-thirds of the inmates within this category. With respect to age, all but one of the inmates charged with this offence were between 20 and 39 years (See Figure 132). The lone outlier was in the 50 to 54 age category (See Figure 132).

Figure 133: Persons Incarcerated for Drug Cultivation
during 2019 by Age and Sex
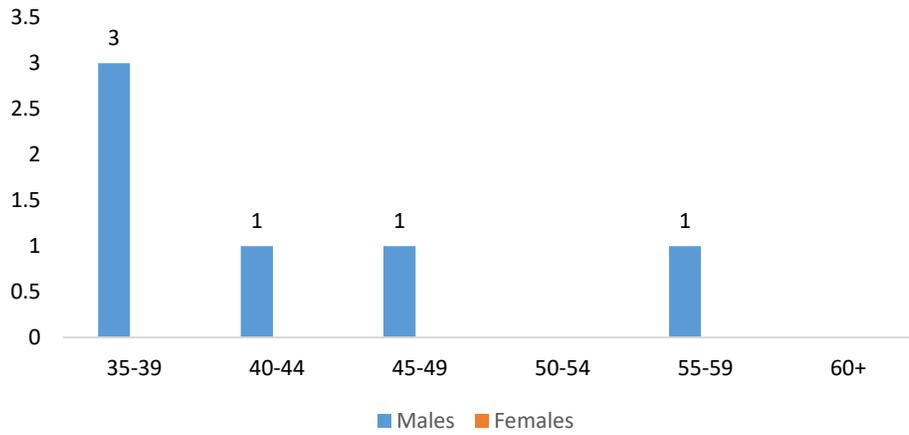
Source: Barbados Prison Service

Only males were incarcerated for "Drug Cultivation" (See Figure 133). Five of the six inmates incarcerated for this offence were between the ages of 35 and 49 years (See Figure 133).

5.3 Criminal Justice Research & Planning Unit

Data compiled by the Criminal Justice Research and Planning Unit revealed that, during 2019, a total of 684 persons were sentenced for various drug offences in the Law Courts of Barbados. Figure 134 shows the distribution of these persons by Court and Drug Type. From the chart, it can be seen that the majority of cases were adjudicated in the Magistrates' Courts and involved cannabis offences.

Figure 134: Distribution of Persons Sentenced in the Magistrates' and Supreme Courts in 2019 by Drug Type
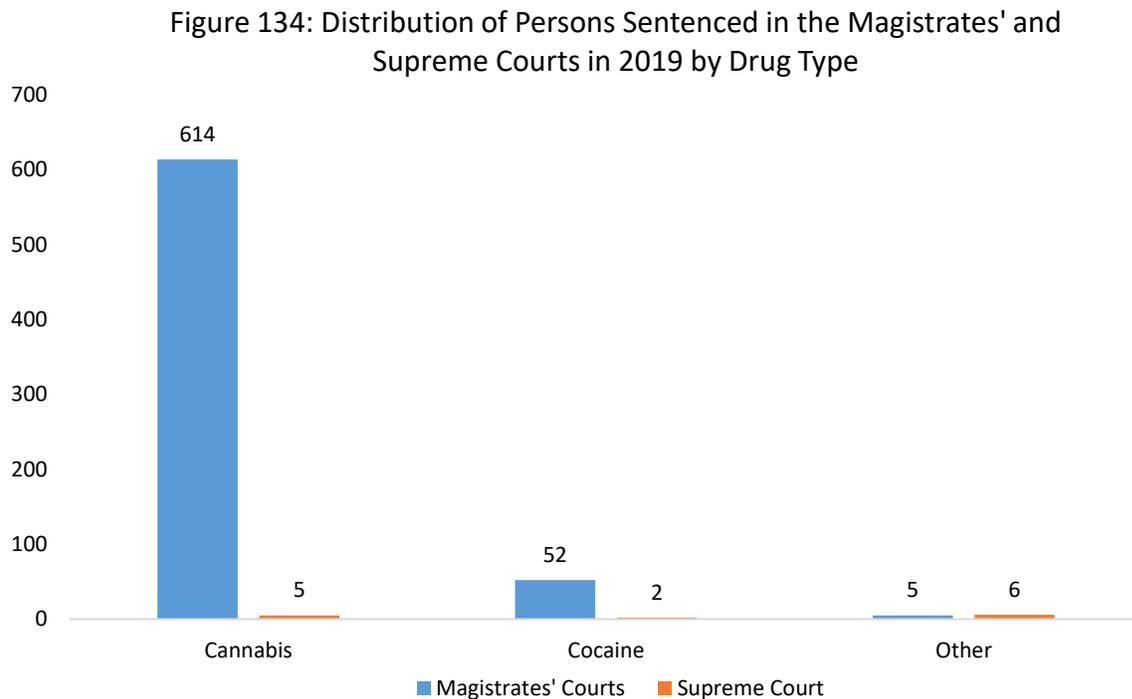
Source: Criminal Justice Research & Planning Unit

As mentioned earlier in the report, drug possession is a predicate offence and it is therefore typically accompanied by other offences. This is important to note as drug possession is also a hybrid offence which means that it can be tried either by a judge and jury in the Supreme Court or by a Magistrate in the Magistrates' Courts. All charges accompanying drug possession will be tried in the same court where the possession charge is adjudicated.

The determination of where a drug possession charge is tried is based on: (1) the preference of the accused, and/or (2) any submission made by the prosecution to have the charge tried in the Supreme Court as opposed to the Magistrates' Court. The prosecution will make such a submission based on the weight of the drugs seized[15].

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[15] In practice, drug possession cases will be tried in the Supreme Court if: (1) the cannabis weighs more than 100 lbs. or (2) the cocaine weighs 50 lbs. or over.

Offence Outcomes

Cannabis
Table 7 presents the sentence outcomes for persons charged with cannabis offences whose cases were adjudicated at the Magistrate Court level during 2019. The data reveals that "Possession", "Trafficking" and "Intent to Supply" were the top 3 cannabis-related matters tried at this level (See Table 7). The most common sentence outcomes for these offences included "Reprimanded and Discharged" (R&D), "Convicted, Reprimanded and Discharged" (CRD) and "Fine", though with varying frequency depending on the specific offence (See Table 7). Table 7 also shows that, overall, "R&D", "CRD" and "Fine" were the most common sentence outcomes recorded for cannabis-related offences at the Magistrate Court level. Few persons received other sentences, including "Bond", "Imprisonment" and "Probation" (See Table 7). There were also instances in which persons were found "Not Guilty", had their charges "Dismissed/Withdrawn" or received a "Suspended Sentence" (See Table 7). "Community Service" was the least common outcome of all (See Table 7).

Table 7: Magistrates' Court Sentence Outcomes for Cannabis Offences in 2019 by Offence Type

OFFENCE	SENTENCE OUTCOME											TOTAL
	Fine	Imprisonment	CRD	R&D	Not Guilty	Probation	Community Service	Bond	Suspended Sentence	Dismissed/ Withdrawn	Unknown	
Possession	100	8	140	225	5	11	0	44	6	38	1	578
Importation	13	2	34	4	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	57
Trafficking	102	15	51	45	8	4	1	12	10	18	1	267
Intent to Supply	11	2	118	92	5	3	0	5	1	17	1	255
Cultivation	26	5	11	6	1	1	0	3	3	4	0	60
Possession of Apparatus	4	2	7	12	1	0	0	6	2	0	0	34
Conspire to Traffic Cannabis	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Preparatory Acts for Trafficking	1	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
TOTAL	257	34	369	384	23	19	1	71	22	79	3	1262

Source: Criminal Justice Research & Planning Unit

The sentence outcomes for cannabis-related matters tried in the Supreme Court are presented in Table 8. These cases were far less numerous and included fewer offence types than those tried at the Magistrate level. Table 8 shows that "Possession", "Trafficking" and "Importation" were the main charges heard in the Supreme Court. There was also a single case for "Cultivation" (See Table 8). All of the "Trafficking" cases resulted in "Imprisonment" while all of the persons charged with "Importation" received a "CRD" (See Table 8). "CRD" was also the most common sentence outcome for "Possession" cases (See Table 8). The individual charged with "Cultivation" received a "Fine" (See Table 8).

Table 8: Supreme Court Sentence Outcomes for Cannabis Offences in 2019 by Offence Type

OFFENCE	SENTENCE OUTCOME			
	Fine	Imprisonment	CRD	TOTAL
Possession	1	0	7	8
Importation	0	0	6	6
Trafficking	0	7	0	7
Cultivation	1	0	0	1
TOTAL	2	7	13	22

Source: Criminal Justice Research & Planning Unit

Cocaine

Table 9 presents the cocaine-related matters tried in the Magistrates Courts during 2019. By comparison, the offence types are far fewer than those recorded for cannabis. From the Table it can be seen that "Possession", "Trafficking" and "Intent to Supply" were the top three cocaine-related charges adjudicated at the Magistrate Court level. Fewer cases were heard for "Possession of Apparatus" and "Importation" (See Table 9).

A "Fine" was the most common sentence outcome for "Trafficking" cases while "CRD" was most common for "Possession" and "Intent to Supply" (See Table 9). Overall, "CRD", "Fine" and "R&D" were the main sentences meted out for cocaine-related cases within the Magistrates Courts (See Table 9). "Imprisonment" was only applied in 2 "Trafficking" cases and approximately half of the "Possession of Apparatus" cases. Also of note is the observation that "Possession of Apparatus" accounted for the majority of cases resulting in "Imprisonment". "Bond" and "Community Service" were the least common sentences for cocaine-related charges at this level (See Table 9).

Table 9: Magistrates' Court Sentence Outcomes for Cocaine Offences in 2019 by Offence Type

OFFENCE	SENTENCE OUTCOME								TOTAL
	Fine	Imprisonment	CRD	R&D	Community Service	Bond	Suspended Sentence	Dismissed/ Withdrawn	
Possession	7		27	11		4		2	51
Importation	5		9						14
Trafficking	21	2	8	5	1	2		2	41
Intent to Supply			27	10		2		2	41
Possession of Apparatus	2	9	3	2		2	2		20
TOTAL	35	11	74	28	1	10	2	6	167

Source: Criminal Justice Research & Planning Unit

Table 10 shows that "Imprisonment" and "CRD" were the only sentence outcomes recorded for the small number of cocaine-related cases adjudicated at the Supreme Court level during 2019. "CRD" was applied to all "Possession" and "Importation" cases while both "Trafficking" cases resulted in "Imprisonment" (See Table 10).

Table 10: Supreme Court Sentence Outcomes for Cocaine Offences in 2019 by Offence Type

OFFENCE	SENTENCE OUTCOME			TOTAL
	Fine	Imprisonment	CRD	
Possession			2	2
Importation			1	1
Trafficking		2		2
TOTAL		2	3	5

Source: Criminal Justice Research & Planning Unit

Other Drugs

A small number of persons were tried in the Magistrates Courts for: "Possession of Methamphetamine", "Intent to Supply Methamphetamine" and "Possession of Ecstasy". The sentence outcomes are presented in Table 11 and included: "R&D", "Fine" and "Bond".

Table 11: Magistrates' Court Sentence Outcomes for Other Drug Offences in 2019 by Offence Type

OFFENCE	SENTENCE OUTCOME			
	Fine	R&D	Bond	TOTAL
Possession of Methamphetamine	2	2		4
Intent to Supply Methamphetamine		1		1
Possession of Ecstasy			1	1
TOTAL	2	3	1	6

Source: Criminal Justice Research & Planning Unit

Table 12 presents the Supreme Court Sentence Outcomes for "Possession", "Trafficking" and "Importation" of a controlled drug. In each case, the drug was not specified and the charges resulted in "Imprisonment" (See Table 12).

Table 12: Supreme Court Sentence Outcomes for Other Drug Offences in 2019 by Offence Type

OFFENCE	SENTENCE OUTCOME	
	Imprisonment	TOTAL
Possession of a Controlled Drug: Not Stated	4	4
Trafficking of a Controlled Drug: Not Stated	4	4
Importation of a Controlled Drug: Not Stated	6	6
TOTAL	14	14

Source: Criminal Justice Research & Planning Unit

5.4 Financial Intelligence Unit

Financial institutions and non-financial designated professionals report potentially suspicious financial activity to the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) through the submission of Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs). These reports and supporting evidence are reviewed by the FIU with a view to identifying individuals, groups and organizations that may be involved in crimes such as fraud, terrorist financing and money laundering. Reports deemed credible are forwarded to the Royal Barbados Police Force for investigation.

STR data is deemed relevant for inclusion within the current report given the strong link between money laundering and the drug trade. However, STR data should be interpreted with caution as they are merely building blocks for investigations and therefore not every STR will result in an investigation.

Suspicious Transaction Reports During 2019
Between January 1 and December 31, 2019, the FIU received 267 STRs, 11 (4.1%) of which were drug-related (See Table 13). While this proportion may appear low, consideration should also be given to the STRs for which a predicate offence could not be easily identified as these may be found to have a drug-related link following law enforcement investigations (National Council on Substance Abuse, 2020). Such STRs accounted for just over one half (141 or 52.8%) of all STRs recorded during the period under review (See Table 13).

Table 13: Suspicious Transaction Reports during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2019

Total Number of Suspicious Transaction Reports in 2017	Number of Drug-Related Suspicious Transaction Reports (%)	Number of Suspicious Transaction Reports for which a Predicate Offence Could Not be Easily Identified (%)
267	11 (4.1%)	141 (52.8%)

Source: Financial Intelligence Unit

6. Trend Analysis

Trend analysis data is presented in this section. Where possible, five-year analyses are presented; however, in some instances, only three-year trend analysis was possible due to variations in data submitted in previous years.

Included in this section are trends related to: students testing positive for marijuana use at the Edna Nicholls Centre, drug offences recorded by the RBPF, STRs recorded by the FIU and treatment conducted at the SAF and NCSA. With regards to the latter, it should be noted that the decision was taken to focus on the SAF and the NCSA in this edition, given the differences in their overall treatment approaches (residential vs outpatient) and primary treatment populations (18 and over vs under 20).

Noticeably absent from this section is trend data from the Psychiatric Hospital. Trend analysis was not possible for the Hospital due to inconsistencies in the data provided in recent years. As such, three or more similar data points were not available for analysis.

Edna Nicholls Centre

Figure 135 presents the percentage of students at the Edna Nicholls Centre testing positive for marijuana use between 2015 and 2019. From the Chart, it can be seen the percentages range from a low of 17.3% in 2016 to a high of 23% in 2018. These statistics suggests that, on average, approximately one-fifth of the students admitted to the Centre tested positive for marijuana use during the five year period.

Figure 135: Students Testing Postive for Marijuana Use at Edna Nicholls Centre between 2015 and 2019
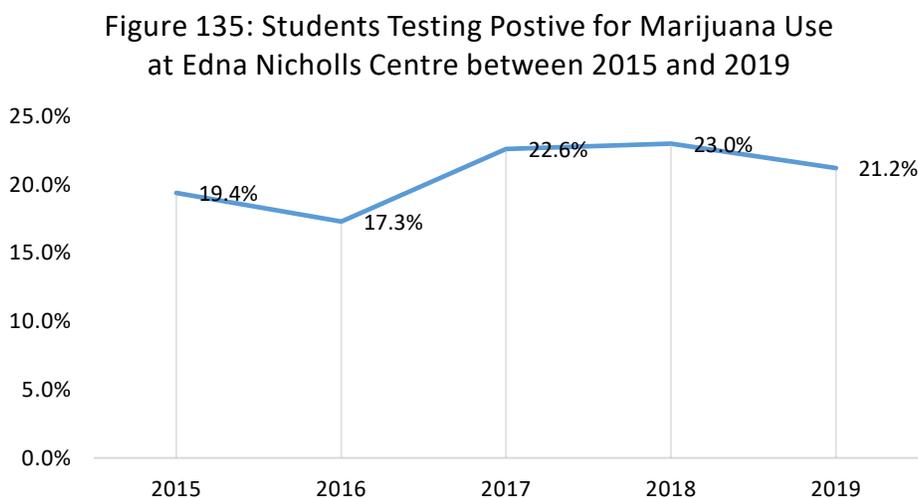
Source: Barbados Drug Information Network

Age and sex analysis revealed that males and students between 14 and 15 years accounted for the majority of students testing positive for marijuana use between 2015 and 2019 (See Figures 136 and 137).

Figure 136: Sex Distribution of Students at Edna Nicholls Centre Testing Positive for Marjuana between 2015 and 2019
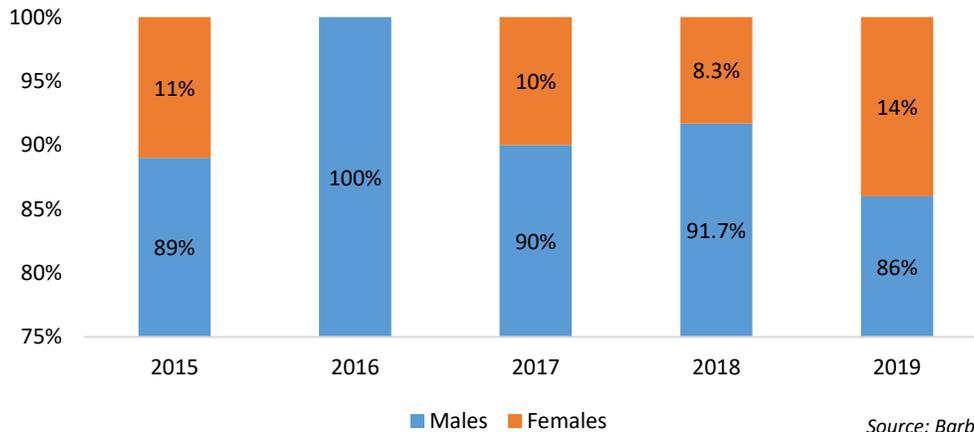
Figure 137: Age Distribution of Students Testing Positive for Marijuana Use at Edna Nicholls Centre between 2015 and 2019
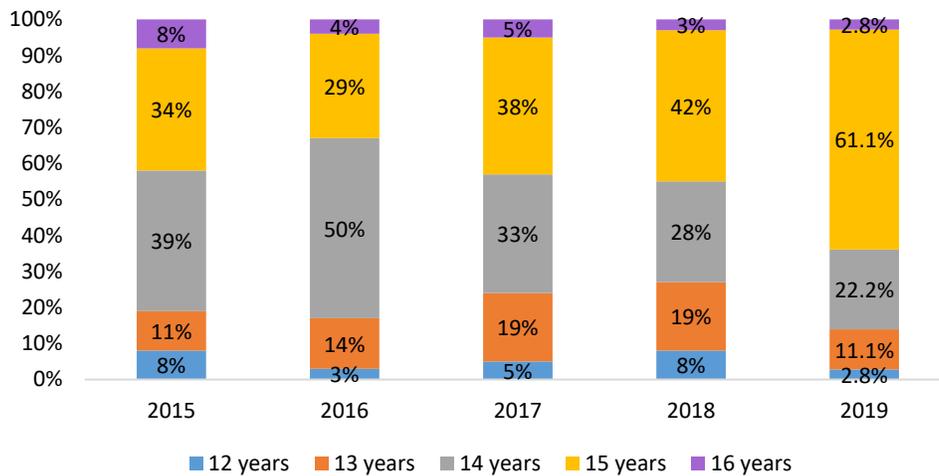
Substance Abuse Foundation

Figures 138 and 139 reveal that males and persons 40 years and under accounted for the majority of persons seeking treatment at the SAF between 2017 and 2019. With respect to primary drugs, Figure 140 shows that, in each year, crack cocaine was the most common substance motivating the need for treatment at the SAF. Other common primary drugs during the three year period included alcohol, marijuana and cocaine powder, though with fluctuating frequency.

Figure 138: Sex Distribution of Persons Seeking Treatment at the Substance Abuse Foundation between 2017 and 2019
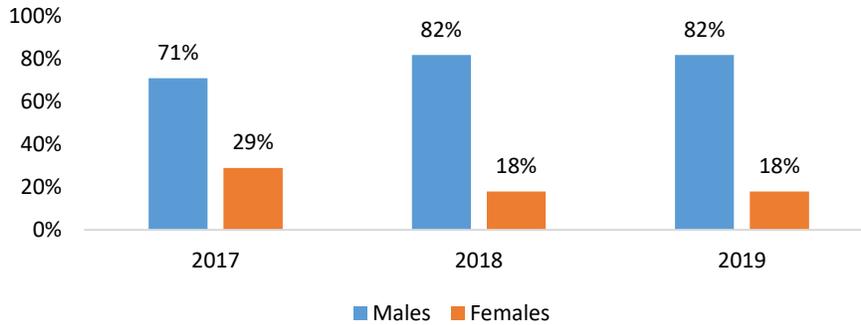
Figure 139: Age Distribution of Persons Seeking Treatment at the Substance Abuse Foundation between 2017 and 2019
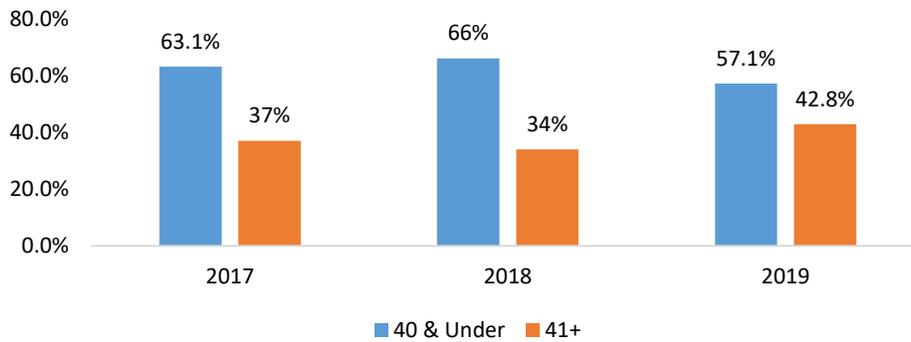
Figure 140: Primary Drugs for which Treatment was Sought at the Substance Abuse Foundation between 2017 and 2019

91
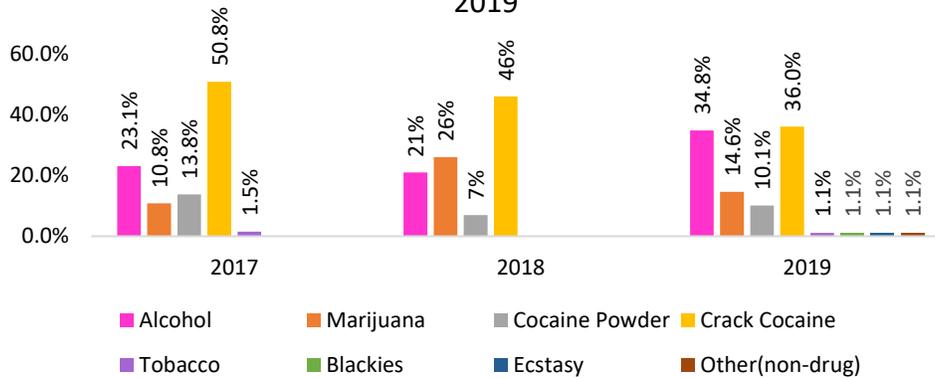
National Council on Substance Abuse

Figures 141 and 142 show that males and persons under 20 were the primary persons receiving treatment within the NCSA Counselling Programme during the period 2017 through 2019. In each year, marijuana was the main primary drug for which persons sought treatment at the Council (See Figure 143).

Figure 141: Sex Distribution of Persons Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at NCSA between 2017 and 2019
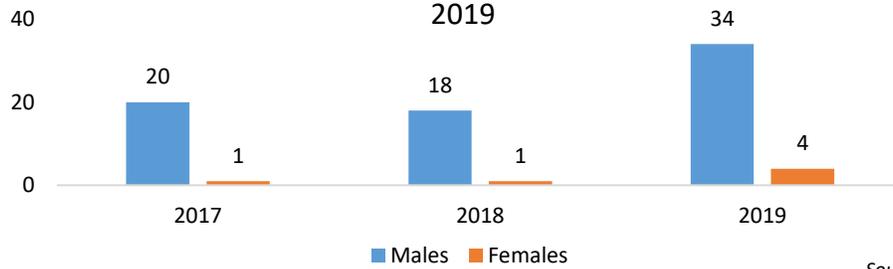
Source: Barbados Drug Information Network

Figure 142: Age Distribution of Persons Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at NCSA between 2017 and 2019
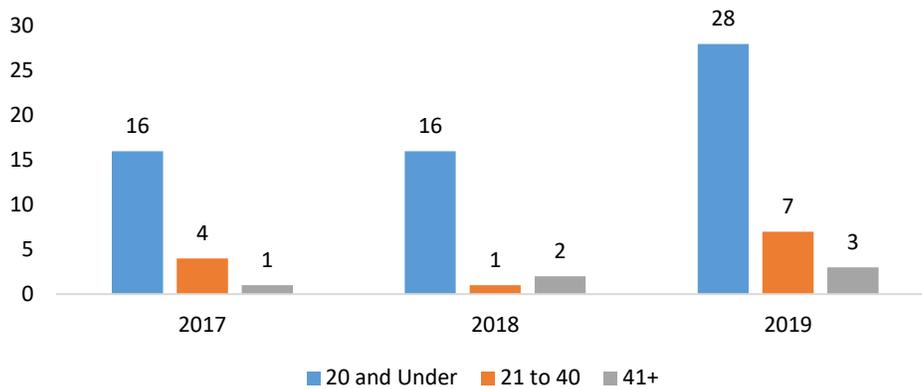
Source: Barbados Drug Information Network

Figure 143: Primary Drugs for which Treatment was Sought at NCSA between 2017 and 2019

Source: Barbados Drug Information Network

92
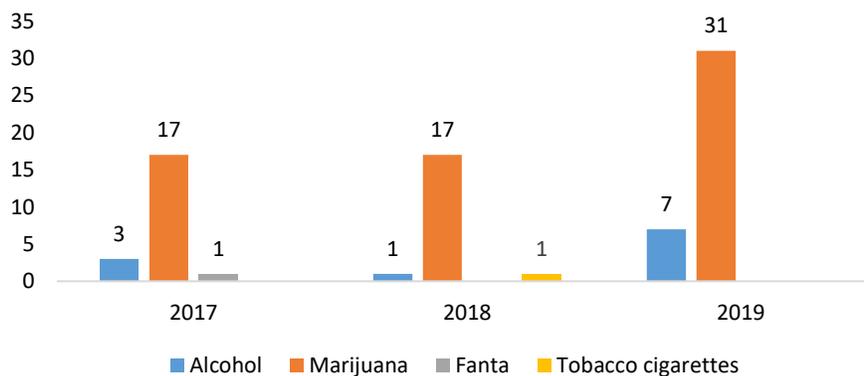
Royal Barbados Police Force

A comparison of the data for the years 2015 through 2019, revealed that the majority of persons charged with drug offences during that period were males between the ages of 20 and 39 (See Figures 144 and 145). With regards to the drug offences recorded during the five year period, Figure 146 shows that cannabis offences far outnumbered all other drug offences; while Figure 147 reveals that "Possession of Cannabis" was the single most common cannabis offence. "Possession of Cannabis" accounted for just under half of all cannabis offences between 2016 and 2019 and just over half in 2015[16].

Figure 144: Sex Distribution of Persons Charged with Drug Offenses between 2015 and 2019
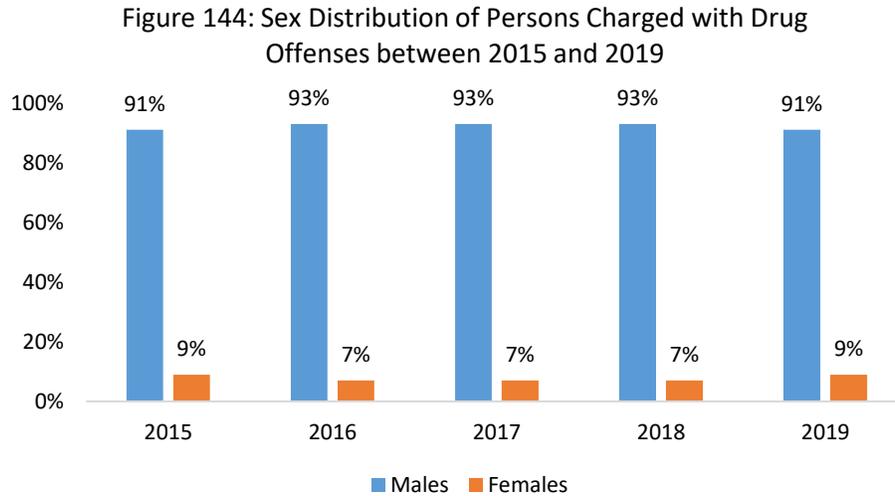
Source: Barbados Drug Information Network

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[16] "Other" Cannabis Offenses presented in Figure 147 include: Cultivation, Importing, Trafficking, Offering to Supply, Possession of Apparatus, Acts Preparatory to Trafficking, Permit Premises to be Used, Conspiracy to Traffic Cannabis, Handling Cannabis.

Figure 145: Age Distribution of Persons Arrested for Drug offenses Between 2015 and 2019
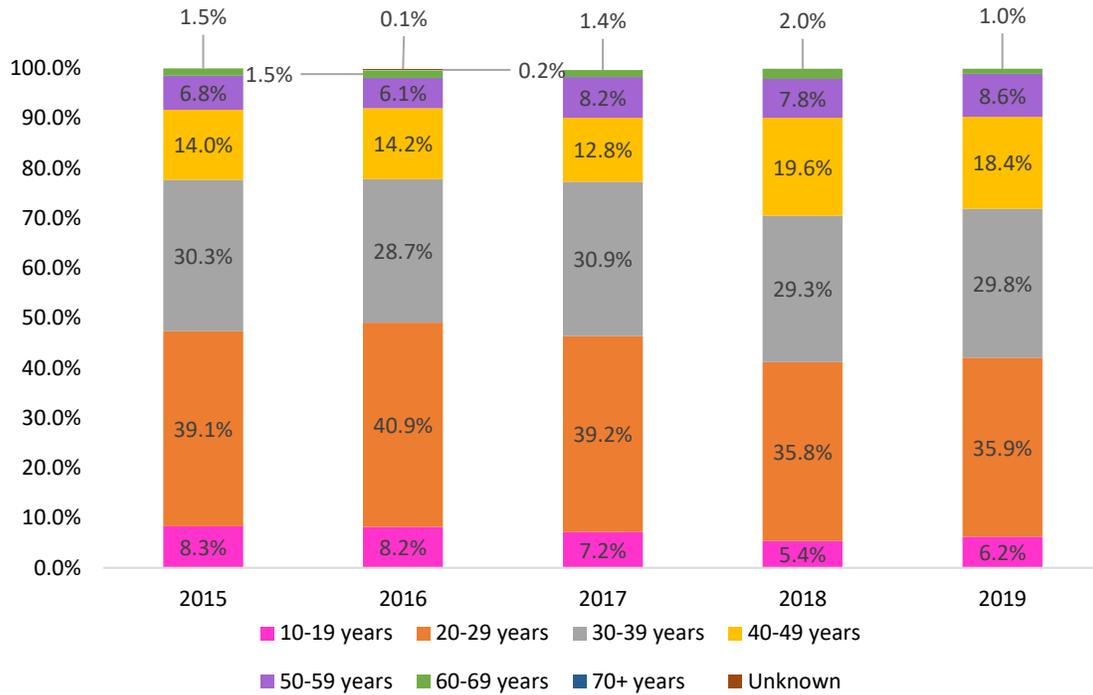
Source: Barbados Drug Information Network

Figure 146: Five-Year Trend Analysis of Drug Offences Recorded by the RBPF by Drug Type for the Period 2015 through 2019
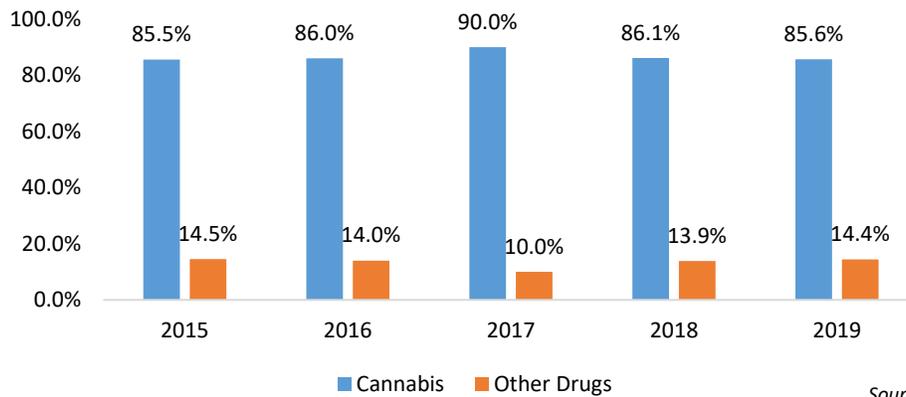
Source: Barbados Drug Information Network

Figure 147: Five-Year Trend Analysis of Cannabis Offences
Recorded by the RBPF between 2015 and 2019
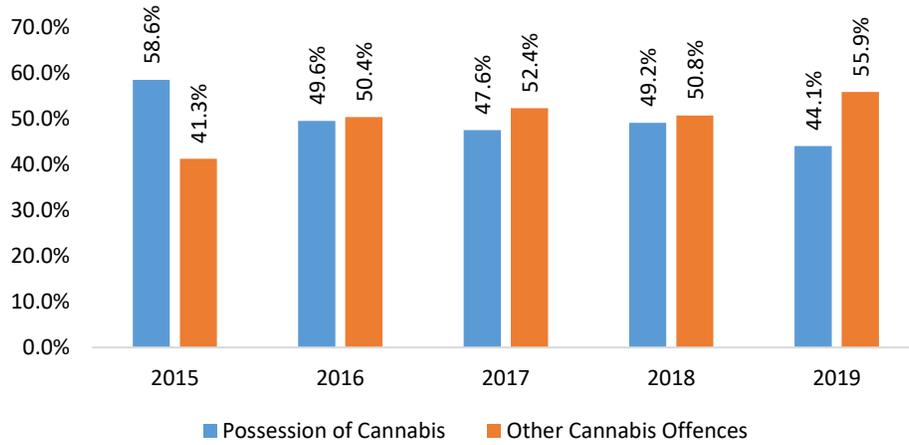
Source: Barbados Drug Information Network

Financial Intelligence Unit

Table 14 presents STR data for the period 2017 through 2019. From the Table it can be seen that the percentage of STRs which were drug-related ranged between 4.1% and 6.3%. STRs for which a predicate offence could not be easily identified accounted for just over half of all STRs recorded in 2017 and 2019, and approximately one-third in 2018.

Table 14: Suspicious Activity Reports Recorded between 2017 and 2019

Year	Total Number of Suspicious Transaction Reports	Number of Drug-Related Suspicious Transaction Reports (%)	Number of Suspicious Transaction Reports for which a Predicate Offence Could Not be Easily Identified (%)
2017	278	17 (6.1%)	165 (59.3%)
2018	428	27 (6.3%)	138 (32.2%)
2019	267	11 (4.1%)	141 (52.8%)

Source: Barbados Drug Information Network

7. Discussion

The Barbados Drug Information Network (BARDIN) is the mechanism through which the National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) collects and disseminates information on Barbados' drug situation. This report reflects secondary data collected during the period January 1 to December 31, 2019. The participating agencies to this report include the National Council on Substance Abuse; the Edna Nicholls Centre; the Psychiatric Hospital; the Substance Abuse Foundation; the Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives; the Royal Barbados Police Force; the Barbados Prison Service, the Criminal Justice and Research Unit and the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).

The data collected from this report indicates a continuous trend in the consumption of marijuana among young males under 20 years. At the Enda Nicholls Centre for 2015 to 2019, just under 3 out of 10 of the students testing positive for marijuana use were 15-year-old males**.** For the period 2017 through 2019, males under 20 years were the primary persons receiving counselling for marijuana at the NCSA. Also, marijuana was the primary substance motivating treatment of children with drug-related diagnoses admitted to the Thrive Family Centre at the Psychiatric Hospital in 2019.

The use of marijuana among adolescents is a concern for health care and drug prevention specialists (Broyd, van Hell, & Yucel, 2016; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2017). Frequent marijuana use during young adulthood significantly increases the risk of life experiences with, and greater involvement with, other illicit drugs[17], promotes the early onset of substance dependence, leads to poorer educational and occupational outcomes, multiple health and psychiatric problems, as well as higher levels of involvement with the criminal justice system[18]. Young people who are heavy users of marijuana and started using this drug at an early age are at a higher risk for substance use disorders[19]. Providing effective interventions to deter marijuana consumption among minors and adolescents is, therefore, a strategy of great potential significance in preventing progression to substance use disorders among adolescents who use marijuana at an early age.

One of the critical features of deterring drug use among adolescents is to increase their knowledge about the consequences of drug use (NCSA, 2018). Surveys on drug prevalence in Barbados show decreasing

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[17] The designated illegal possession or use or trade according to various domestic laws, including the Drug Abuse (Prevention and Control) Act 1990, international agreements and treaties.

[18] In recognition of the social fallout to young people
who consume marijuana criminal record Barbados has recently passed the Drug Abuse (Prevention And Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which will allow for the imposition of a penalty of $200 on anyone found by the police with 14 grammes or less of cannabis
[19] A disease that affects a person's brain and behaviour leads to an inability to control the use of a legal or illegal drug or medication (Strakowski, DelBello, Fleck & Arndt, 2000).

perception of the harms of using marijuana among students ages 13 to 17 (NCSA, 2014). Evidence exists that more extensive knowledge about the harms of drugs may change attitudes about drugs, lower the demand for illicit substances (Midford et al., 2014; Midford, Munro, McBride, Snow, & Ladzinski, 2002). In Barbados, primary school students ages 9 to 11 years indicated that they receive most of their information on drugs from teachers and parents (NCSA, 2010, 2020). Teachers provide critical emotional support to students and work as a protective factor in decreasing delinquency and rebellion and promoting learning (Sandahl, 2016). The existence of a warm relationship between parents and their children and parents' ability to supervise the action of their children also reduce their children's likelihood of using drugs (Montgomery & Fisk, 2009; Wilson, 2008). Because of teachers and parents' contribution to a child's development, drug education practitioners should incorporate teachers and parents in interventions to improve knowledge about the harms of drugs and deter drug use among students.

Despite the contribution of drug prevention efforts to deter drug use among children and adolescents, many young people in Barbados have engaged in criminal activity[20] simply through their consumption and distribution of marijuana (NCSA, 2016,2018, 2020). An abundance of evidence shows that employers are reluctant to employ an individual because of their criminal record. A criminal conviction creates social problems in adulthood as employers may be unwilling to hire an individual with a criminal record[21] (Criminal Justice Research and Planning Unit 2013, Ramakers, Nieuwbeerta, Wisem, & Dirkzwager, 2017; Smith, 2017). Efforts to stem the social fallout among young people arrested for marijuana with a fine rather than a criminal record are well documented (Bretteville-Jensen& Williams,2011; Single et al., 2000). A penalty for the use of marijuana has led to the non-payment of fines. Some of the reasons reported for the non-payment of these fines included financial hardships, false identifying information at the time of detection and lack of awareness that non-payment would result in a criminal record. If the government intends to reduce the social fallout among adolescents arrested for marijuana, the inability to pay the fine may impact this approach's effectiveness.

The abuse of illicit drugs and substance abuse also presents a severe social challenge for offenders seeking substance abuse treatment and who do not have access to an appropriate substance abuse program. In Barbados, the drug treatment personnel of the prison-based IDRC program admits a growing number of male offenders. In 2017, 94 offenders were admitted to this program, followed by 74 offenders in 2018 and 111 offenders in 2019. A significant body of research shows that offenders who experience problems with drugs and did not participate in a treatment program tend to recidivate at a higher rate than offenders who receive drug addiction treatment (Chaple, et al., 2016); Håkansson, & Berglund, M. 2014). The increased number of offenders admitted to the IDRC program in 2019 indicates a growing need for offenders' drug treatment services. By investing in offenders' treatment

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[20] Barbados has recently passed the Drug Abuse (Prevention and Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2021, which will allow for the imposition of a penalty of $200 on anyone found by the police with 14 grammes or less of cannabis.

[21] In Barbados, the Criminal Justice Research and Planning Unit found that 84% of local employers said they would not hire someone who had a criminal record. In comparison, 45% said they required a Police Certificate of Character as a prerequisite for employment.

services, the BPS increases opportunities for offenders who abuse drugs to lower their drug use and decrease their recidivism rate.

The social issues linked to substance abuse also extends to unemployment among individuals seeking treatment for drug addiction. In 2017, the SAF reported that 60% of their clients receiving substance abuse treatment were unemployed. In 2018, 62% were unemployed, and more than half, 55.1%, were unemployed in 2019. Studies on unemployment and substance abuse are limited primarily to offenders who received drug addiction treatment (Chaple et al., 2016; Johnson, 2013; Osterman & Caplan, 2016; Ramakers et al., 2017). The findings from these studies show that providing offenders with a substance abuse problem with work-related skills increases their opportunities to find work after leaving prison and lower their recidivism rate. Knowledge of this information is essential as providing the non-offender populations who seek treatment for substance abuse with job-related skills and drug treatment could increase their opportunities to find work.

A noticeable trend in substance abuse in Barbados among the incarcerated and the non-offender populations is polydrug use. Crack cocaine, marijuana, and alcohol continue to be consumed singly or in various combinations. Three-quarters (74.8%) of the inmates admitted to the IDRC programme use more than one drug, and 30% admitted to the SAF[22] were treated for polydrug use. Persons who consume multiple drugs are more difficult to treat as specific combinations of substances may present a greater need for intensive interventions (Wu et al., 2013). Moreover, treatment practitioners may require adequate training to explore and apply various modalities to reduce addiction stemming from polydrug use (Mcketin, Hickey, Devlin & Lawrence, 2010). Therefore, persons who use a combination of drugs present a more significant challenge to health care, including the potential higher costs associated with substance abuse treatment (Brown, Stout & Mueller, 1999).

The need for a mix of modalities to address drug addiction is even more critical, given the evidence of co-occurring disorders (Bardin, 2016; Peters, Wexler, & Lurigio, 2015). A Co-occurring condition relates to persons diagnosed with a substance abuse disorder along with major depression and schizophrenia (Peters, Wexler, & Lurigio, 2015). A person who experiences a co-occurring condition tends to relapse at a higher rate than those who do not share a co-occurring disorder (Skeem, Manchak, & Peterson, 2011). In 2018, just over one third (21%) of the Psychiatric Hospital's admissions were for comorbid diagnoses, including substance abuse disorder. One third (33%) of the patients admitted in 2019 had comorbid diagnoses, including substance use disorders. Also, males 45 years and under, rather than females, tend to experience comorbid diagnoses with substance use disorders.

Evidence suggests that better engagement in treatment for individuals with dual diagnoses of mental illness and substance abuse helps them to be better able to reintegrate into society (Zgoba, Reeves, Tamurello & Debilio, 2020). In Barbados, the Psychiatric Hospital is the leading government agency that

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[22] *Crack cocaine was the most common primary drug for clients who sought treatment at the SAF.* Marijuana and crack cocaine were the main primary drugs for clients who sought treatment in the IDRC

deals with comorbid diagnoses, including substance use. Still, other government and non-government entities providing drug treatment may lack the expertise to respond to those who require treatment for comorbid diagnoses, including substance use. Efforts to help individuals with comorbidity, including substance abuse, reintegrate into society may require investing in the appropriate training for service providers.

A notable feature in this report is males under 40 years seeking substance abuse treatment and being arrested for drug-related crimes. Eight out of every ten persons admitted for drug treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital were males between 31 and 40 years, and more than half (57.1%) of persons treated at the SAF were 40 years of age or younger. Also, males under 40 years were more likely to report the use of non-traditional substances such as ecstasy, MDMA, acid, sleepers, mushrooms, speed, and LSD during their lifetime. Regarding arrests and incarceration, just over half (54%) of the inmates receiving treatment at the IDRC prison programme were 35 years of age and under, and males under 40 years were more likely to be arrested and incarcerated [23] for drug offences. The knowledge that males under 40 years are more likely to seek treatment for substance abuse and encounter the criminal justice system suggests that these men may need help to overcome their problems with drug addiction. As such, policy makers should consider a range of non- punitive disposals for problematic drug users except where the seriousness of the offence justifies incarceration on public protection grounds for drug-related crimes.

In Barbados, marijuana continues to capture the attention of the RBPF and the Magistrates Courts. Marijuana accounts for about 90% of the drug offences recorded between 2017 and 2019[24]. Between 2017 and 2019, the primary cannabis-related crime was "Possession of Cannabis[25]", [26]while cannabis, in-plant, and compressed forms, was the drug seized mainly by the RBPF. In 2019 most of the drug-related cases adjudicated in the Magistrates Courts[27] involved cannabis offences**,** and offenders primarily receive a non-custodial sentence[28]. Regarding cocaine offences, offenders received mostly a "Fine" for "Trafficking" while a "CRD" was the primary outcome for "Possession" and "Intent to Supply". At the Supreme Court, offenders mostly received a "CRD" for "Possession" of marijuana and "Trafficking" cases involving marijuana received a custodial sentence. Officers of the Court recorded sentences of "Imprisonment" and "Fine" for the few cocaine cases tried at the Supreme Court.

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[23] Males between 20 and 39 years accounted for most persons charged and incarcerated for drug offences between 2015 and 2019.

[24] 16%, 18% % and *20% respectively*

[25] Used interchangeably with marijuana

[26] While a charge for "Possession of Cannabis" can exist on its own, it is often a predicate offence for other, more serious drug offences e.g. "Trafficking" and "Intent to Supply". This may contribute to "Possession of Cannabis" being the primary cannabis offence each year.

[27] In 2019, the Criminal Justice and Planning Unit joined the BARDIN network and submitted data on sentencing in the Magistrates and Supreme Court.

[28] Sentence outcomes included "Reprimanded and Discharged" (R&D), "Convicted, Reprimanded and Discharged" (CRD) and "Fine ''.

A considerable challenge for law enforcement in reducing marijuana-related crimes is the consumption, cultivation, and sale of cannabis (NCSA, 2020). The illegal cultivation of marijuana takes place in small fields and 'backyards' in rural areas compared to the more suburban districts and business areas. The increased vegetation in rural areas provides cover for the growth and the nurturing of cannabis plants[29]. Though cannabis is the most frequent and widely illegal drug in law enforcement, recent reclassification of marijuana by the United Nations places marijuana in a schedule of drugs that are less harmful compared to other dangerous drugs[30]. As such, efforts to reduce arrests for the consumption of cannabis would have a significant crime reduction effect insofar as it would produce a drop in the number of drug crimes that currently consist in the possession, use, or sale of cannabis.

From the sentencing data recorded by the Magistrates and Supreme court, providing offenders with a non-custodial sentence appears to be the direction of the Criminal Justice System. Reduced reliance on custodial sentencing is also reflected in the lower number of offenders incarcerated in 2019 *for* drug offences. For the period 2017 through 2019, the BPS reported a 6% decrease in incarcerations for drug offences[31], with drug possession the most common drug-related crime for which persons were incarcerated[32]. A focus on non-custodial sentences for drugs may help young people overcome the stigma of a criminal record and reduce prison population and incarceration costs. However, since a significant number of young people use[33] marijuana, an emphasis on non -custodial sentences for drug possession may have limited outcomes if the intentions of the Criminal Justice System is to deter the consumption of marijuana among young people. Bretteville-Jensen and Williams (2011) found that decriminalising cannabis in Australia and imposing a fine did not increase the number of persons who will start using marijuana but led to individuals initiating cannabis use at an early age. For example, decriminalising cannabis increased the proportion of persons who have used marijuana by age 15 by approximately 15%. Linking the imposition of a fine for marijuana to the early use of marijuana indicates that drug prevention and criminal justice practitioners should incorporate drug penalties in a broader framework of drug education, counselling, and community-based sentences.

Finally, though the trends in drug-related crimes show that a large percentage of those crimes involved marijuana, the emergence of new illicit substances such as methamphetamine[34], amphetamines[35], and

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[29] In 2019 cannabis plant seizures took place mainly in St. John and St. Andrew.

[30] A vital feature of the global response to marijuana is a recent vote by the United Nations in 2020 to remove cannabis from Schedule IV of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, where the UN previously was listed cannabis alongside dangerous and highly addictive opioids like heroin

[31] 19% ,20% and 13% respectively

[32] 61%, 60% and 50.4% respectively

[33] Current use of marijuana among adolescents 13 t0 17 years increased 5% between 2006 and 2013: Teenagers between 13 and 17 years were more than five times more likely to experiment with marijuana than students between 9 and 11 years (NCSA, 2014).

[34] A potent central nervous system stimulant that is mainly used as a recreational drug and less commonly as a second-line treatment for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and obesity

[35] A synthetic, addictive, mood-altering drug, used illegally as a stimulant and legally as a prescription drug to treat children with ADD and adults with narcolepsy

ecstasy[36] are a concern. These new illicit drugs are as dangerous as traditional illegal substances and therefore present significant risks to public health. The emergence of new illicit drugs also underscores the need for tools that identify, detect and monitor these drugs[37].

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[36] Also known as molly, it is a psychoactive drug primarily used for recreational purposes. The desired effects include altered sensations, increased energy, empathy, as well as pleasure

[37] A multidisciplinary network collects, appraises, and rapidly disseminates information on new drugs and products containing them.

8. Conclusion

Barbados continues to face the problems associated with dealing with drug use and abuse among young males under 40 years old. Unfortunately, many young males use marijuana at an early age, and its chronic use leads to a range of psychological and social problems. Intervening in males' lives at an early age is essential. An individual who uses marijuana at an early age suffers potentially harmful effects on the developing brain, reducing their ability to learn and become productive. Though males are the primary gender seeking treatment for drug-related problems, the NCSA continues to be concerned with the low number of women seeking treatment for substance abuse. Evidence exists that women who seek treatment for substance abuse cannot do so because of their inability to find caretakers for their children (Green, 2006). Information of this sort is crucial as it allows for a better understanding of drug treatment barriers among women. Currently, the NCSA has commenced a study on women's access to substance abuse treatment.

Though researchers provide substantial evidence of psychological issues linked to the chronic consumption of marijuana, recent developments in the international community have allowed for the greater exploration of the medical value of marijuana. As such, Barbados should pursue an agenda towards balancing the medical benefits of marijuana with public health and safety. Therefore, the long-term answers to the 'drug problem' may lie in more sweeping social change and penal policy. As such, the criminal justice system has a pivotal role in developing a more effective criminal justice strategy that gives precedence to reducing drug use harms, the promotion of community safety, and the integration of problem drug users into a productive life.

Impact of Data Collection Challenges on Report

The data collected for this report was subject to limitations. The lack of standardisation in age groups resulted in the inability to identify agencies' trends. Another limit to data collection is the inability to determine the extent of quality controls at participating agencies. The lack of standardisation across age groups and the quality of the data submitted for analysis are essential to collecting reliable data (OAS/CICAD, 2017). However, the NCSA recognises that the lack of standardisation and quality of data may be related to new personnel and the lack of a written agency approach to standardisation and quality control. Despite the data collection limitations, efforts were made, where possible in this report, to identify trends across participating agencies.

Recommendations for the Expansion and Improvement of BARDIN

Several recommendations are presented below for reliable data and the promotion of trend analysis.

Improve data collection & reporting

Some challenges exist in obtaining the number of drugs seized is reported primarily from the Drug Unit of the RBPF rather than police stations in general. Information on the purity of drugs is also not available

in this report. While BARDIN provides an overview of the local drug situation, there are data gaps in several areas. These include but are not limited to drug-related accidents, mortality, morbidity, drug-related money laundering and asset seizure cases, and controlled chemical substances. These gaps reduce the ability to determine the magnitude of the drug problem fully and, by extension, prevent the formulation of a comprehensive response. As such, the NCSA will increase efforts to fill these gaps and expand BARDIN's coverage.

In 2018, the NCSA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Psychiatric Hospital, the Barbados Prison Service (BPS), the Edna Nicholls Centre, the Barbados Drug Service, the Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives, the Criminal Justice Research and Planning Unit the Financial Intelligence Unit. The MOU represented a formal agreement between the NCSA and stakeholders of the BARDIN to produce requested data promptly. Overall, the MOU creates a framework to ensure data collected is reliable, comparable and can identify trends. The MOU also allowed for a revisit of data collection protocols designed to collect the appropriate data for BARDIN.

Recommendations for Enhancing the National Response to the Drug Situation

The findings of this report are the following recommendations to improve Barbados's response to drug use and substance abuse issues.

1. Drug education specialists need to increase drug education on drugs' harms, focusing on new and dangerous drugs consumed in Barbados.

2. The continued emergence of new harmful illicit substances suggests the need for a mechanism to monitor trends associated with these drugs.

3. Drug prevention practitioners should give attention to the underlying factors predisposing young people to drugs.

4. Crime prevention practitioners should work with the drug prevention specialist to develop a range of sentences focusing on community treatment for problem drug users except where the offence's seriousness justifies incarceration on public protection grounds.

5. Drug treatment specialist may require adequate training to explore and apply various modalities to reduce drug addiction stemming from polydrug use and co-occurring disorders.

6. Policy makers should consider a balanced approach to drug prevention and addiction, focusing on health and public safety.

7. Drug treatment and criminal justice practitioners should create opportunities for offenders' and non-offenders leaving drug treatment to find work.

8. There is a need for further research on the social issues linked to drug-related crime in Barbados.

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