

Substance Abuse and Criminal Behaviour Among Juvenile Offenders

A Focus Assessment Study



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Abstract

The National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA), as part of its mandate to stem the use and abuse of illegal drugs in Barbados conducted a Focus Assessment Study that examined the relationship between substance abuse and crime among juvenile offenders who are presently detained at the Government Industrial School (G.I.S).

The study was based on quantitative and qualitative approaches which involved the use of questionnaires, focus group discussions and the opinions of Key Informants who are members of National and Community organizations.

The study revealed that there exists a relationship between drug use and crime among juvenile offenders. It was also shown that behavioural problems associated with drug use may have their genesis in the social circumstances peculiar to each juvenile

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The social and behavioral impact of the use and abuse of licit and illicit substances, particularly among young people, has caused some concern to the Government of Barbados. However, to tackle problems of substance abuse there is the need to identify and quantify the nature and extent of the relationship between substance abuse and its impact on young people. Through the use of Focus Assessment Studies (FAS), valuable information can be obtained that can guide policy makers and practitioners to develop programmes responsive to the needs of young people.

The aim of the FAS, conducted by the National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) in collaboration with The United Nations Office On Drugs And Crime (UNODC), is to determine the extent of the relationship between substance abuse and crime among juvenile offenders who are presently held at the Government Industrial School (G.I.S). The study also attempts to examine the frequency and effects of drug use, the social impact of drug use and criminal behaviour on the juveniles. The overall aim is to use the collected data to formulate strategies to reduce the incidence of substance abuse and eventually crime among juvenile offenders through reducing the demand for illicit drugs.

The study used two approaches to acquire information from juveniles – a quantitative method, which involved the use of a survey of a random sample of the GIS population, followed by a qualitative approach, which involved two processes. Firstly there were in-depth interviews with groups of the GIS residents in Focus Group discussions. Secondly there were interviews with Key Informants, who are individuals from national and community organizations who are involved with the juveniles through legislative, rehabilitative or out-reach programmes.

The study revealed that juveniles were well versed in the connotation of what was considered an illegal drug and what was judged to be criminal acts. There does exist a relationship between drug use and criminal activity among the juveniles. They admitted that drug use did encourage the criminal behaviour.

Marijuana was the preferred drug and was taken to attain a high, as well as for medicinal purposes. There seem to be a disdain for cocaine, as it was perceived by the juveniles to be dangerous and addictive. It is clear that while the juveniles are aware of the destructive effects of cocaine use, they repeatedly noted that persons who use cocaine were more likely to behave aggressively and commit violent acts. Alcohol, which was also widely used, contributed to criminal activity.

There was a high use of marijuana and alcohol. Marijuana stood out as the drug of choice and the most frequently used. The combination of marijuana and alcohol use led to criminal and violent behaviour among juveniles. These activities include fighting, gang warfare, robberies, stealing, making threats of violence and violent behaviour involving the use of weapons.

The social reason behind drug use and crime was brought to the forefront as well. It should be noted that most of the charges for which the respondents are currently interned in GIS are categorized as non-violent, with wandering being the most common criminal activity, especially among the females. However, wandering places the responsibility of the juvenile to explain his or her whereabouts at the time of police contact. 'Wandering,' however does not examine the underlying social and psychological reasons for being away from home. In the discussion groups, the females in particular noted the need to use drugs to to get away from family problems, stress, sexual and verbal abuse'. This implies very serious underlying social issues behind the use of drugs and even alcohol.

It was clear by the admissions of the juveniles that the reasons behind drug use and eventual criminal behaviour may lie in the family and environmental conditions in which they live and in many cases attempting to escape from. Unfortunately, uninformed decisions lead them into circumstances, which involve drug use, deviant acts, police contact and ultimate incarceration.

There is also the issue of unemployment and the need for money. While acquisitive crimes were not as numerous, most of the respondents suggested that they did commit acquisitive criminal acts under the influence of drugs. A situation of despair was expressed by male respondents, which alluded to the need to sell drugs in cases where a person becomes unemployed.

The dynamics of family relationships, as they relate to sexual abuse and drug use within the family and the supply of drugs to minors in the home, suggests the need for more clinical social intervention strategies involving social and psychological assessments if there is to be a significant rehabilitation programme implemented for these young adults. The unreported nature of sexual and verbal abuse within the family can become a fertile ground for substance abuse, particularly for young females who are forced into contact with law enforcement agencies at an early stage in their lives when they seek to escape strained family situations.

It must be noted that the problems highlighted impact on the work of various agencies across the island. Appropriately targeted responses to the needs of young persons at risk would require a movement towards consultative partnerships with the relevant organizations involved. This would avoid duplication of effort and a more efficient use of funds.

Drug use messages which seek to address substance abuse problems should be sensitized to the complex nature of juvenile offending and its relationship to drug use. Drug use awareness messages should therefore capture the generic social, psychological and economic factors related to substance abuse.

It is apparent therefore that there needs to be a comprehensive study of the context and environmental factors which encourage drug use and crime. There should be an emphasis on the supply of illegal drugs entering Barbados. This should be done in tandem with detailed investigations into the availability and consumption of drugs and alcohol to young adults.

It must be noted that both males and females suggested that they wanted to improve their life circumstances. Some males indicated the desire to move into vocational training programmes, while the females were not sure as to the route they wanted to go. However, the reality of the social environment is one of sexual abuse, unemployment, drug dealing, drug use, violence, aggressive behaviours, suspensions, and poor school performance and school dropouts. These factors will impact on the ability of juvenile offenders or young adults to overcome these obstacles and lead productive lives.

The following are recommended to address the immediate concerns that emerge from the findings of the FAS study.

1. The results of the FAS study have to be compared and synthesized with other studies in the NCSA forum. The conclusions should be used to advise the Government on the social implications of drug use in Barbados.
2. The results of the study need to be considered by all relevant agencies to determine the nature and extent of drug use and crime among the youth of the country.
3. A consolidated effort has to be made to initiate and sustain effective communication through social, law and medical agencies to identify problems and target responses to those problems.
4. There should be efforts to investigate the family and social dynamics of juveniles 'at risk'.
5. More in-depth analysis of the individual circumstances peculiar to females incarcerated for wandering.
6. Drug education through various media should reflect the social and economic environment of juveniles.
7. Appropriately targeted treatment and rehabilitation programmes for juvenile offenders during and after incarceration must be established.
8. 'Drug demand reduction' programmes should target communities at risk.

1. BACKGROUND TO STUDY

The abuse of licit and illicit substances is a global phenomenon that can impede the human and economic development of a country. The use and abuse of drugs particularly among young people can impact on a country's sustained development through costs associated with health, crime and delinquent behaviour. The development and delivery of effective and appropriate interventions in countries experiencing drug abuse problems are therefore very dependent on understanding patterns of drug use and its relationship to health and social problems.

A Drug Abuse Epidemiological and Surveillance System Project (DAESSP) was approved in late 1999 under the 8th European Development Fund (EDF) Caribbean Regional Indicative Programme (CRIP) to respond to the problems of drug use and its associated behavioural problems in the Caribbean. One component of the project is 'Research and Development,' which focuses on the collection and dissemination of data generated through surveillance and data gathering mechanisms including the conduct of Focused Assessments Studies among high-risk groups, particularly young people. The Financing Agreement for the two-year project, which was signed by the Secretariat of the Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean, and Pacific States (CARIFORUM) and the European Commissions (EC) in January 2000, allocated funds from the EDF to the project (CARIDIN 2002).

The overall objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of the CARIFORUM governments, technical entities and regional agencies to respond to changing drug abuse patterns and trends and contribute to the abatement of drug abuse in the region. The specific purpose of the project is to establish a sound database and 'early warning' surveillance system to assist national and regional policy makers in demand reduction (CARIDIN 2002).

The United Nations Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), currently The United Nations Office On Drugs And Crime (UNOC) and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States (OAS), will provide technical assistance on the project. The UNDCP, within its Global Assessment Programme (GAP), has been assisting

countries of the region to conduct studies aimed at improving the understanding of the patterns and causes of substance abuse (CARIDIN 2002).

Such assistance was provided to Barbados through the National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) to conduct a Focused Assessment Study (FAS) on the link between substance abuse and crime among juvenile offenders. The NCSA was established in 1995 to advise on measures to eradicate or control substance abuse through programmes and projects aimed at the prevention, elimination or control of substance abuse in Barbados. A central feature of NCSA's work is to authorise, conduct and facilitate research or surveys on substance abuse.

The FAS study is meant to be a three-month project from August to November 2003. The aim of the project is to implement strategies to reduce the incidence of substance abuse and crime among juvenile offenders through reducing the demand for illicit drugs and to inform policy on treatment and prevention needs.

2. THE FAS RESEARCH PROJECT

The National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) as part of its mandate to stem the use and abuse of illegal drugs in Barbados conducted a Focus Assessment Study which examined the relationship between substance abuse and crime among juvenile offenders who are presently held at the Government Industrial School (G.I.S).

The impact of substance abuse on criminal behaviour is of particular concern to the people of Barbados. Statistics have indicated that there are growing numbers of juvenile offenders with substance abuse problems. Information revealed by the Government's main custodial detention facility for male and female juvenile offenders, the Government Industrial School, states that 70% of its population has experienced some form of substance abuse.

Reports from the Probation Department for the period 1999-2001, show that there is an increase of 53 cases or of 40% in juvenile offenders between the ages of 9 and 16. The Report on

Criminal Risk Factors, June 1997 by the National Task Force on Crime Prevention indicated that 31.8% of offenders were those within the 20-24 age group and one third or 34 % of persons in prison at the time were also juvenile offenders at the G.I.S. This suggested that a significant number of juveniles matured into adult criminals. The report also revealed as well that 31% of inmates interviewed, indicated that the desire for money was their primary reason to commit crime and 23% specified the need for money to support a drug habit. Overall the study revealed that 86% of the male inmates have used illicit drugs.

Previous research in the area of drugs and crime was based mainly on quantitative studies conducted in North America indicating that there exists some association between illicit drug use and crimes committed for material gain or predatory crimes. (Chaiken and Chaiken 1990, Sutherland and Cressey 1970). The prevailing view summarized by Grandossy et al (1980) was that drug use propelled income-producing crime primarily because addicts require money to buy drugs. This view was supported by the following findings:

- many serious offenders were drug users and had started using drugs as juveniles;
- not all drug users became addicts, but continued drug use frequently led to more serious forms of drug addiction. (Grandossy et al 1980).

Research also indicates that people who commit predatory crimes over long periods tend also to commit other crimes and to have begun their criminal careers at young ages. Similarly, people who use illicit drugs often (or in large quantities) tend to use a variety of drugs and began using drugs during adolescence (Chaiken and Chaiken 1990). However, these seemingly similar groups of persistent offenders and persistent drug users are not necessarily the same people. There was also some indication that a substantial number of casual users of heroin (non-addicts) existed, and was not heavily involved in crime (Robins et al 1980). Therefore there appears to be no simple general relation between high rates of drug use and high rates of crime. (Chaiken and Chaiken 1990).

However, the above research focused mainly on the relationship between the more addictive drug, heroin and predatory crimes. The research is limited as to the relationship of other forms of

substance abuse and other types of crime. It, however points to underlying causal factors, such as irregular employment or weak attachment to school or parents which may impact on drug use and crime among juveniles (Coomber R 1994).

There has been little research conducted in Barbados on the relationship between drugs and crime. Previous research focused mainly on quantitative studies which assesses the prevalence and use of illicit drugs and substance abuse in Barbados. These studies included the Rapid Assessment Surveys and the National School Survey which have identified alcohol, marijuana and crack cocaine as the most problematic drugs in Barbados (Green Paper on Crime Reduction 2001).

Currently, the Government of Barbados has limited treatment and rehabilitation programmes in place. Against this background, NCSA welcomes activities targeted at demand reduction and in particular the assessment of the magnitude of drug-related problems among segments of the population that are of particular risk with regard to drug use and abuse. It is foreseen that the provision of detailed information (i.e. from the focus assessment study) will facilitate the development of prevention programmes in the future.

The part of the population that has been identified by NCSA to be at risk is that of juvenile offenders. There has been some research that looked at the perceptions of drug use and drug prevention strategies by young Barbadians, between the ages of 12 to 25 (UNODC, 2002). Such research was based mainly on qualitative approaches using focus group discussions. This explored the underlying causal factors of drug use behaviours among young Barbadians.

2.1 Focus Assessment Studies

A Focus Assessment Study (FAS) is a theme-guided, multi method approach to data collection utilizing mainly qualitative research methods to investigate a particular problematic behaviour or group of behaviours amongst a target population. The Focus Assessment Study therefore allows for the use of data collection methods, which reflect the social phenomena under investigation.

The complexity of social phenomena suggests the need for mixed methodologies in research design (FAS workshop Jamaica 2003).

There is a strong suggestion within the research community that research, both quantitative and qualitative, is best thought of as complementary and should therefore be mixed in research of many kinds (Das 1983).

This emphasis has developed with the growing attention on “triangulation” in research (Yin, 1994). Triangulation is the combination of methodologies in the study of the same phenomenon. The assumption is that the effectiveness rests on the premise that the weakness in each single method will be compensated by the counter-balancing strengths of the other.

Combining research methods also has the advantage in that it enables the confirmation or corroboration of each other via triangulation. It also elaborates or develops analysis providing richer details and allows for new lines of thinking through attention to surprises or paradoxes. Rossman and Wilson (1991) argued that combining research methods is useful in areas where the complexity of phenomena requires data from a large number of perspectives. In addition, some researchers there have argued for combining research methods in areas where the complexity of the phenomena requires a large number of perspectives, Clarke and Yaros (1988) or in cases which necessitates social interventions such as preventative programmes which may require the broad spectrum of qualitative and quantitative methods. (Baum 1995; Steckler et al, 1992).

3. PURPOSE OF RESEARCH

The purpose of the proposed research is to conduct a FAS on the relationship between substance abuse and crime among juvenile offenders. The specific objectives of the proposed research are to determine:

- The frequency of drug use among juvenile offenders;
- The nature and type of offences committed by juvenile offenders who use drugs;

- The social impact of drug use and criminal behaviour among juvenile offenders;
- The relationship between drug use and criminal behaviour among juvenile offenders

4. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Different approaches were used to address the objectives of the research into the relationship between drug use and crime. The subject of the research was the juvenile population currently at GIS. The approaches were based on quantitative and qualitative methods.

4.1 The Quantitative Approach

The quantitative approach comprised a survey of a random sample of forty juveniles from the GIS population of fifty-two juveniles held at the facility. Questionnaires containing both closed and open-ended questions were used to obtain data on the demographic profiles of each participant (Appendix I). The participants responded to the questions during ‘face to face’ dialogues. The data collected was used for a statistical analysis of the population under study. The forty respondents included twenty-two girls and eighteen boys. The topics covered in the questionnaires included: personal, educational and family history; criminal history; drug use; alcohol use; perceptions on drugs and crime; and effects of drug use on their actions. The questionnaires were used to obtain demographic and biographical data and other information which was used to guide qualitative discussions.

4.2 The Qualitative Method

The qualitative method was based on in-depth interviews through Focus Group discussions and Key Informants interviews. The participants of the Focus Group discussion were chosen from the GIS population and were purposely selected based on age and gender. There were twenty-three participants of which twelve were females and eleven were males. The groups were separated in two female, both six participants each, and two males, with six and five respondents in the groups. Structured questions were asked based on drugs, alcohol, crime and perceptions of

drug use and criminal activity (Appendix II). The participants were monitored but were allowed to give their opinions and discuss the topics. Their comments were used to attempt to understand the underlying factors associated with drug use among the juveniles. Group moderators' comments were noted and taken into consideration in the analysis.

4.3 Key Informants

Key Informants were official representatives of social agencies who work closely with young offenders with the aim of changing deviant behaviour through specific rehabilitative and outreach programmes. For the purpose of this study, Key Informants were separated into two groups, national and community institutions. National institutions were defined as those institutions that were mandated under an Act of Parliament to carry out specific interventionist work in the form of enforcement or prevention with juvenile offenders. Community institutions were defined as those institutions who, although not specifically mandated under an Act of Parliament to work with juvenile offenders may become involved in specific community and outreach programmes targeted at juvenile offenders. There were four (4) national and three (3) community Key Informants interviewed, and are listed under the section 'Observations of Key Informants'. Semi-structured interviews were used to obtain information and opinions from representatives from the Key Informants' institutions, who would have observed the behaviours of young adults who would have used substances (Appendix III).

The observations of key informants were presented in the following manner:- definitions and perceptions of substance abuse, the most problematic drugs used by young adults, the impact of drug use among young adults, the relationship between drugs and crime and recommendations to tackle drug use among young adults.

Note, all information collected was held in strict confidence. Efforts were made to secure the data and the confidentiality of the participants throughout the duration of the FAS.

5. LIMITATION OF STUDY

The quantitative study used a randomly chosen population of 40 juveniles, who as the survey revealed had very similar experiences. The size of the population limited the determination of statistical relationships within the study, as a number of the subset categories were so small it reduced the sample size to an insignificant number.

There were some limitations to the use of focus group discussions. Some juveniles may have found it difficult to talk about personal issues in a group and could have “censored” their contributions to avoid repercussions. The opposite was possible as well where some of the participants may have tried to make themselves appear more entrenched in illegal activities than their peers. It was felt that some of this exaggeration might have occurred during these sessions. In this context, peer influence may have acted to inhibit discussion.

The heavy dependence on collecting data based on verbal behaviour was complex and difficult to analyze and interpret. In addition, the success of the Focus groups discussion was an intrusion into the private lives of the young offenders, the success of focus group interviews therefore depended on the extent to which this intrusion was allowed by participants.

Also, since the study was limited to the population at GIS, the data is limited to the views of a very small and harmonized group who may or may not be representative of the youth of Barbados.

6. RESULTS OF THE QUANTITATIVE STUDY

The following is the analysis of the statistics from the answered questionnaires. The result tables are displayed in Appendix IV.

6.1. Personal History

6.1.1. Age

The respondents ranged in ages from 13 to 18 years old, with an average age of 15 years. Fifteen years was also the average age for both the male and female groups. 75.0% (30) of the population was 15 years old or older. The youngest and oldest respondents were both females. (Table 1)

6.1.2 Parents

Twenty-seven or 67.5% of the respondents came from single parent homes. The female respondents were the larger part of the population from single parent homes at 37.5%, while the males made up the larger part of the population who were from two parent families at 30.0%. (Table 2)

6.1.3 Education

All the juveniles spent some years at school with 82.5% of the respondents having more than 10 years of schooling. This puts them in the fourth and fifth form age group. Only 9 or 22.5% of the respondents responded to 'having or in the process of attaining' CXC accreditation. Four of the nine respondents or 44.4% of the respondents were male and five respondents or 55.6% of the population was female. This statistic suggests the possibility of a large drop out rate. A total of 75.0% of the juveniles were older than 15 years old and of the age to be preparing for CXC examinations. (Table 3 and 4.)

6.2 Criminal History

6.2.1 First Crime: Age and Criminal Activity

The youngest respondent admitted to committing a violent crime at 7 years old. Figure 1 illustrates the distribution ages of when the respondents admitted to committing their first crime. The ages range from 7 to 15 years old. The average age is 12 years old, with a total of 35.0% of respondents committing their first crime between 12 and 14 years old. The average age for the male respondents was also 12 years old and the average age was 13 years old for the females (Table 5).

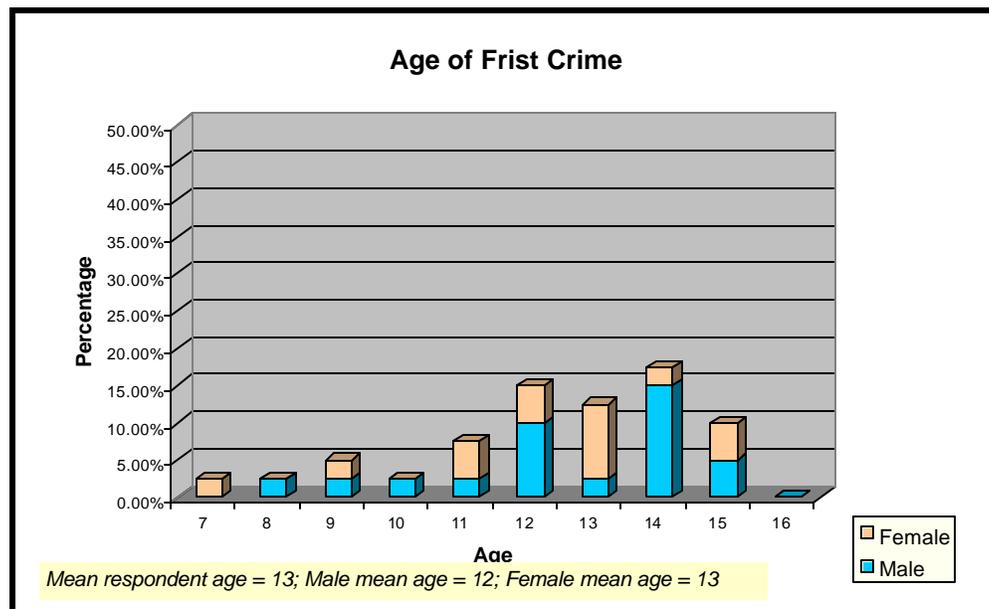


Figure 1. The distribution of age of first crime of the respondents, both male and female

First time criminal activity ranged from wandering, to fights with the police. Criminal activities were sub-divided into categories of 'Non-violent', 'Acquisitive', 'Violent' and 'Drug' offenses and are defined in Appendix IV, (Table 6). The majority of the criminal activity was in the non-violent category. 62.5% of the juveniles gave their first time criminal activity as non-violent, while 22.5% were described as violent. Acquisitive and drug related crimes accounted for 10.0% and 2.5% respectively of the first time criminal activity (Table 7).

Crimes admitted to by the female respondents fell into two categories that are non-violent and violent crimes. They dominated the non-violent category at 47.5% of the respondents (Figure 2). Wandering was the most common non-violent crime for the females, while fighting was the most common violent activity.

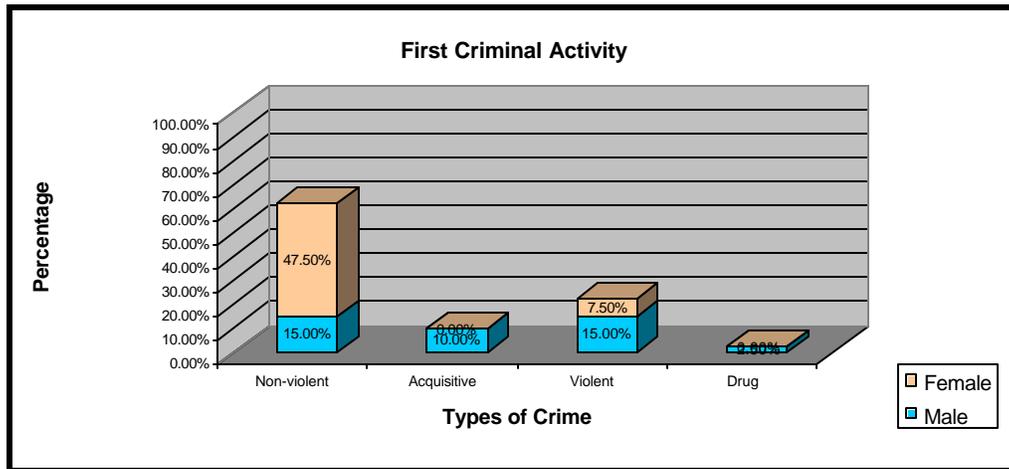


Figure 2. First time criminal activity.

The males who admitted to crimes that were distributed as follows: 15.0% each non-violent and violent crimes, 10.0% for acquisitive crimes and 2.5% for drug related crimes. Wandering and making threats were the most common non-violent crimes. Fighting was the most committed violent crime.

6.2.2 G.I.S.: Age Committed, Criminal Activity and Repeat Offending

No respondent was committed to GIS under the age of 10 years old. The majority, 47.5% of the juveniles were first committed to GIS between the ages of 13 to 14 (Table 8). The highest percentage of females was in the '13 to 14' age group (22.5%). The highest percentage of males (17.5%) was committed between the ages 15 to 16 years.

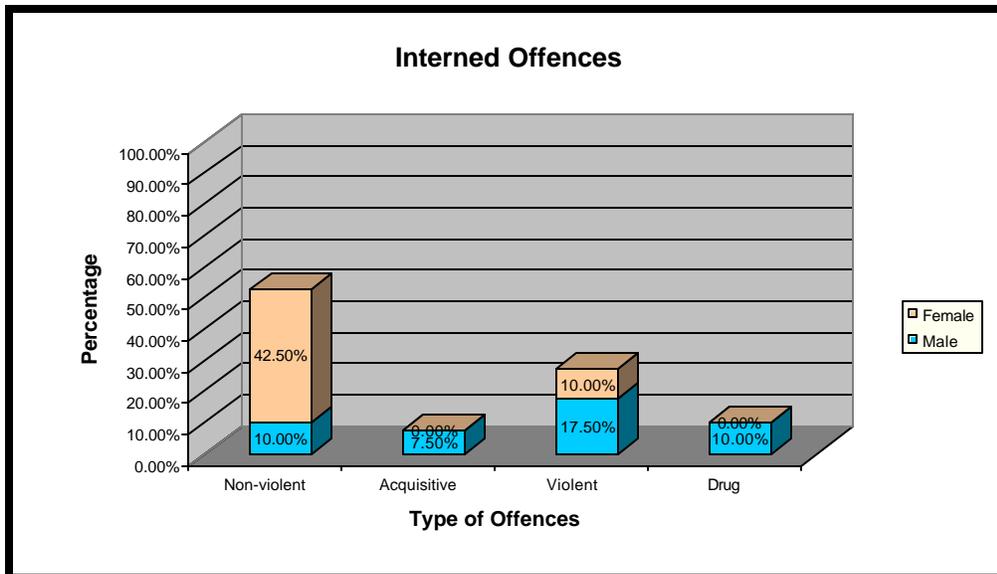


Figure 3. Categories of offences for which respondents were interned at GIS

Non-violent crimes were the largest category of criminal activity at 52.5% (Figure 3). Acquisitive crime was 7.50%. The responses to violent crimes accounted for 27.5% and drugs crime were 10.0% (Table 9).

Wandering made up the largest number of responses for non-violent crimes. In this category female represented 42.5% of the population. No females were interned for acquisitive or drug related crimes.

All drug related crimes (10.%) and acquisitive crimes (7.5%) were admitted to by the males.

The respondents indicated that 75% of them were repeat offenders at GIS. Thirty percent (30.0%) were on their second internment and 10.0% were committed to GIS on 4 or more occasions. A highest percentage of repeat offenders were females (45.0%), while males represented 30.0%.

6.3 Social Environment

6.3.1 Family Criminal Activity

Forty percent (40.0%) of the respondents said that they have family members who were committed to GIS or to prison at some point in time. Fathers, mothers, sisters and brothers were considered as immediate family. 17.5% of respondents have had immediate family at GIS and 22.5% had immediate family in prison. Relatives were considered to be cousins, uncles or aunts. Juveniles who had relatives in GIS account for 22.5% of the respondents and 25.0% of them had relatives who were in prison. (Table 11: A and B).

6.3.2 Friends Criminal Activity

82.0% of the respondents had friends who were committed to GIS. 30.0% of them admitted that their friends were committed for violent crimes, while 20.5% said their friend crimes were non-violent (Table 12). The males accounted for more of friends (22.5%) with violent crimes, while the females admitted to more friends in the non-violent category (15.0%). (Tables 13 A and B)

6.4. Drug Use

6.4.1 Drug Use and Drug Choice

Drug use appears to be a significant part of the respondents' lifestyle. 92.5% of the respondents admitted to drug use (table 14). Only three of the respondents, all female said they did not use drugs. Eighty percent of the juveniles use marijuana and 5.0% admitted to using cocaine. This distribution was also similar for both the male (37.0% marijuana, 2.50% cocaine) and female (42.5% marijuana, 2.50% cocaine) respondents (Table 15).

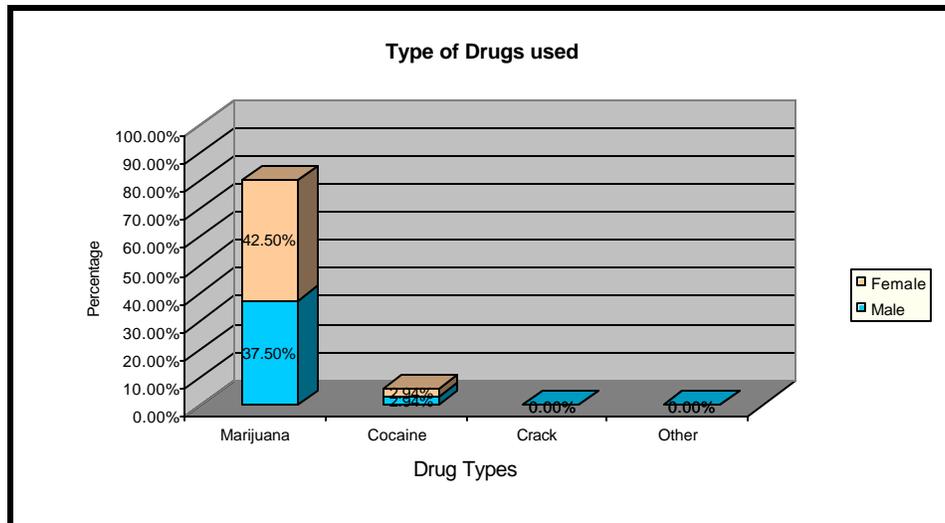


Figure 4 Drugs of choice

6.4.2 Reason for Drug Use, Frequency of Use and Use with Friends

The reasons for drug use was varied but were separated into six categories, ‘Don’t know’, ‘the High’, ‘Medicinal’, ‘Habit’, ‘Preference’, and ‘Peer pressure’ (Table 16). ‘The High’ was the most common reason for using drugs (Figure 5). 32.5% of the respondents said they use drugs to attain a high (a good feeling). Fifteen percent of the respondents and has a ‘preference’ for drugs and in particular marijuana. “Clears head” and “A habit” was the response inferred by 12.5% and 10.0% of the respondents respectively. Only 5 (12.5%) respondents, all female, did not know why they used drugs. A few of the respondents inferred that the use of cocaine had adverse effects on peoples’ mind.

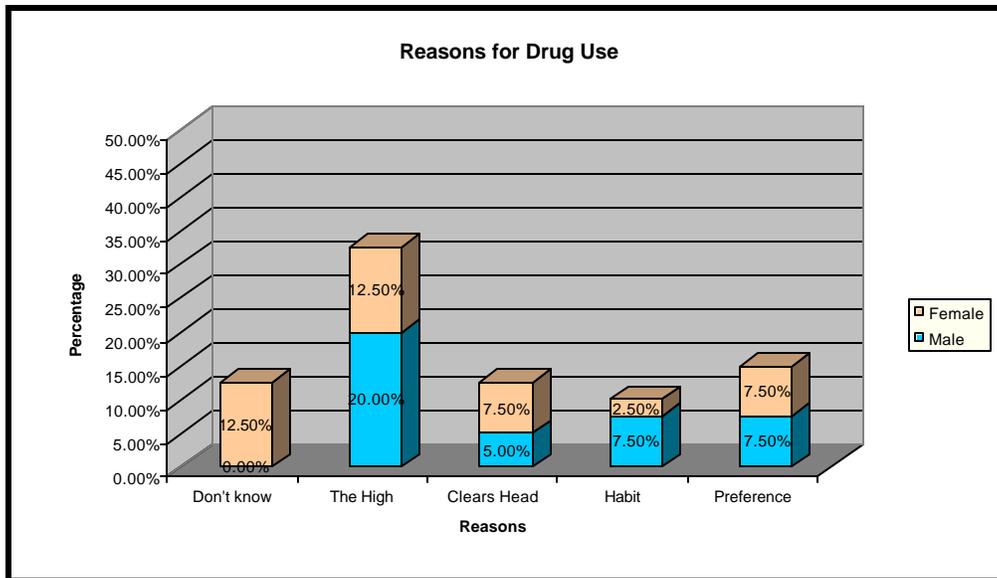


Figure 5 Reason for drug use among respondents

Fifty percent of the respondents use drugs daily. 17.5% used drugs occasionally, 12.5% weekly and 5.0% monthly (Table 18). As shown in figure 6 the responses from both male and female juveniles were high for daily use, which accounted for 27.5% and 22.5% of the respondents.

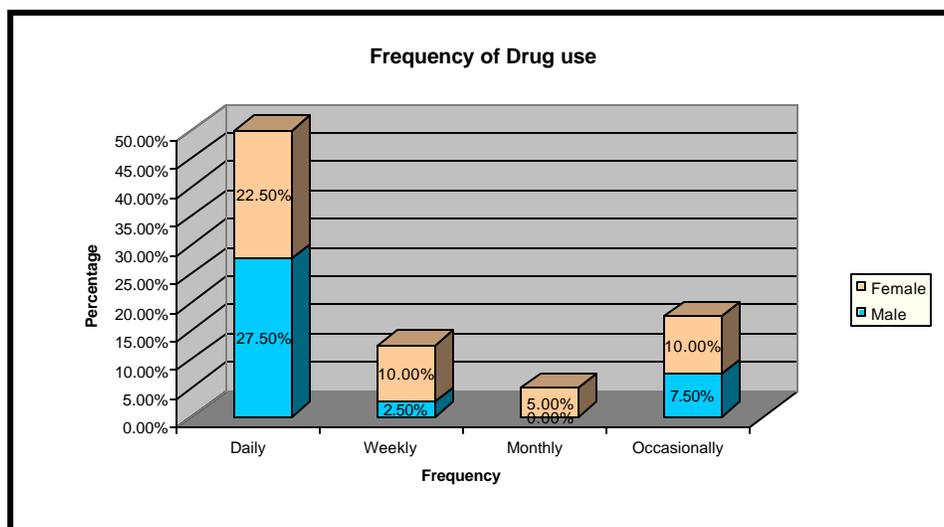


Figure 6 Frequency of use among the respondents.

There is strong evidence that drug use was a group activity given that 75.0% of the respondents use drugs with the friends, who also have a preference for marijuana Table 19 A and B).

6.5 Alcohol Use

6.5.1. Alcohol Use, Choice and Frequency of Use

A large percentage of the respondents admitted to alcohol use. 82.5% of the respondents use alcohol, and 32.5% of them on a daily basis. The preferred types of alcohol varied and is categorized a 'Below six percent alcohol content', 'Above six percent alcohol content' and "All types", see Table 20. Males had a greater preference for all types of alcohols at 17.5%, while the highest frequency of alcohol use among the females (20.0%) was in the low alcohol content category (Figure 7).

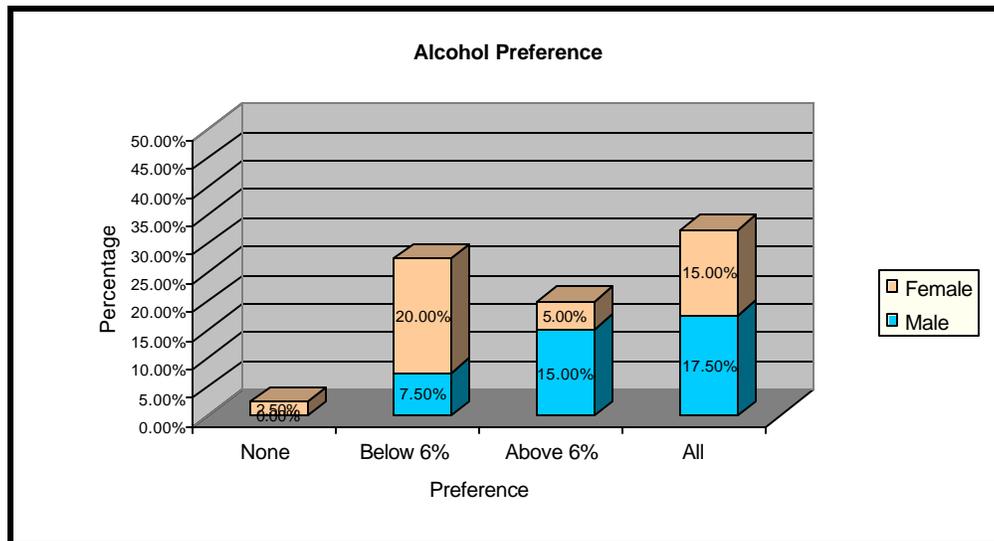


Figure 8 Preference of alcohol

Daily use of alcohol was also among respondents at 32.5%. Similar to the frequency of drug use, the occasional use of alcohol was next at 30.0%, next was weekly use at 17.5% and monthly use was 7.5%. Daily use was high with both male and female respondents, at 17.0% and 15.0% respectively. Occasional use was the response from 17.5% of the males and 12.5% of the females.

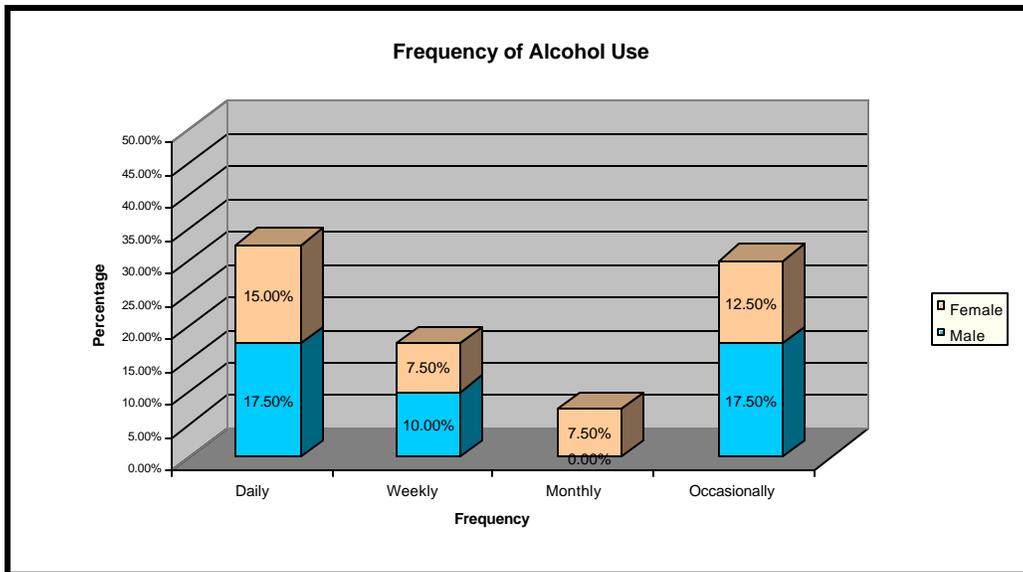


Figure 9 Frequency of alcohol use

6.6. Perspective on Drug and Crime

6.6.1 Drugs and Alcohol Use as it Relates Crime

Thirty five percent of the respondents believe that persons who use drugs do it for the high. 27.5% did not have a reason for why people use drugs, while 20.0% said it was for medicinal reasons. Five percent introduced peer pressure as a reason for people using drugs (Table 24).

The respondents believed that drugs and alcohol do cause people to commit crime. 45.0% believed that drugs alone would drive person to crime, while 35.0% stated that both drug and alcohol use led to crime. Fifteen percent related alcohol use only to crime (Table 25).

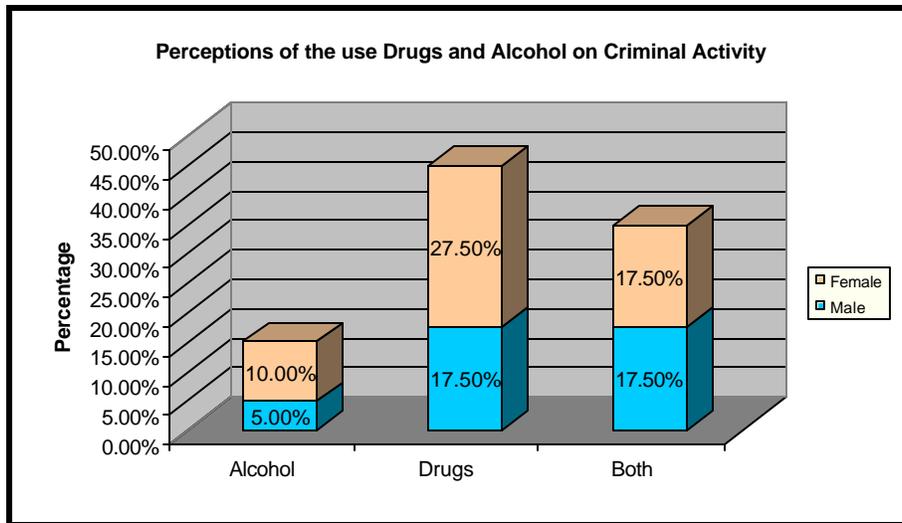


Figure 10 Perceptions of Drugs and Alcohol use as a cause of Criminal Activity

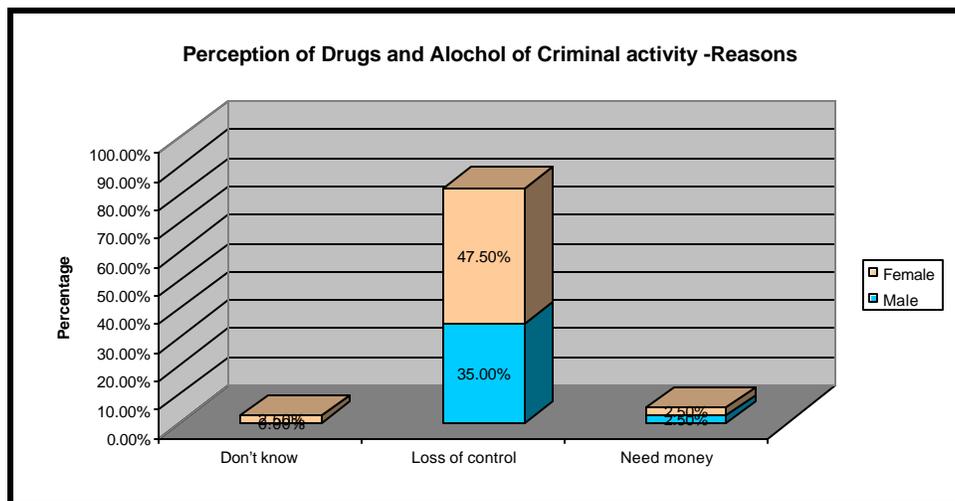


Figure 11 Response to causes of crimes under the influence of drugs

The reason for crimes committed under the influence was attributed 'loss of control' given by 82.5% of the respondents (Table 26). The 'need for money' was the reason given by 5.0% of the respondents and 2.5% said they 'Don't know'. (Figure 11)

6.7 Availability of Drugs

The respondents stated that they obtained drugs from a variety of sources, including growing their own plants (5.0%). Forty five percent obtained their drugs from dealers. 12.5% said they got drugs on the block. 10.0% got drugs from family and another 10.0 % from friends (Table 27).

85.0% of the respondents noted that drugs were easy to obtain, and as the choices of drugs suggest, marijuana was the easiest drug to obtain (Table 29).

6.8 Problems Associated With Drugs

Eighty percent (80.0%) of the respondents admitted to experiencing problems associated with their drug use.

The majority of the respondents, 50.0% (20) said they got into fights, 45.0% (18) said they threaten violence and had problems with school works. Getting into arguments was one of the problems noted by 42.5% (7) of the respondents. 40.0% (16) were issued warnings from the police, while 22.5% (9) were actually arrested and 25.0% (10) were arrested and charged. 17.5% (7) of them sited health problems, and 15.0% (6) lost friends. (Figure 12)

Note that the respondents admitted that there does exists some tendency toward violent behaviour while under the influence of drugs, even when the drug is marijuana.

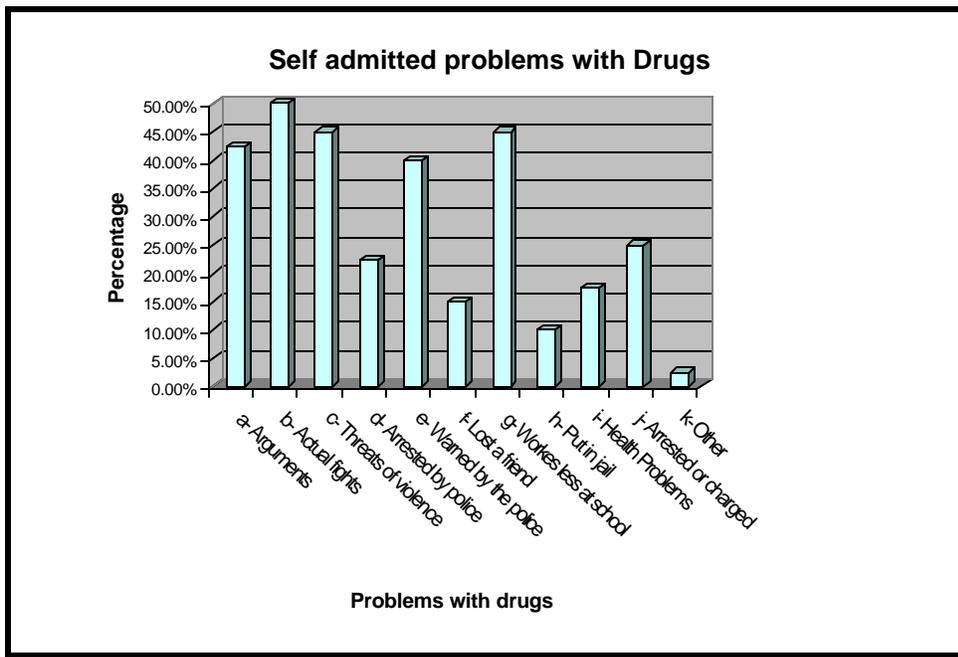


Figure 12. The distribution of drug related problem admitted to by the juveniles.

7. RESULTS OF FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

The following are the responses from the Focus Group discussions on the topics, illegal drugs, alcohol, crime, the relationship between drug use and crime and behaviour related to drug use. Specific questions were asked of the discussion groups, which were divided into four groups, two female and two male.

7.1 ILLEGAL DRUGS	
<i>I. Opinion on illegal drugs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The respondents acknowledged that substances deemed as unlawful for use by law were considered illegal drugs or as “drugs that the law does not accept”. b. Among the substance they noted as illegal drugs included marijuana, cocaine, ecstasy, crack cocaine and heroin. c. There was a consensus that cocaine was dangerous and that marijuana “was not harmful” and should not be considered an illegal drug. d. Females felt that marijuana should not be seen as an illegal drug until it was abused e. In general the respondents noted that their friends had similar opinions to them on drugs. Their friends did not consider marijuana harmful. It was also stated that their friends’ thought that cocaine in the form of dope was “bad, 100%”, and “since it damages your brain cells and “people who use cocaine are foolish”.
<i>II. Why drugs are so popular</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The answers of the respondents centered on the popularity of marijuana use rather than on all illegal drugs. The females and males had different opinions on the popularity of marijuana use. b. The females believed the marijuana was popular for its medicinal and relaxing properties. They noted that “you smoke to relax your head” and “you used herb tea to get rid of asthma” or “used weed for a cold”. This opinion was reflected in the quantitative analysis which shows a higher percentage of the females said they use marijuana because it “clears their head”. c. The males however suggested that the reason for popularity of marijuana was that “<i>it is easy to obtain and that they like the high it gave them.</i>” Again this response agrees with the statistics, which shows that males predominantly use drugs for the high and also showed marijuana to be the most readily obtainable drug.
<i>III Why people use illegal drugs?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The answers were gender driven where females noted drugs were used to deal with social and personal problems, and the males the use of drugs was for a high. b. The females suggested that people use illegal drugs to be rebellious, to get away from family

	<p>problems, stress, sexual and verbal abuse, out of curiosity and to have fun.</p> <p>The males noted that people use drugs mainly “to cool your head”, and “they like the high it gives them.”</p>
7.2 ALCOHOL	
<i>IV. Is alcohol a drug?</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The answers were mixed with no definite consensus. Some considered alcohol a drug while others described alcohol as not being a drug. b. Females were divided as to whether alcohol is a drug. One female suggested that alcohol was “not a drug but a sweet drink” while another reported “that alcohol has no effect.” c. Males generally viewed alcohol as a drug. One male noted that alcohol makes you feel numb and another said that “..... alcohol makes you do negative things.”
<i>V. Can alcohol be harmful?</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The majority of respondents believed alcohol to be harmful. They actually noted that alcohol was addictive and damaged the liver. b. Females were less responsive to the question as to the harmfulness of alcohol. One did note, “It makes your liver like a sponge”. c. The males were more certain that alcohol can be harmful by suggesting, “It ruins your liver, it can be addictive”, “It eats your liver, gives you the shakes”, and “It makes you do foolishness.” d. Both male and female respondents admitted having used alcohol.
<i>VI. Why do people use alcohol?</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The responses were almost identical to the same on drugs, where females sited problems for use of alcohol and males believed the use of alcohol was for to attain a high. b. Females suggested that people got a good feeling when using alcohol and it helped them to forget problems. c. The males believe people mix alcohol with marijuana to get a better high. The males also believe that people use alcohol for fun and pleasure.
7.3 CRIME	
<i>VII. What in your opinion is a crime?</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The respondents were fully aware of the definition of crime.

	<p>b. The females defined a crime as “not abiding by the law” which includes acts, such as stealing, murder and <i>possession of weed</i>. The females went on to describe crime through their own experiences and alluded to stealing and robberies.</p>
7.4 DRUGS AND CRIME	
<i>VIII. Do you think people who use drugs commit crimes?</i>	<p>b. The majority of respondents agreed that persons who use illegal drugs do commit crime, and was more likely to commit crime when using cocaine. However, a few noted that drugs were not necessarily a catalysis for committing criminal acts.</p> <p>c. Females distinguished between the influence of smoking marijuana and using cocaine. “When you are dealing with <i>girls in silver skirts</i> you must steal but weed does have you on a meditation” and “People who smoke don’t kill”. Females also indicated, “it has to do with personality” and “if you can’t handle it, it would have more effect on you”.</p> <p>d. A female respondent argued “everybody commits crimes at some point in time”, while a male respondent noted that drug use did not influence whether or not he committed a crime. He went on to state <i>‘drugs or no drugs when I g’ing brek a house, I will brek it.’</i></p>
<i>IX. What types of crimes are committed by persons who use drugs?</i>	<p>a. Respondents used their personal experiences to answer this question rather than give a direct opinion on other persons’ actions under the influence of drugs.</p> <p>b. Females reported stealing, rape, murder, revenge, assisting in robberies as the main crimes committed by persons who use drugs. One female reported, “ I would give the tourist directions and steal from them”.</p> <p>c. The males said that drugs can make them rob and steal. All acknowledged that drugs can make a person steal.</p> <p>d. The males went on to suggest that there is a connection between criminal activity, unemployment and personal needs. They stated that drugs “can make you steal to survive if you loose your job”; “they (persons) steal money or items to sell.” or “(they) rob people, snatch chains, stick up people with guns and swords.”</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. The males also associated crime with the use of cocaine. The males argued, “Abusers steal, break houses and live like vagrants”. f. However one male reported that he steals about once per week to buy herb (marijuana). While another reported that “all drugs make you steal”.
<p><i>X. Why do you think people who use drugs commit crimes?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The respondents reiterated their own experiences. However, in this case they were more graphic in the acknowledgment that they were more aggressive when they use drugs. b. The general theme was that drugs influences your perceptions and your behaviour, thus making one more inclined to criminal activity. c. The responses from the females include; “when drugs get to your head you don’t know what you are doing, after the crime is committed you don’t feel anything, <i>anyway your conscience is dead.</i> Your conscience tells you not to do the drug but you do it anyway.” Also, “you feel as though no one can stop you. You would do what you want.” and “It causes me to <i>get aggressive and beat up police</i>”. They went on to note; “... marijuana or cocaine will give the person a boost to criminal activity as appose to if the person was not taking anything.” They added, “It is a combination of drugs and alcohol” which lead to crime, and that peer pressure and provocation from others can cause people who use drugs to commit crimes. d. The males gave a greater indication of the relationship drug use may have with violent crimes. e. Their responses were as follows: “(drugs make them) see themselves as kings and invincible.”; “Cocaine makes you violent”; “Alcohol and marijuana makes you hyper, makes you want to kill somebody.” And “<i>When you hyper you would take a man easy or chop him up</i>”. Also one male noted, “Some sell weed at school to make money”.
<p><i>XI. Are people who use drugs more aggressive?</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Again the majority agreed that people were more aggressive under the influence, and particularly if provoked. b. The females suggested that drugs change your personality, as in speaking louder, making threats,

	<p>becoming agitated and vexed quickly. One stated, “Sometimes with the drugs and your personality you may get aggressive and hit your mother, something you may never do in your right mind”.</p> <p>c. The males agreed, “yes, it can make you aggressive if you can’t take the drug.” And “Smoking and drinking leads to fighting, alcohol makes you do foolishness”. And as suggested in the quantitative analysis they noted a ‘loss of control by stating; “yes, you can’t control yourself, you curse people.”</p>
<p><i>XII. Are people who use drugs more violent?</i></p>	<p>a. The respondents generally believed that people who use drugs are more violent.</p> <p>b. The continuing response from the respondents in the group discussions about cocaine use was that it made people more violent compared to the use of marijuana.</p> <p>c. Some of the comments included: “they (drugs) give you the feeling to injure someone.” “They (drugs) might not threatened to use weapons but if you are high you may be provoked to use a weapon”.</p> <p>d. Females suggested; “yes, the cocaine user is more likely to react first, because cocaine has a different effect on people.”</p> <p>e. The males also agreed, “Cocaine makes you violent”.</p>
<p><i>XIII. Has drug use affected your school performance?</i></p>	<p>a. The question was posed to all the participants and the answer was ‘yes’. In most cases drug use led to suspension from school.</p>

The results from the focus group discussions tended to reflect much of what was noted in the quantitative part of the analysis. The qualitative analysis highlighted the following points:

- There is a relationship between drug use and criminal activity.
- Marijuana was the preferred drug and was taken to attain a high, as well as for medicinal purposes.
- Cocaine was comprehensively perceived as dangerous, addictive and prone to lead to violent behaviour.
- Alcohol use was also thought to contribute to a loss of control and together with marijuana resulted in criminal activity, some of which may be violent.

Note that while most of the respondents were committed to GIS for non-violent activity and perceived marijuana as a 'relaxing, clears the head' type of drug, it was by their own admission that they committed violent acts when they use marijuana. Also, while they may not acknowledge it, their actions maybe the gateway to more violent criminal activity.

8. OBSERVATIONS OF KEY INFORMANTS

National Key Informants were selected from The Probation Department; The Psychiatric Hospital, The Government Industrial School (G.I.S); The Royal Barbados Police Force (RBPF) and The Teen Challenge (Drug Rehabilitation Centre). Community informants were selected from the Ministry of Education (Division of Youth Affairs) and The Community Development Department, the Ministry of Social Transformation.

8.1 National Key Informants

National key informants noted that substance abuse was not just a matter of using a substance but using that substance to one's detriment. Senior Psychiatric Hospital staff defined substance abuse as:

“People who misuse a substance to the point where it effects their function on various levels including psychological, emotional, physical and interferes with their social interactions.” Senior Staff Officer, Psychiatric Hospital November 2003.

The most commonly used drugs identified by key national informants which caused behavioural problems were marijuana, alcohol and cocaine.

National key informants offered a number of reasons for drug use among young adults. Some of these reasons were associated with social and psychological problems within the home and peer pressure. Personnel from the Teen Challenge note:

“The progression of dysfunctional family has caused persons to become involved in illegal drugs. Individuals are saying that they are not receiving love from their families and so they “hangout” with fiends who accept them. To be further accepted they maybe involve with using drugs which you may have to do to be considered part of the group.” Senior staff member, Teen Challenge November 2003.

The representative of the Government industrial School made special mention of the offence “Wandering”. He notes that this offence applies to situations where “a child is found without proper guardianship”. He explains that there must be a deeper search into the reasons for Wandering since a decision that a child takes to run way from home is the most serious decision that anybody can make. The GIS official further adds:

“When you go to the background of a child’s life and you get the family dynamics and everything else that would have impacted on that you will find drugs coming up because for whatever reason there is a high tolerance of drug use. Then there are situations where peer pressure, children get into the subculture and into different groups where there are drugs.” Senior Official G.I.S. November 2003.

National key informants also acknowledged that drug use can alter a person’s behaviour to the point where it effects school performance and can lead to violent acts. The Probation Department official notes:

“The use of drugs alters a person’s mind therefore he or she can become restless and can result in a fall-off in their grades. The individual becomes agitated easily because he or she is unable to manage their anger and this can result in violent acts.” Senior Probation Officer November 2003.

National key informants of the Government Industrial School and the Probation Department argued that to successfully tackle substance abuse problems among young adults would require clear policies and an umbrella body to coordinate social policies targeting young adults. Such policies should include more in-depth approaches to treatment and rehabilitation. The probation department official noted:

“...There is more in-depth scope for the prevention of drug abuse in Barbados. There is need for a rehabilitation center where personnel such as doctors, psychiatrists and social workers are placed.” Probation Officer November 2003.

The senior G.I.S official suggests that a more holistic response to social intervention strategies will require an interagency approach based on collaboration and partnerships to avoid duplication of effort and wastage of funds. The G.I.S official noted:

“The weakness of our juvenile justice system is interagency collaboration. There are several agencies doing almost the same thing” and further added:

“A disproportionate number of persons are sent here under circumstances where they could be sent somewhere else.” Senior Official Government Industrial School. November 2003.

National Key Informants also note that marijuana and alcohol are the drugs that create the most problems for young people.

8.2 Community Key Informants

Community informants generally defined drugs as substances that can alter a person’s mind where they can lose control and become involve in aggressive and violent behaviour. Community informants note that drug use can cause agitation and difficulties in focusing on tasks and become complacent to the point where there is a lack of interest in schoolwork.

Community informants note that the type of violent behaviours associated with drug use were fighting, an increase in the use of weapons to protect themselves, gang warfare, the possession of guns, murder, stealing, prostitution and reckless driving. The drugs that are causing the most behavioural problems for young offenders were cocaine, marijuana and alcohol. Community informants also suggested that the simultaneous use of alcohol and marijuana have led to aggressive behaviour and violent acts among young adults. Community informants also note that the reasons for drug use are to be found in peer pressure, lack of parental guidance, the desire to try something new and the inability to stop the transshipment of drugs into Barbados.

9. ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

The Focus Assessment Study of the juveniles at the Government Industrial School was conducted in two parts, a quantitative analysis centred on the demographics of a random population and a qualitative analysis that utilized the focus group discussions.

The juveniles appeared to be well versed in the connotation of what was considered an illegal drug and what was judged to be criminal acts. This was brought out mainly in the focus group discussions that asked these questions directly.

Marijuana stood out as the most common and frequently used drug in both the quantitative and qualitative sessions. There was also a high use of alcohol. The majority of the respondents (92.5%) use drugs and (82.5%) alcohol (Table 15). Thirty or 75.0% of the juveniles use both drugs and alcohol and 28.0% admitted to the use of both on a daily basis. (Table 18)

Marijuana was the preferred drug. The survey showed that marijuana was used by 80% of the juveniles and in their words; it was relatively easy to obtain (Figure 5, Table 16). The popular reason for using marijuana was to get 'high' or to 'relax or get a 'clear head'. Many of the females used 'herb' or marijuana for its medicinal properties. It was their opinion that marijuana should be a legalized drug and saw no harm in using it. The male respondents in the discussions group suggested that the popularity of marijuana use was due its easy availability. The sources for marijuana were varied and numerous. The main sources were from dealers or from the 'block', while many got drugs from family and friends. A few even grew their own plants. In reference into why people in general use drugs, the majority of the respondents again agreed drugs use was primarily to get 'high'. It should be noted that a few did interject the notion that drug use was induced by peer pressure and the need to escape family and social problems. The latter will be addressed later in the discussion.

Alcohol use as previously noted was very regular among the participants as well. Almost one third of the respondents use alcohol on a daily basis (Figure 9, Table 8). Their preferred types of alcohol were varied and were possibly driven by their opinions on alcohol as a drug. Mainly

female respondents said that alcohol had no effect on them and was more of a 'soft drink'. As seen from the survey (table 22), more of the females chose the milder alcoholic beverages. The males preferred the stronger alcoholic drinks, which they said, had a numbing effect and made them more aggressive. Yet others suggested that alcohol was also used to get 'high', especially when used to enhance the effects of drugs, and in particular marijuana. The combination of drugs and alcohol was professed to have volatile effects as well. In the discussion the respondents said that they were more prone to criminal activity and sometimes violence when they used marijuana and alcohol. In both the qualitative and quantitative sessions it was strongly suggested that a combination of these substances led to crime. The respondents were all fully aware of the harmful effects of alcohol on both the body and mind, noting that alcohol causes serious damage to the liver, gave one the 'shakes' and was highly addictive. But it was also evident that these young people, despite being aware of the long-term effects of alcohol and drugs, they were still leaning towards use of these substances as an escape or support in their day-to-day existence.

The general conclusion by Key Informants particularly those representing the probation department, psychiatric hospital and Teen Challenge was that the most problematic cases were those which involved the use of marijuana. The above agencies also suggested that drug use could result in violent criminal behaviours.

Cocaine was seen as "dangerous" and a "stupid" drug to use. It is clear that while the young people are aware of the destructive effects of cocaine use they repeatedly noted that persons who use cocaine were more likely to behave aggressively and commit violent acts.

There was a strong suggestion that drug use adversely impacted on school performance. Only nine or 22.0% of the juveniles have attempted or are currently in preparation for the CXC examinations. Problems with schoolwork were the second most sited problem related to drug use. Thirteen of the twenty respondents who admitted to daily drugs said it had an effect on their school performance. In the discussion group the question was again raised and they again said that drug use did result in problems at school including suspensions. Key Informants also noted that drug use could slow down or make young people complacent and can have a negative impact on school performance.

The study has indicated that there is a relationship between substance abuse and crime. The focus group discussions indicated that the juvenile offenders who used marijuana by their own admission experienced behavioural problems and drugs was instrumental in some of their criminal acts.

Criminal activity was categorized in terms of nonviolent, violent, acquisitive, and drug crime. The small population and the fact that the greater number of crimes committed were in the non-violent category made it difficult to determine a conclusive relationship between drug use and types of criminal activity (Table 9). However, when directly asked about the effects of drug use on their lives, the responses did reveal drugs did cause the juveniles to be involved in arguments, fights, and led to arrests and charges. Of the 40 persons who participated in the survey, 32 or 80.0% reported that they have experienced one or more problems directly related to their drug use. These problems included arrests, fights, threats of violence, warnings from the police, problems with schoolwork and health problems. The most common problem was fights, where 20 juveniles said they were involved in fights while under the influence of drugs (Figure 11).

The focus group discussions revealed a propensity towards aggressive behaviour and violence by the juveniles while under the influence of drugs. Juveniles acknowledge a relationship between drugs and crimes, noting that under the influence people “lose control.” They stated that they did drugs for the “high” and went on to admit that when they used marijuana, they were prone to engage in more antagonistic activity. This suggests a foundation for a lead into more serious criminal acts. The following comments are the most telling signs of more depraved behaviour. From the female participants: “It (drugs) causes me to get aggressive and beat up police” and “... the drugs and your personality you may get aggressive and hit your mother.” The males were more graphic stating, “Alcohol and marijuana makes you hyper, makes you want to kill somebody.” And “When you hyper you would take a man easy or chop him up”. These comments suggest a level of anger and aggressive behaviour from drug use, which could lead to violent crime. Note that the gender identification of the comments is done only to emphasize that the tendency to violence exist through the study group.

The social reason behind drug use and crime was brought to the forefront as well. It should be noted that most of the charges for which the respondents are currently interned in GIS are categorized as non-violent, but what are the reasons behind these acts? Wandering is the most common criminal activity especially among the females. However the offence wandering places the responsibility of the juvenile to explain his or her whereabouts at the time of Police contact. 'Wandering' however does not examine the underlying social and psychological reasons for being away from home. In the discussion groups, the females in particular noted the need to use drugs 'to get away from family problems, stress, sexual and verbal abuse'. This implies very serious underlying social issues behind the use of drugs and even alcohol. The statistical analysis indicates that females were almost on par with males in their alcohol consumption (Table 21).

There is also the issue of unemployment, and the need for money. While acquisitive crimes were not as numerous, most of the respondents suggested that they did committed acquisitive criminal acts under the influence of drugs. A situation of despair was expressed by male respondents, which alluded to the need to sell drugs in cases where a person becomes unemployed. This may explain why mostly the male respondents admitted to acquisitive acts.

The family dynamic was surveyed. The percentage of respondents from single parent homes was as high as 67.5%, with females emerging from most of this type of family unit (Table 2). Unfortunately because of the small sample, no significant relationship was realized between family type and drug use or family type and criminal activity. Again, however, the discussion portion of the study did refer to the fact that family issues do play a large role in the life making decisions of the juveniles.

Less than fifty percent of the respondents have family members who have been committed to GIS (40.0%) or prison (48.0%) (Tables 11 to 13). These relations include mothers, fathers, brothers, aunts and uncles. The dynamics of family relationships as they relate to sexual abuse, drug use within the family and the supply of drugs to minors in the home suggests the need for more clinical social intervention strategies involving social and psychological assessments if there is to be a significant rehabilitation programme implemented for these young adults. Note

obtaining drugs from family and friends closely followed obtaining drugs from dealers and from on the block. (Table 27) Once more this was particularly true for the females and suggests that a closer look needs to be undertaken into the role of family on drug use.

A major observation is that the reports from the participants suggest that the current drug prevention messages appear to be ineffective and inefficient in modifying the behaviour of these participants and a significant number of their peers. This is an area for further investigation. The study also indicates that although there is an awareness of the dangers of drugs, especially that of cocaine use, there was a general acceptance of marijuana use.

Key informants suggested a need for a multi-agency approach to tackle the problems associated with drug use. Such an approach should include a clear policy directive for the establishment of an umbrella body to coordinate social work activities among young adults. Key informants also argue for the need for appropriately targeted treatment and rehabilitation programmes to be more responsive to the needs of juvenile offenders.

10. CONCLUSION

The Focus Assessment Study on the relationship between drug use and crime revealed that there is a high incidence of marijuana and alcohol use among juvenile offenders, which has led to behavioural changes leading to aggressive and violent behaviour. The study goes on to indicate that the frequency to which marijuana is used and the apparent ease of availability indicates the need for more stringent efforts to stem the flow of both legal and illegal drugs to young adults.

The study shows that a clear relationship between substance abuse and crime does exist. The nature of this relationship can be found in the violent and aggressive behaviour stemming from substance abuse and the related criminal activity undertaken by juveniles. These activities include fighting, gang warfare, robberies, stealing, making threats of violence and violent behaviour involving the use of weapons.

A remedy may be realized if more holistic responses are utilised to tackle the drug problem in the country. It must be noted that the problems highlighted impact on the work of various agencies across the island. Appropriately targeted responses to the needs of young persons at risk would require a movement towards consultative partnerships with the relevant organizations involved. This will avoid duplication of effort and a more efficient use of funds.

Drug use messages, which seek to address substance abuse problems, should be aware of the complex nature of substance abuse as it relates to juvenile offending and drug use. Drug use awareness messages should therefore capture the generic social, psychological and economic factors related to substance abuse.

It was apparent that there needs to be a comprehensive study of the context and environmental factors which encourage drug use and crime. It is therefore felt that there should be a greater emphasis on demand reduction strategies within communities. However particular attention should be paid the supply of illegal drug into Barbados and the supply of and consumption of alcohol by young adults.

The study went on to show that there are social and psychological factors relating to the family environment which can have a 'cause and effect' of drug use among the juveniles. The unreported nature of sexual and verbal abuse within the family can become a fertile ground for substance abuse particularly for young females who are forced into contact with law enforcement agencies at an early stage in their lives when they seek to escape strained family situations.

It must be noted that both male and females did suggest that they wanted to move on with their lives to better 'things.' Some males indicated the desire to move into vocational training programmes while the females were not sure as to the route they wanted to go. However, the reality of the social environment is one of sexual abuse, unemployment, drug dealing, drug use, violence, aggressive behaviours, suspensions, poor school performance and school dropouts. These factors will impact on the ability of juvenile offenders or young adults to overcome these obstacles and lead productive lives.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are derived from the results of the FAS study. They are intended to address the major concerns of drug use and crime among juveniles.

1. This study will need to be expanded to a nation wide survey of young people at risk of deviant and criminal behaviour.
2. The results, while not all conclusive, must be considered by all relevant agencies to determine the nature and extent of drug use and crime among the youth of the country.
3. There needs to be interactive communication between the social, law and medical agencies in order to identify problems and target responses to those problems. There must also be clear working guidelines among these agencies to avoid duplications of efforts and wastage of funds.
4. It is apparent that the rationale for the offence ‘Wandering’ as it applies to the detention of young adults needs to be revisited. This offence allows law enforcement agencies to detain juveniles who are found in circumstances without proper guardianship. However the inability to act on information which accounts for the environmental factors which may impact on juveniles, particularly females may prevent appropriately targeted responses. In addition, the incarceration of juveniles without appropriately targeted interventions may also result in high incidences of repeat offending.
5. Advertising and other communication strategies should emphasize the environmental factors which impact on drug use.

6. Appropriately targeted treatment and rehabilitation programmes including technical and vocational training for juvenile offenders during and after incarceration must be established.
7. 'Drug demand and reduction' programmes should target communities at risk. Emphasis should therefore shift from micro approaches, which may reflect the response to the needs of individuals, to one where the environmental factors within the communities become the focus or platform on which targeted responses are based.

The study attempts to provide a holistic assessment of drug use behaviours particularly as it relates to crime among juvenile offenders at the G.I.S. The information from the study may not reflect characteristics of the national juvenile population however it attempts to examine the effects of drugs on the behaviours of juveniles, who did not benefit from diversionary sentencing and may be predisposed to delinquent and criminal behaviour. What is hoped to be realized from the study are the circumstances which may lead to drug use and resultant criminal behaviour. The results will be the basis for further research on crime prevention and treatment needs as they relate to crime and delinquent behaviour among juveniles.

Appendix I

Substance Abuse and Criminal Behaviour Among Juvenile Offenders: A Focus Assessment Study

Hello. My name is (name of interviewer). I am an interviewer representing the National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA). We are conducting a study on the relationship between substance abuse and crime. Your answers are very important to us. Please grant us some of your time to complete this questionnaire.

All information given will be confidential and will only be used for statistical purpose. Your information will be held in the strictest of confidence.

If you need verification of this information please contact any of the following persons.

Name	Position	Organisation
Jonathan Yearwood	Research and Information Officer	NCSA
Ruchelle Roach	Assistant Research Officer	NCSA

Personal History

Date _____

Participant I.D. _____

Participant Number _____

Characteristics of offenders

BIOLOGICAL DATA

1. Date of birth _____ day _____ month _____ year
2. Sex _____ male _____ female
3. Are you a child of a single parent? _____ Yes _____ No

Educational data

4. How many years of schooling do you have?
 - a. Less than 5 years
 - b. 5-7 years
 - c. 7-9 years
 - d. 9-11 years
5. What is the highest qualification you have attained?
 - e. School leaving

- f. CXC certificate
- g. Other _____

CRIMINAL HISTORY

6. At what age did you commit your first crime?

7. At what age were you first sent to G.I.S?

- a. Under 10
- b. 10-12
- c. 13-14
- d. 15-16
- e. Over 16

8. What was your first offence? _____

9. How many times have you been sent to G.I.S?

- f. Once
- g. Twice
- h. Thrice
- i. Four times
- j. More than four times

10. What offence or offences did you commit to be sent to G.I.S?

11. How long did you spend at G.I.S?

<i>Offence</i>	<i>Length of time (years)</i>
k. First offence	_____
l. Second offence	_____
m. Third offence	_____
n. Fourth offence	_____

12. Has any member of your family ever been sent to G.I.S?

_____ Yes _____ No

13. If yes which member? _____

14. For what offence? _____

15. Has any member of your family ever been sent to prison?

_____ Yes _____ No

16. If yes, which member? _____

17. For what offence? _____

18. Have any of your friends ever been sent to G.I.S?

_____ Yes _____ No

19. For what offence? _____

Drug History

20. Have you ever used drugs?

21. Which drugs have you used?

22. What is your preferred drug?

23. Why?

24. How often did you use drugs?

25. Have you ever been convicted for a drug offence?

_____ Yes _____ No

26. If yes, what was the charge?

27. Why do people use illegal drugs?

28. Have you ever used alcohol?

_____ Yes _____ No

29. If yes, what type of alcohol do you prefer (beer, rum, wine, whiskey, other)?

30. How often did you use alcohol?

- a. Daily
- b. Weekly
- c. Monthly

31. Who do you believe is likely to commit crime, a person abusing alcohol, or a person abusing illegal drugs?

32. Why?

33. Do you take drugs with your friends?

_____ Yes _____ No

34. If yes, what kind of drugs?

35. How often you your take illegal drugs with your friends?

36. Where do you get your drugs?

37. Is it easy to get drugs?

38. What is the easiest drug to buy?

- a. Marijuana
- b. Cocaine

- c. Crack
- d. Other_____.

39. What sort of problems has drugs use created for you?

- a. Arguments with family or friends
- b. Actual fights
- c. Threats of violence
- d. Arrested by the police
- e. Warned by the police
- f. Lost a friend or family member
- g. Worked less at school
- h. Put in jail
- i. Health problems
- j. Arrested or charged for a drug related crime
- k. Other

Comments

Interviewer _____

Transcriber _____

Appendix II

Substance Abuse and Criminal Behaviour Among Juvenile Offenders: A Focus Assessment Study

Focus Group Discussions

Hello. My name is (name of interviewer). I am an interviewer representing the National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA). We are conducting a study on the relationship between substance abuse and crime. The information obtained will assist in the implementation of programmes that will enable young people to live fuller, happier and drug free lives.

Date _____

Participant I.D. _____

Group Number _____

Start time: _____

End time: _____

Part 1. Your opinion on illegal drugs

1. In your opinion what is illegal drugs?

2. How do you feel about illegal drugs?

3. Have you ever used illegal drugs?

_____ Yes _____ No

4. If yes, at what age did you start using illegal drugs?

5. What kind of drug(s) have you used?

6. Where do you get your drugs?

7. Is it easy to get drugs?

8. What is the easiest drug to buy?

- a. Marijuana
- b. Cocaine
- c. Crack
- d. Other_____

9. What do your friends think about illegal drugs?

10. Have your friends ever used illegal drug?

11. What kind of drug(s) have they used?

12. What is the favourite drug among your friends?

13. Why is it so popular?

14. Why do people use illegal drugs?

15. Would you say that alcohol is a drug?

16. Can alcohol be harmful?

17. In what way?

18. Have you ever used alcohol?

_____ Yes _____ No

19. If yes, what is your favourite alcoholic drink

20. How often have you consumed alcohol?

21. At what age did you start using alcohol?

22. Why do people use alcohol?

23. Do you think people who use alcohol are more likely to use illegal drugs?

24. Who do you believe is likely to commit crime, a person abusing alcohol, or a person abusing illegal drugs?

25. Why?

Part 2. Criminal Behaviour

1. Can the use of illegal drugs change your behaviour?

2. In what way?

3. What do you think is a crime?

4. Do you think people who use drugs commit crimes?

_____ Yes _____ No

5. If yes, what kind of crimes do they commit?

6. Why do you think people who use drugs commit crimes?

7. Are people who use drugs more aggressive? [*Speaks loudly, shouts, threatening, threatens to fight*]

8. Are people who use drugs more violent? [*Threaten to use a weapon, uses a weapon, starts a fight*]

9. In what way?

10. Can the use of illegal drugs change your behaviour?

11. In what way?

Comments

Interviewer _____

Transcriber _____

Appendix III

Key Informants Interviews

Substance Abuse and Criminal Behaviour Among Juvenile Offenders:
A Focus Assessment Study

Key Informants Interview (National)

All information given will be confidential and will only be used for statistical purpose.
Your information will be held in the strictest of confidence.

Date _____

Key Informant I.D./National Organisation _____

Interviewee's Name _____

1. What is the role of your organization? [Under what mandate did you organization come in to being?] Collect information on mission statement and legislation.

2. How would you define substance abuse?

3. Have any of the persons under your care/supervision charged or convicted for illegal drugs?

4. Which drugs do persons under your care and/or supervision commonly use?

5. How does the use of illegal drugs affect their behaviour?

6. In your opinion is there a relationship between substance abuse and criminal behaviour?

Yes _____ No _____.

7. Please explain your answer to question (5) above.

8. What drugs create the most problems for young people?

Explain

9. In your opinion what are the criminal activities undertaken by persons who abuse drugs?

10. Does your Agency/Department undertake programmes to change criminal behaviour?

Yes _____ No _____

11. What are these programmes?

12. How often are these programmes conducted?

13. Where are these programmes conducted?

14. Are these programmes successful?

15. How do you evaluate these programmes?

Comments

Interviewer _____

Key Informants Interview (Community)

All information given will be confidential and will only be used for statistical purpose. Your information will be held in the strictest of confidence.

Date _____

Key Informant I.D./Community Organisation _____

Interviewee's Name _____

Date _____

Key Informant I.D./Name _____

1. What do you consider to be illegal drugs?

2. Do you believe the use of illegal drugs has caused problems among young people?

_____ Yes _____ No

3. If yes, what kind of problems?

4. What do you believe is responsible for the use of illegal drugs among young people?

5. Do believe there is a relationship between the use of drugs and criminal activity among young people?
_____ Yes _____ No

6. Why do you believe this is so?

7. Do you believe the use of illegal drugs is related to criminal activity in your community?
_____ Yes _____ No

8. If yes, what kind of criminal activity?

9. Do you consider alcohol to be a drug?
_____ Yes _____ No

10. If yes, why?

11. Do you believe the abuse of alcohol causes problems in your community?

12. What are these problems?

Interviewer _____

Appendix IV

Quantitative Survey Results Tables

Table 1

Age

	No	Percent	Male	Female
13	1	2.50%	0.00%	2.50%
14	9	22.50%	7.50%	15.00%
15	15	37.50%	22.50%	15.00%
16	10	25.00%	12.50%	12.50%
17	4	10.00%	2.50%	7.50%
18	1	2.50%	0.00%	2.50%
No Answer	0	0.00%		
Total	40	100.00%	45.00%	55.00%

Table 2

Family Type

	No	Percent	Male	Female
Single Parent	27	67.50%	15.00%	37.50%
Two Parent	13	32.50%	30.00%	17.50%
No Answer	0	0.00%		
Total	40	100.00%	45.00%	55.00%

Table 3

Years of Schooling

	No	Percent	Male	Female
Under 5	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
6 to 7	1	2.50%	0.00%	2.50%
8 to 9	6	15.00%	5.00%	10.00%
10 to 11	33	82.50%	40.00%	42.50%
No Answer	0	0.00%		
Total	40	100.00%	45.00%	55.00%

Table 4

Highest Qualifications

	No	Percent	Male	Female
School Leaving	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
CXC Certificate	9	22.50%	10.00%	12.50%
Other	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
No Answer	31	77.50%		
Total	40	100.00%	10.00%	12.50%

Table 5

Age of First Crime

	No	Percent	Male	Female
7	1	2.50%	0.00%	2.50%
8	1	2.50%	2.50%	0.00%
9	2	5.00%	2.50%	2.50%
10	1	2.50%	2.50%	0.00%
11	3	7.50%	2.50%	5.00%
12	6	15.00%	10.00%	5.00%
13	5	12.50%	2.50%	10.00%
14	7	17.50%	15.00%	2.50%
15	4	10.00%	5.00%	5.00%
16	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
No Answer	10	25.00%		
Total	40	100.00%	42.50%	32.50%

Table 6

Categories of Criminal Activity

Category	Type of crimes
Non violent crime	Wandering, loitering, threats, trouble making, bad behaviour, or missing court date.
Acquisitive crime	Robbery, stealing, breaking or entering
Violent crime	Fighting, arson, wounding, assault, murder or attempted suicide
Drug crimes	Possession, using or trafficking

Table 7

First Offences

	No	Percent	Male	Female
Non-violent	25	62.50%	15.00%	47.50%
Acquisitive	4	10.00%	10.00%	0.00%
Violent	9	22.50%	15.00%	7.50%
Drug	1	2.50%	2.50%	0.00%
No Answer	1	2.50%		
Total	40	100.00%	42.50%	55.00%

Table 8

Age Entered GIS

	No	Percent	Male	Female
Under 10	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
11 to 12	9	22.50%	7.50%	15.00%
13 to 14	19	47.50%	2.50%	22.50%
15 to 16	12	30.00%	12.50%	17.50%
Over 16	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
No Answer	0	0.00%		
Total	40	100.00%	22.50%	55.00%

Table 9

Crimes Which Led to Interment at GIS

	No	Percent	Male	Female
Non-violent	21	52.50%	10.00%	42.50%
Acquisitive	3	7.50%	7.50%	0.00%
Violent	11	27.50%	17.50%	10.00%
Drug	4	10.00%	10.00%	0.00%
No Answer	1	2.50%		
Total	40	100.00%	45.00%	52.50%

Table 10

Number of Times at GIS

	No	Percent	Male	Female
Once	10	25.00%	15.00%	10.00%
Twice	14	35.00%	15.00%	20.00%
Three times	9	22.50%	5.00%	17.50%
Four times	3	7.50%	5.00%	2.50%
More than four	4	10.00%	5.00%	5.00%
No Answer	0	0.00%		
Total	40	100.00%	45.00%	55.00%

Table 11

A Family Member at GIS

	No	Percent	Male	Female
Immediate	7	17.50%	7.50%	10.00%
Relative	9	22.50%	7.50%	15.00%
No Answer	24	60.00%		
Total	40	100.00%	15.00%	25.00%

Table 11 B

Family Members in Prison

	No	Percent	Male	Female
Immediate	9	22.50%	10.00%	12.50%
Relative	10	25.00%	12.50%	12.50%
No Answer	21	52.50%		
Total	40	100.00%	22.50%	25.00%

Table 12

Family Members' Offences

	No	Percent	Male	Female
Non-violent	7	17.50%	2.50%	15.00%
Acquisitive	1	2.50%	2.50%	0.00%
Violent	4	10.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Drug	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
No Answer	28	70.00%		
Total	40	100.00%	10.00%	20.00%

Table 13A

Friends at GIS

	No	Percent	Male	Female
Yes	33	82.50%	42.50%	40.00%
No	7	17.50%	2.50%	15.00%
No Answer	0	0.00%		
Total	40	100.00%	45.00%	55.00%

Table 13B

Friend's Offences

	No	Percent	Male	Female
Non-violent	8	20.00%	5.00%	15.00%
Acquisitive	4	10.00%	7.50%	2.50%
Violent	12	30.00%	22.50%	7.50%
Drug	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
No Answer	16	40.00%		
Total	40	100.00%	35.00%	25.00%

Table 14

Use of Illegal Drugs

	No	Percent	Male	Female
Yes	37	92.50%	45.00%	47.50%
No	3	7.50%	0.00%	7.50%
No Answer	0	0.00%		
Total	40	100.00%	45.00%	55.00%

Table 15

Drugs of Choice

	No	Percent	Male	Female
Marijuana	32	80.00%	37.50%	42.50%
Cocaine	2	5.00%	2.94%	2.94%
Crack	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Other	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
No Answer	6	15.00%		
Total	40	100.00%	40.44%	45.44%

Table 16

Categories of Reasons for Drug Use

Category	Participants' answers
Don't Know	Don't know
The high	Feel good, likes it, For the high
Medicinal	Medicinal, Relaxation, Clears the mind
Habit	Use to it, Just use it
Preference	Only drug can handle, cocaine send people mad
Peer Pressure	Peer pressure

Table 17

Reasons for Drug Use

	No	Percent	Male	Female
Don't know	5	12.50%	0.00%	12.50%
The High	13	32.50%	20.00%	12.50%
Clears Head	5	12.50%	5.00%	7.50%
Habit	4	10.00%	7.50%	2.50%
Preference	6	15.00%	7.50%	7.50%
No Answer	7	17.50%		
Total	40	100.00%	40.00%	42.50%

Table 18

Frequency of Drug Use

	No	Percent	Male	Female
Daily	20	50.00%	27.50%	22.50%
Weekly	5	12.50%	2.50%	10.00%
Monthly	2	5.00%	0.00%	5.00%
Occasionally	7	17.50%	7.50%	10.00%
No Answer	6	15.00%		
Total	40	100.00%	37.50%	47.50%

Table 19 A

Using Drugs With Friends

	No	Percent	Male	Female
Yes	32	80.00%	35.00%	45.00%
No	8	20.00%	10.00%	10.00%
No Answer	0	0.00%		
Total	40	100.00%	45.00%	55.00%

Table 19 B

Friends Preferred Drug

	No	Percent	Male	Female
Marijuana	30	75.00%	35.00%	40.00%
Cocaine	1	2.50%	0.00%	2.50%
Crack	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Other	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
No Answer	9	22.50%		
Total	40	100.00%	35.00%	42.50%

Table 20

Categories of Alcohols

Category	Types of alcoholic drinks
Below 6%	beer, stout, shandy
Above 6%	rum whiskey, brandy,
All	more than one alcohol from both categories above

Table 21

Use of Alcohol

	No	Percent	Male	Female
Yes	33	82.50%	40.00%	42.50%
No	7	17.50%	5.00%	12.50%
No Answer	0	0.00%		
Total	40	100.00%	45.00%	55.00%

Table 22

Preferred Alcohols

	No	Percent	Male	Female
None	1	2.50%	0.00%	2.50%
Below 6%	11	27.50%	7.50%	20.00%
Above 6%	8	20.00%	15.00%	5.00%
All	13	32.50%	17.50%	15.00%
No Answer	7	17.50%		
Total	40	100.00%	40.00%	42.50%

Table 23

Frequency of Alcohol Use

	No	Percent	Male	Female
Daily	13	32.50%	17.50%	15.00%
Weekly	7	17.50%	10.00%	7.50%
Monthly	3	7.50%	0.00%	7.50%
Occasionally	8	20.00%	17.50%	12.50%
No Answer	9	22.50%		
Total	40	100.00%	45.00%	42.50%

Table 24

Reason Why Persons Use Drugs

	No	Percent	Male	Female
Don't know	11	27.50%	15.00%	12.50%
The High	14	35.00%	20.00%	15.00%
Clears Head	10	25.00%	7.50%	17.50%
Habit	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Preference	1	2.50%	0.00%	2.50%
Peer Pressure	2	5.00%	0.00%	5.00%
No Answer	2	5.00%		
Total	29	100.00%	42.50%	52.50%

Table 25

Does Use of Drugs and Alcohol Lead to Crime?

	No	Percent	Male	Female
Alcohol	6	15.00%	5.00%	10.00%
Drugs	18	45.00%	17.50%	27.50%
Both	14	35.00%	17.50%	17.50%
No Answer	2	5.00%		
Total	40	100.00%	40.00%	55.00%

Table 26

Reason Why Persons on Drugs or Alcohol Commit Crime

	No	Percent	Male	Female
Don't know	1	2.50%	0.00%	2.50%
Loss of control	33	82.50%	35.00%	47.50%
Need money	2	5.00%	2.50%	2.50%
No Answer	4	10.00%		
Total	40	100.00%	37.50%	52.50%

Table 27

Source of Drugs

	No	Percent	Male	Female
Block	5	12.50%	2.50%	10.00%
Dealer	18	45.00%	22.50%	22.50%
Family	4	10.00%	5.00%	5.00%
Friend	4	10.00%	0.00%	10.00%
Own Plants	2	5.00%	5.00%	0.00%
Other	3	7.50%	7.50%	0.00%
No Answer	4	10.00%		
Total	40	100.00%	42.50%	47.50%

Table 28

Are Drugs Easy to Obtain

	No	Percent	Male	Female
Yes	34	85.00%	42.50%	42.50%
No	6	15.00%	2.50%	12.50%
No Answer	0	0.00%		
Total	40	100.00%	45.00%	55.00%

Table 29

Easiest Drugs to Obtain

	No	Percent	Male	Female
Marijuana	30	75.00%	37.50%	37.50%
Cocaine	2	5.00%	2.50%	2.50%
Crack	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Other	0	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
No Answer	8	20.00%		
Total	40	100.00%	40.00%	40.00%

Table 30 A – K

What Sort of Problems has Drug Use Created For You?

Table 30A

A- Arguments			
		Frequency	Percent
Valid	No	15	37.5
	Yes	17	42.5
	Total	32	80
Missing		8	20
Total		40	100

Table 30B

B- Actual fights			
		Frequency	Percent
Valid	No	12	30
	Yes	20	50
	Total	32	80
Missing	System	8	20
Total		40	100

Table 30C

C- Threats of violence			
		Frequency	Percent
Valid	No	14	35
	Yes	18	45
	Total	32	80
Missing	System	8	20
Total		40	100

Table 30D

D- Arrested by Police			
		Frequency	Percent
Valid	No	23	57.5
	Yes	9	22.5
	Total	32	80
Missing	System	8	20
Total		40	100

Table 30E

E- Warned by the police			
		Frequency	Percent
Valid	No	16	40
	Yes	16	40
	Total	32	80
Missing	System	8	20
Total		40	100

Table 30F

F- Lost a friend			
		Frequency	Percent
Valid	No	26	65
	Yes	6	15
	Total	32	80
Missing	System	8	20
Total		40	100

Table 30G

G- Works less at school			
		Frequency	Percent
Valid	No	14	35
	Yes	18	45
	Total	32	80
Missing	System	8	20
Total		40	100

Table 30H

H- Put in Jail			
		Frequency	Percent
Valid	No	28	70
	Yes	4	10
	Total	32	80
Missing	System	8	20
Total		40	100

Table 30I

I - Health Problems			
		Frequency	Percent
Valid	No	25	62.5
	Yes	7	17.5
	Total	32	80
Missing	System	8	20
Total		40	100

Table 30J

J- Arrested or charged			
		Frequency	Percent
Valid	No	22	55
	Yes	10	25
	Total	32	80
Missing	System	8	20
Total		40	100

Table 30K

K- Other			
		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	1	2.5
Missing	System	39	97.5
Total		40	100

Appendix V

Glossary

Crime - An act that violates the criminal law and may therefore be followed by criminal proceeding and attract the appropriate

punishment.

- Illicit Drugs - Drugs that are prohibited by law.
- Juvenile - Young people (between the ages of 9 to 16), who have been dealt with in the youth court; or they have appeared in the adult Magistrates' court or High court.
- Substance Abuse - The misuse of a substance to the point where it affects the psychological, emotional, physical functions of an individual and interferes with their social interactions.
- Aggressive Behaviour - Refers to the intention to hurt or gain physical advantage over other people, without necessarily involving physical injury.
- Violent Behaviour - The use of strong physical force against another person, sometimes but not always impelled by aggressive motivation, that results in the physical injury of another person.
- Violent Crime - Homicide (Murder, Manslaughter), Serious Bodily Harm, Rape.
- Acquisitive Crimes - Crimes carried out for gain (burglary, theft, fraud, robbery)
- Drug Crimes - Offences involving possession, trafficking and handling of drugs and drug apparatus.
- Non-violent Crimes - Crimes which do not involve the use of strong physical force against another person that may result in physical injury of another person.
- Wandering - Any child apparently under the age of 16 "found wandering and not having a/any home or settled place of abode or proper guardianship or visible means of subsistence".
- Juvenile Offender - A "young person" who is 14 years of age and under the age of 16 years charged for an offence or to whom proceedings relate.

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