

**BARBDIN**

# Barbados Drug Information Network Report

An analysis of the 2013 Data



Prepared by

**The National Council on Substance Abuse**



# Table of Contents

- 1. Key Findings ..... 3
  - 1.1 Drug Education..... 3
  - 1.2 Research..... 3
  - 1.3 Drug Testing ..... 3
  - 1.4 Treatment ..... 4
  - 1.5 Supply Control..... 5
- 2. Introduction ..... 6
- 3. Demand Reduction ..... 7
  - 3.1 National Council on Substance Abuse ..... 7
  - 3.2 Edna Nicholls Centre 2013 ..... 10
- 4. Treatment and Rehabilitation..... 12
  - 4.1 Psychiatric Hospital ..... 12
  - 4.2 Verdun House ..... 18
  - 4.3 Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling Programme ..... 22
- 5. Supply Control..... 24
  - 5.1 Royal Barbados Police Force ..... 24
- 6. Discussion..... 27
- 7. Conclusion..... 29
- 8. References ..... 30

# 1. Key Findings

## 1.1 Drug Education

- The National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) is the primary agency leading drug education efforts.
- The NCSA's Primary School Programme targeted the largest number of persons, followed by the Community and Secondary School Programmes respectively.
- More males than females participated in the activities/interventions carried out by the Primary and Secondary School Programmes. Gender-related data was not available for the Community Programme.

## 1.2 Research

The qualitative study 'Understanding Drug use in Communities: A Report on the Findings from Haynesville and its Environs' was conducted in November 2013. This study involved focus group interviews with 28 young people between the ages of 13 and 29 years who reside in Haynesville and the surrounding communities of Durants Village and Holders Hill. The following findings relate to the perceptions of participants.

### Findings

- Alcohol was perceived to be more dangerous than marijuana
- Substance abuse was not considered problematic and was not linked to negative consequences
- The block was identified as the location where they smoked marijuana and sought refuge from their problems
- A number of survival issues were identified as impacting on the lives of these young people including unemployment, obtaining child support, access to welfare, affordable housing, transactional sex (to make ends meet) and sexual abuse
- Despite the issues faced by the participants, most of them had various educational and professional goals. For example, many of the youngsters spoke of their desire to become accountants, lawyers, hairdressers, chefs, entrepreneurs, professional dancers and athletes. Others indicated that they were desirous of obtaining certificates from the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC).

## 1.3 Drug Testing

- Of the 202 students attending the Edna Nicholls Centre (ENC) in 2013, 17% tested positive for marijuana use or had trace amounts of the drug in their system.
- All of the ENC students who tested positive for marijuana use or had trace amounts of the drug in their system were male.
- One male student tested positive for cocaine use in 2013.
- Marijuana was the preferred illicit drug among students at the ENC who tested positive for drug use during 2013.

## 1.4 Treatment

### Psychiatric Hospital

- The number of males seeking substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital during 2013 exceeded the number of females.
- The 15-25, 26-35 and 36-50 age groups accounted for the largest number of persons seeking substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital during 2013.
- A large number of polydrug users sought substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital during 2013.
- Polydrug users outnumbered single drug users at the Psychiatric Hospital during 2013.
- The most common polydrug combinations for which persons sought treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital during 2013 were: 1) marijuana, cocaine and alcohol; 2) marijuana and alcohol.
- Marijuana and alcohol were the most popular substances among those seeking treatment for the use of a single drug at the Psychiatric Hospital. Of these, marijuana was more popular among persons under the age of 36 while alcohol was more popular among those ages 36 and over.

### Verdun House

- There was a near-equal distribution of persons in the 18 to 25, 26 to 35, 36 to 45 and 46 to 55 age groups who attended Verdun House in 2013.
- Persons 56 and over accounted for only a very small proportion of those who received treatment at Verdun House in 2013.
- Most persons admitted to Verdun House in 2013 were single, unemployed and possessed a secondary level education.
- At Verdun House, crack cocaine was the drug of choice for all age groups in 2013 with the exception of the 18 to 25 age group, where marijuana admissions were the most numerous.
- The number of persons seeking treatment for marijuana use at Verdun House decreased as patient age increased.
- The number of persons seeking treatment for crack cocaine use at Verdun House increased as patient age increased, up to the age of 55.
- The percentage of persons treated for alcohol abuse at Verdun House increased as patient age increased, up to the age of 55.
- The proportion of polysubstance users treated at Verdun House tended to be higher among those ages 45 and under.

### Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling Programme

- Only males received treatment within the Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling (IDRC) Programme at HMP Dodds during 2013.
- Most persons admitted to the IDRC Programme in 2013 were over the age of 35.
- Crack cocaine was the dominant drug motivating the need for treatment among the inmates attending the IDRC programme in 2013.

- Crack cocaine was the most popular drug among IDRC attendees in the 26 to 34, 35 to 43, 44 to 52 and 53 and over age groups; while an equal number of persons in the 17 to 25 age group received treatment for crack cocaine and marijuana.

### 1.5 Supply Control

- “Possession” was the most common cannabis-related offense for which persons were charged by the Royal Barbados Police Force during 2013.
- “Apparatus” possession was the most common cocaine-related charge meted out by the Royal Barbados Police Force during 2013.
- Data received from the RBPF revealed that cannabis offenses were far more numerous than cocaine offenses during 2013.
- There were a limited number of Ecstasy-related offenses in 2013. The RBPF reported one charge each for the following offenses: “Possession”, “Trafficking”, “Intent to Supply” and “Importation”.

## 2. Introduction

The National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) was established by the NCSA Act 1995-13. The NCSA's mandate is to advise on the eradication or control of substance abuse through programmes and projects aimed at the prevention, elimination or control of substance abuse. The Barbados Drug Information Network (BARDIN) is the mechanism through which the NCSA collects and disseminates information on drug demand reduction and supply- control activities across the island.

BARDIN forms part of a regional network to strengthen the capacity of regional governments to respond to changing patterns of drug use in the Caribbean. The governments of Grenada, Jamaica, Trinidad and Bermuda have also established similar networks. The objectives of BARDIN are:

- 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 trafficking
- To provide relevant information for the planning, evaluation and management of drug control programmes

The current report is the third in the BARDIN series and presents data on the drug situation in Barbados for the period January 1 to December 31, 2013. As in previous reports, the document is divided into two broad sections: Demand Reduction and Supply Control. The Demand Reduction section covers contributions made by: The National Council on Substance Abuse, The Edna Nicholls Centre, The Psychiatric Hospital, Verdun House and the Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling Programme at HMP Dodds Prisons. The Supply Control section presents data received from the Royal Barbados Police Force. The BARDIN Report 2013 also includes the qualitative study, "Understanding Drug use in Communities: A Report on the findings from Haynesville and its Environs". This research represents an exploration of substance abuse among adolescents and young adults in Haynesville and the surrounding communities of Durants Village and Holders Hill.

Overall, the BARDIN Report 2013 provides valuable information to guide the development of actionable programmes and inform policy on substance abuse in Barbados. Responding to the challenges of substance abuse requires broad collaborative approaches to deter substance abuse at the individual, community and societal levels. In this light, the role of BARDIN in providing current and timely information is crucial to the success of collaborative approaches and the reduction of substance abuse in Barbados.

### 3. Demand Reduction

#### 3.1 National Council on Substance Abuse

##### *Drug Education Programming*

**Table 1: Persons Targeted by NCSA Programmes during 2013 by Age and Gender**

<b>Intervention</b>	<b>Age Range/ Population Targeted</b>	<b>No. of Males Targeted</b>	<b>No. of Females Targeted</b>	<b>Total no. of Persons Targeted</b>
<b><u>Primary School</u></b>				
Safe & Unsafe	5-7 years	1104	939	2043
Jugs & Herrings	6-8 years	438	341	779
Just the Facts	7-8 years	34	28	62
Drugs & My World	8-9 years	961	805	1766
Facts & Issues	9-10 years	59	57	116
Drugs & Decisions	10-11 years	454	388	842
Games 4 Life	10-11 years	1242	1188	2430
Cub Scouts	7-11 years	118	0	118
Life Education Centre (LEC)	3-16 years	3147	2985	6132
- Nursery	3-4 years	249	259	508
- Reception	4-5 years	287	291	578
- Infants A	5-6 years	317	273	590
- Infants B	6-7 years	345	304	649
- Class 1	7-8 years	309	353	662
- Class 2	8-9 years	324	306	630
- Class 3	9-10 years	330	332	662
- Class 4	10-11 years	333	299	632
- Senior Schools	11-16 years	32	30	62
- Summer Camps	4-16 years	621	538	1159
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>7557</b>	<b>6731</b>	<b>14,288</b>
<b><u>Secondary School</u></b>				
Drugs Education and Life Skills	11-16 years	900	835	1735
Mass-based Events (career showcases, health fairs, full assemblies, etc.)	11-16 years	-	-	Approx. 7500*
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1735</b>

<b>Intervention</b>	<b>Age Range/ Population Targeted</b>	<b>No. of Males Targeted</b>	<b>No. of Females Targeted</b>	<b>Total no. of Persons Targeted</b>
<b><u>Community</u></b>				
<b>Edna Nicholls Centre<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>11-16 years</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>202</b>
<b>Stop! Think! Choose!</b>	<b>18-55 years</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Irving Wilson – Peer Support</b>	<b>11-18 years</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Project SOFT</b>	<b>10-12 years</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>NCSA In De Community</b>	<b>Men on the Block</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Prevention First Club: Parents</b>	<b>Parents</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Drug Education Sessions</b>	<b>Various ages</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>530</b>
<b>Workplace Drug Interventions</b>	<b>16-65 years</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>367</b>
<b>I Make the Choice!</b>	<b>16-40 years</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>1678</b>
<b>Sports – Not Drugs!</b>	<b>4-45 years</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>282</b>
<b>Summer Camp Presentations</b>	<b>5-17 years</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Mass-based Events</b>	<b>7-65 years</b>	<b>5000</b>	<b>5250</b>	<b>10, 250**</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3315</b>

\* This number was not included in the Secondary School Intervention Total as it has the potential to artificially inflate the number of persons targeted by the Secondary school Programmes/Activities.

\*\* This number was not included in the Community Intervention Total as it has the potential to artificially inflate the number of persons targeted by the Community Programmes/Activities.

*Source: The National Council on Substance Abuse*

Table 1 presents an overview of the persons who participated in the various NCSA interventions/ activities during the period January 1 to December 31, 2013. From the data presented, it can be seen that the Primary School Programme targeted the largest number of persons, followed by the Community and Secondary School Programmes respectively. With regard to gender differences, the data reveals that more males than females took part in the activities/interventions carried out by the Primary and Secondary School Programmes (See Table 1). It was not possible to determine such differences for the Community Programme as gender data was not available for all of the activities/interventions conducted by that department.

<sup>1</sup> 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



## *Research*

The NCSA Research Department conducted a qualitative study among adolescents in Haynesville and its environs. The findings revealed that these young people linked alcohol use to aggressive behavior, while marijuana made them calm and relaxed. Nevertheless, adolescents, primarily between 13 and 17 years, drank alcohol and engaged in binge drinking at social events. With regards to cocaine, the participants showed disdain for this drug, particularly crack cocaine.

Overall, participants did not appear to consider substance use and abuse to be problematic. Some of the major concerns of these young people relate to the lack of job-related skills, unemployment and the subsequent inability of fathers to provide for their children. A notable consequence of these concerns is the increased risk for sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV. Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:

1. Developing more in-depth approaches to information regarding the harmfulness of licit and illicit drug use.
2. Targeting early school leavers and students with social and academic problems in an attempt to reduce low academic performance.
3. Establishing links with employment service providers.
4. Family based prevention: Targeting families with multiple difficulties including unemployment, ensuring that there is affordable and accessible day care for children and services to deal with trauma-related drug use such as that associated with sexual and domestic abuse.
5. Developing general health information campaigns, including HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns among adolescents, particularly unemployed females.
6. Greater thrust in community work to improve relationships between the Royal Barbados Police Force and young people in the Haynesville and surrounding areas.

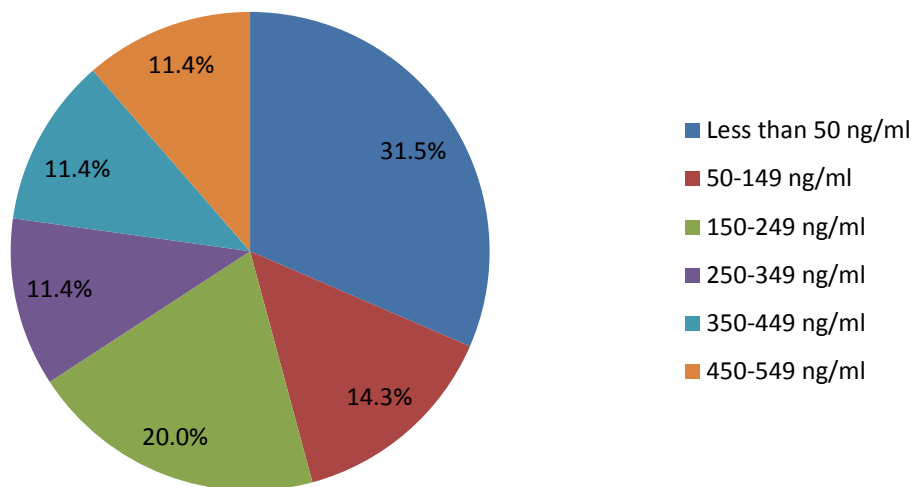
### 3.2 Edna Nicholls Centre 2013

#### **Marijuana Use**

A total of 202 students<sup>2</sup> were admitted to the Edna Nicholls Centre during the calendar year January 1 to December 31, 2013. Of this number, 35 (17%) tested positive for marijuana use (a result of 50 ng/ml or over<sup>3</sup>) or had trace amounts of the drug in their system (a result of less than 50 ng/ml). This represents an increase of approximately 6% over that reported in 2012 (11.4%). Despite this apparent increase, it should be noted that the proportion of students who tested positive for marijuana use/had trace amounts of the drug within their system during 2013, was similar to that recorded in 2011 (17.4%).

Figure 1 provides the results for those who tested positive/had trace amounts of marijuana within their system (N=35). From the chart it can be seen that just under one-third of these students (31.5%) were found to have less than 50 ng/ml of the drug within their system (trace amounts). The remaining two-thirds were found to have had levels ranging from 50 ng/ml to 549 ng/ml.

**Figure 1: Marijuana Test Results for Edna Nicholls' Students Testing Positive for Drug Use: January 1 to December 31, 2013**



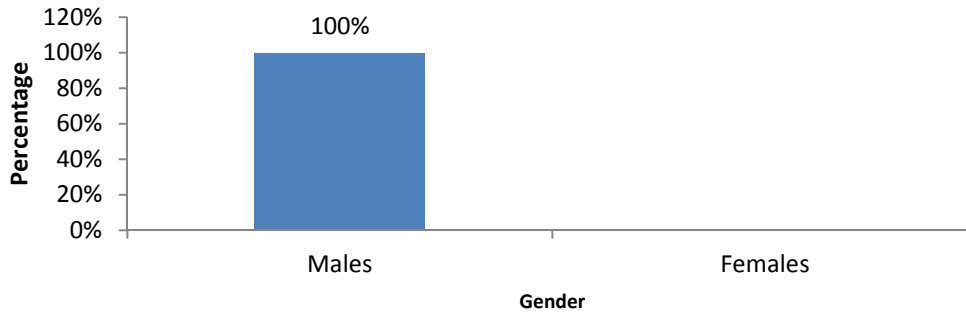
Source: The Edna Nicholls Centre

<sup>2</sup> Please note that a gender break down is not provided as this information was not available when the present report was prepared.

<sup>3</sup> Please note that ng/ml refers to nanograms per milliliter. This is a clinical indicator of the level of THC found within a sample of urine. THC is the main psychoactive chemical found in Marijuana.

With respect to gender, Figure 2 reveals that all of the students who tested positive for marijuana use/had trace amounts of the drug within their system during 2013 were male.

**Figure 2: Students Testing Positive for Marijuana Use at Edna Nicholls Centre by Gender: January 1 to December 31, 2013**



Source: The Edna Nicholls Centre

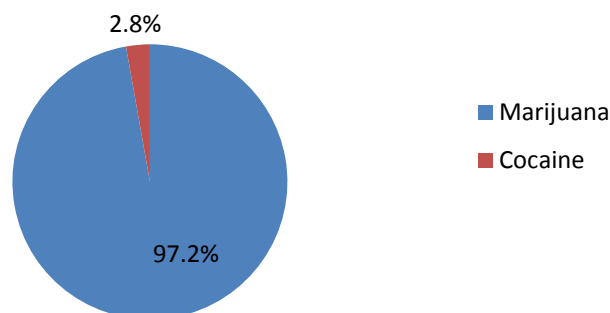
#### **Cocaine Use**

In addition to marijuana use, students attending the Edna Nicholls Centre were also tested for cocaine use. Only one male student tested positive for cocaine use during the period January 1 to December 31, 2013.

#### **Marijuana vs. Cocaine Use**

Figure 3 below graphically depicts the level of disparity between marijuana and cocaine use among the 2013 students at the Edna Nicholls Centre. As such, the chart underscores the fact that marijuana was the preferred illicit drug among the students who tested positive for drug use.

**Figure 3: Positive Drug Test Results for Students at Edna Nicholls Centre January 1 to December 31, 2013: Marijuana vs. Cocaine**



Source: The Edna Nicholls Centre

## 4. Treatment and Rehabilitation

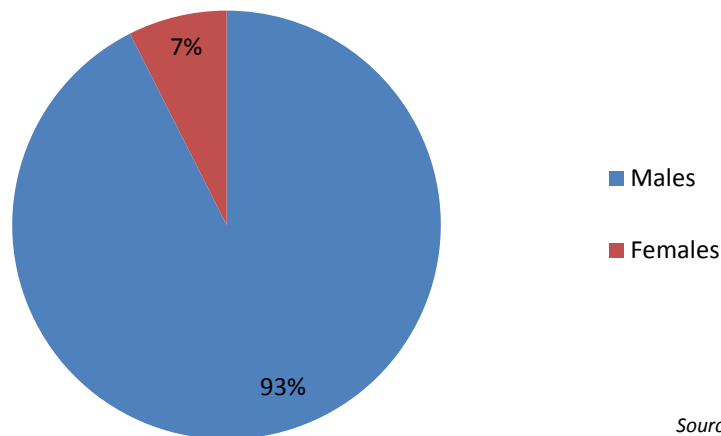
### 4.1 Psychiatric Hospital<sup>4</sup>

A total of 232 persons sought substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital's Drug Rehabilitation Unit during 2013. It should be noted that conflicting demographic information was received for 4 of the cases; as such, the data presented below is based on the remaining 228 clients.

#### *Demographic Profile*

Figure 4 shows that the number of males seeking substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital during 2013 exceeded the number of females.

**Figure 4: Psychiatric Hospital Drug Admissions by Gender: January 1 to December 31, 2013**



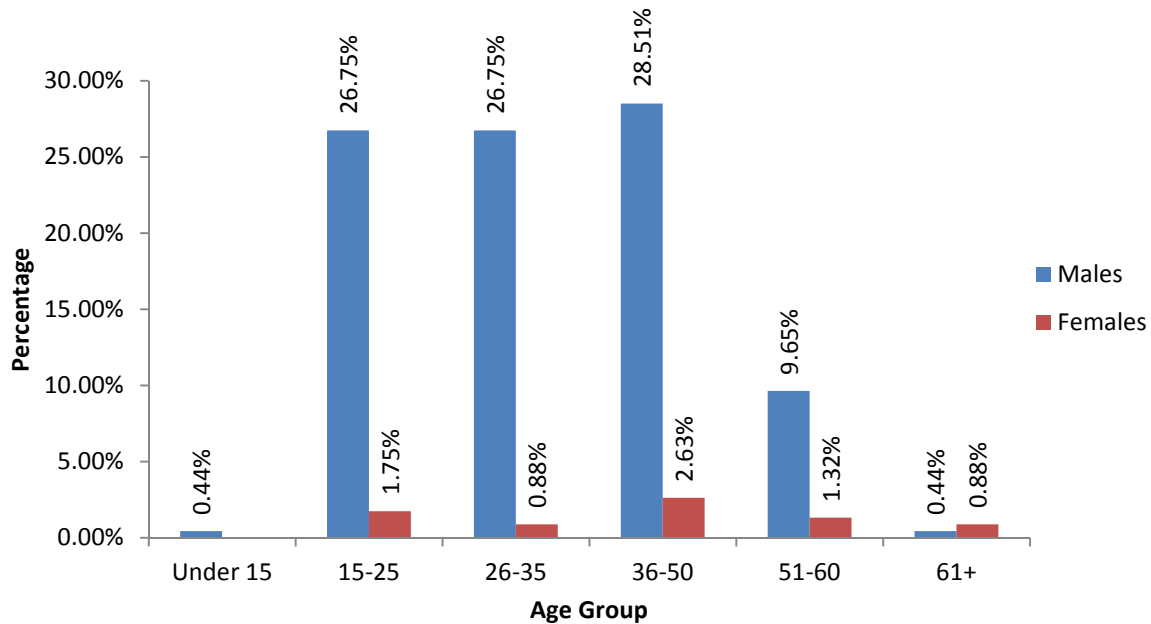
*Source: The Psychiatric Hospital*

Figure 5 reveals that the 15-25, 26-35 and 36-50 age groups accounted for the largest number of persons seeking substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital during 2013. Notably fewer persons in the 51-60, 61 and over and under 15 age groups sought treatment at this facility (See Figure 5). Figure 5 also further underscores the gender disparity in the persons seeking substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital.

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<sup>4</sup> The Psychiatric Hospital provides a day-release programme to adult males and females.

**Figure 5: Psychiatric Hospital Drug Admissions by Age and Gender: January 1 to December 31, 2013**

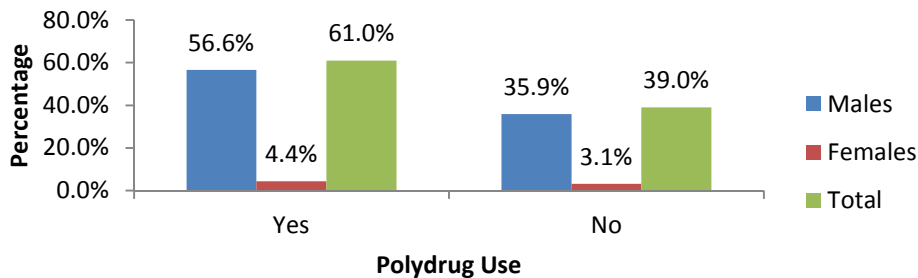


Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

**Drug Use Profile**

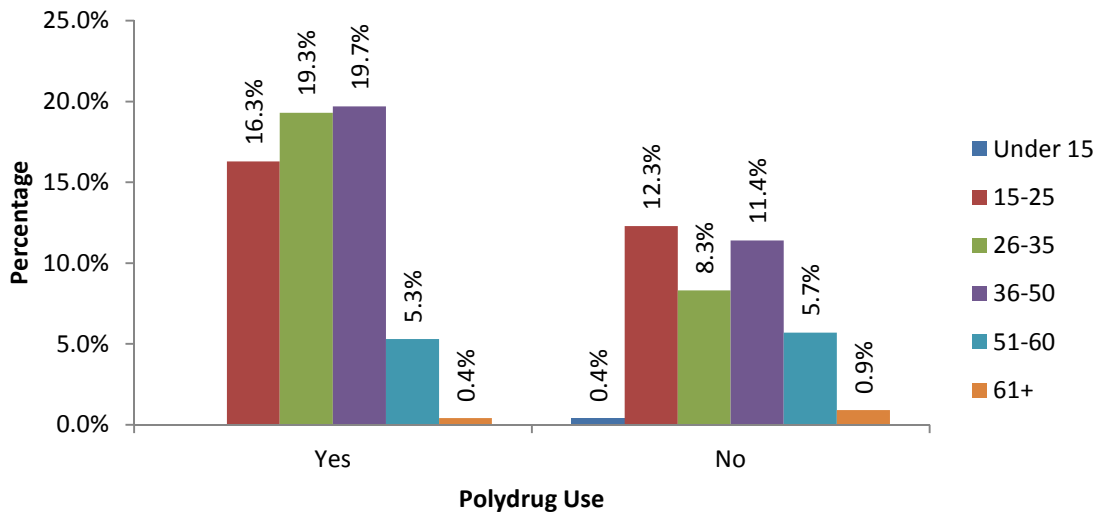
The data revealed that a large number of polydrug users sought treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital during 2013. In fact, the proportion of polydrug users was greater than the proportion of single drug users (See Figure 6).

**Figure 6: Psychiatric Hospital Polydrug Use Admissions by Gender: January 1 to December 31, 2013**



Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

**Figure 7: Psychiatric Hospital Polydrug Use Admissions by Age: January 1 to December 31, 2013**



Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

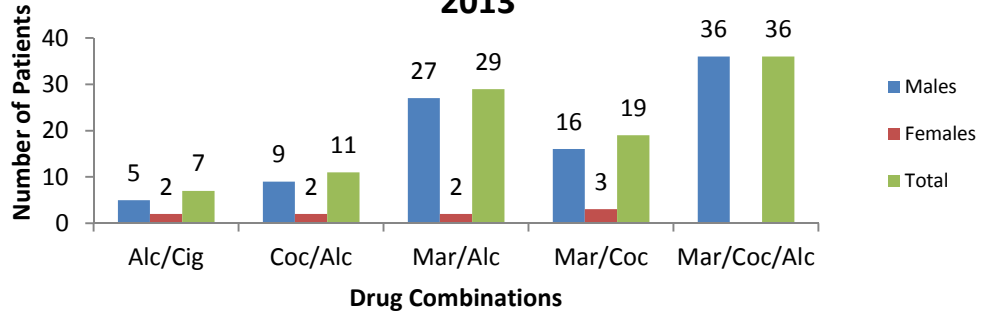
Figure 7 suggests that polydrug use may have been more of an issue among persons under the age of 51. This can be said as the proportion of polydrug users in the 15-25, 26-35 and 36-50 age categories was notably greater than the proportion of single drug users. In contrast, the proportion of single drug users was marginally greater in the 51-60 and 61 and over age groups.

#### *Common Polydrug Combinations*

There were a number of common polydrug combinations for which patients sought treatment. These are presented by gender in Figure 8. From the chart it can be seen that the most common polydrug combinations were: 1) marijuana, cocaine and alcohol, and 2) marijuana and alcohol. These were followed by the combinations of marijuana and cocaine; cocaine and alcohol; and alcohol and cigarettes respectively.

The polydrug trends for the wider treatment seeking group held true for male treatment seekers (See Figure 8). However, the same cannot be said for the females. More specifically, no females sought treatment for the triple-drug combination of marijuana, cocaine and alcohol; however, they were almost equally distributed across the remaining common polydrug categories (See Figure 8).

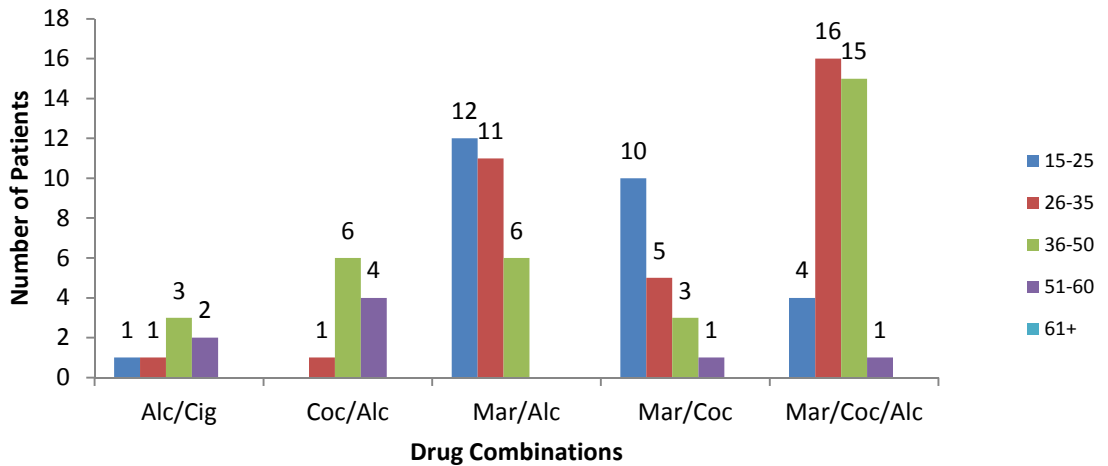
**Figure 8: Common Polydrug Combinations For Which Treatment was Sought at Psychiatric Hospital by Gender: January 1 to December 31, 2013**



Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

Figure 9 further supports the hypothesis that polydrug use was more of an issue among those ages 50 and under. It also shows that the triple-drug combination of marijuana, cocaine and alcohol was the most common polydrug combination for those in the 26-35 and 36-50 age groups. In contrast, the double-drug combinations of marijuana and alcohol and marijuana and cocaine were the most common among those between the ages of 15 and 25. There were a limited number of polydrug cases in the 51-60 age category; however, the combination of cocaine and alcohol was the most popular among these persons.

**Figure 9: Common Polydrug Combinations for Which Treatment was Sought at the Psychiatric Hospital by Age: January 1 to December 31, 2013**



Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

### *Less Common Polydrug Combinations*

There were also a number of less common polydrug combinations for which persons sought treatment. From Table 2 it can be seen that there were isolated cases in which ecstasy, heroin, methadone, valium, Joy Juice and gambling were part of the presenting problem for which persons sought treatment.

**Table 2: Less Common Polydrug Combinations for Which Treatment Sought at the Psychiatric Hospital:  
January 1 to December 31, 2013**

<b>POLYDRUG DRUG COMBINATION</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Coc/Alc/Cig</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Coc/Alc/Gambling</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Crack/Alc/Ecst</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Crack/Cig</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Mar/Alc/Cig</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Mar/Alc/Ecst</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Mar/Alc/Gambling</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Mar/Cig</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Mar/Coc/Alc/Cig</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Mar/Coc/Alc/Ecst</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Mar/Crack</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Mar/Crack/Alc</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Mar/Crack/Alc/Cig</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Mar/Ecst</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Mar/Heroin/Methadone/Valium/Ecst</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Mar/Joy Juice</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Blackies</b>	<b>1</b>

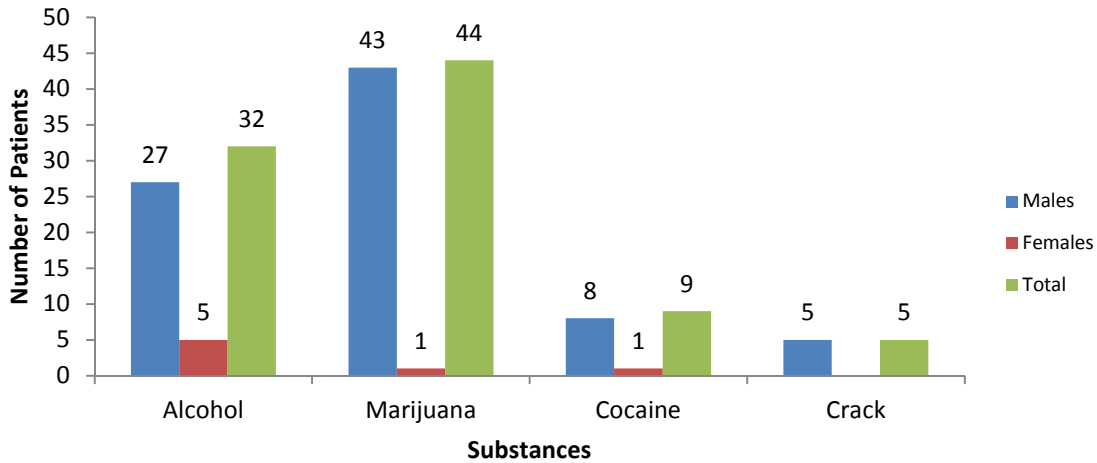
*Source: The Psychiatric Hospital*

### *Single Drug Use*

In addition to the many cases of polydrug use, there were a number of persons who were treated due to their use of a single substance (See Figures 10 and 11).

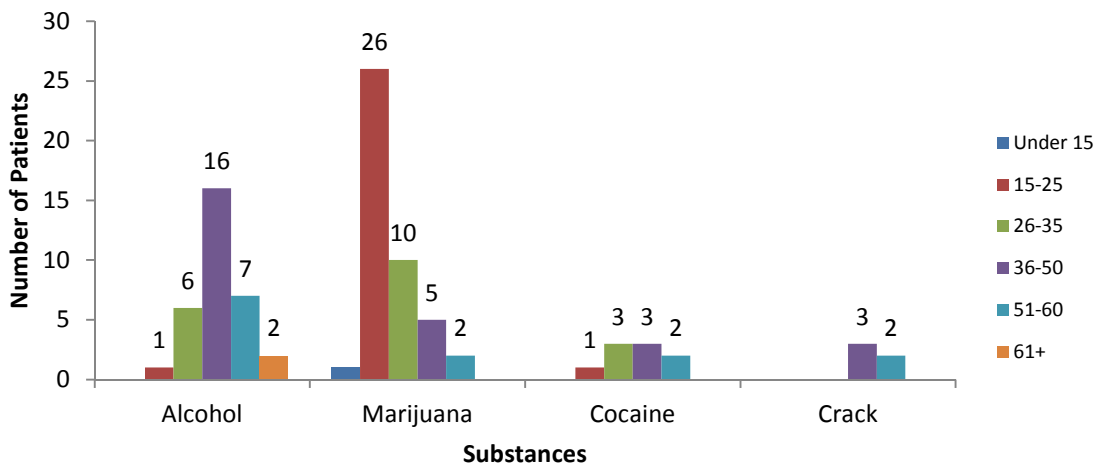


**Figure 10: Single Drugs for Which Treatment was Sought at the Psychiatric Hospital by Gender: January 1 to December 31, 2013**



Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

**Figure 11: Single Drugs for Which Treatment was Sought at the Psychiatric Hospital by Age: January 1 to December 31, 2013**



Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

Figures 10 and 11 reveal that alcohol and marijuana were the most popular substances among those who were admitted for the use of a single drug. These were followed by cocaine powder and crack cocaine.

With respect to age differences, Figure 11 shows that marijuana was more popular among those under the age of 36, while alcohol was more popular among those ages 36 and over.

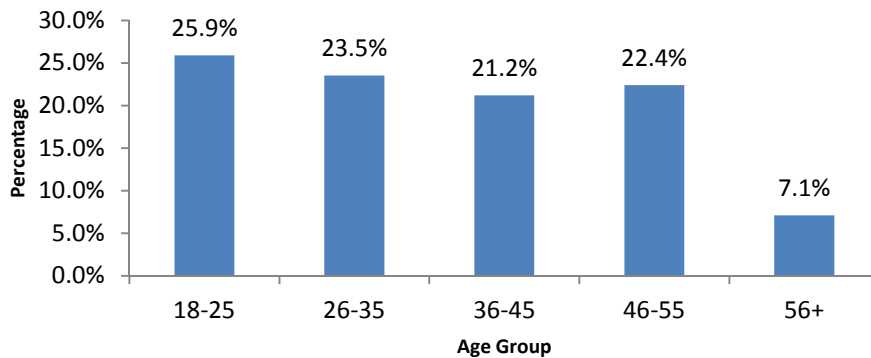
## 4.2 Verdun House<sup>5</sup>

### **Demographic Profile**

Eighty-five (85) males attended Verdun House for substance abuse treatment between January 1 and December 31, 2013.

Figure 12 below, reveals that there was a near equal age distribution for persons attending Verdun House during 2013. More specifically, it can be seen that the 18 to 25 (25.9%) and 26 to 35 (23.5%) age groups accounted for the largest proportion of persons seeking treatment at this institution; and these were closely followed by the 46 to 55 (22.4%) and 36 to 45 (21.2%) age groups. Those ages 56 and over accounted for a very small proportion (7.1%) of persons who received treatment at Verdun House during 2013.

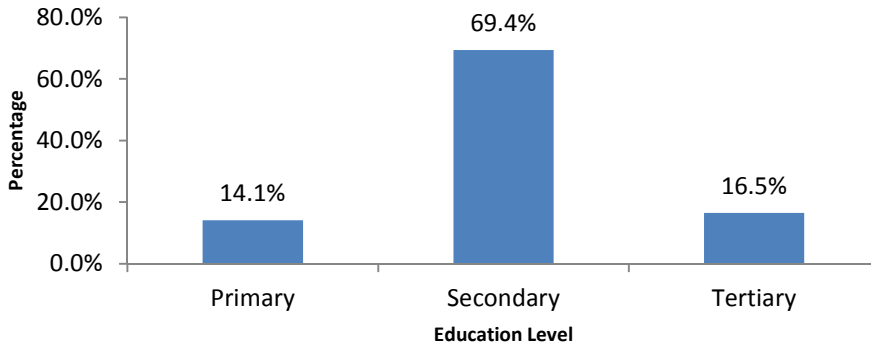
**Figure 12: Age of Persons Attending Verdun House during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2013**



Source: Verdun House

<sup>5</sup> Verdun House is the island's only residential treatment facility. It caters to males 18 years of age and older.

**Figure 13: Highest Level of Education Attained by Persons Attending Verdun House during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2013**

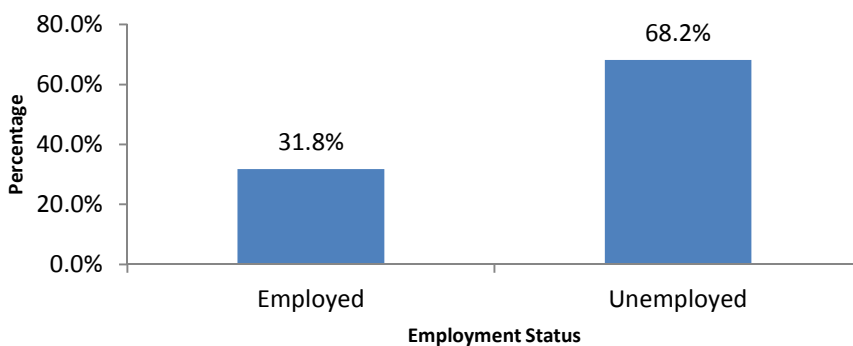


Source: Verdun House

A secondary level education was the highest level attained by most persons (69.4%) receiving treatment at Verdun House for the year 2013 (See Figure 13). In contrast, very few clients reported their highest level of education as being either tertiary (16.5%) or primary (14.1%) during the same period (See Figure 13).

Figure 14 below presents data regarding the employment status of those who attended Verdun House between January 1 and December 31, 2013. From the chart, it can be seen that most persons who sought treatment at this institution during the said period were unemployed (68.2%).

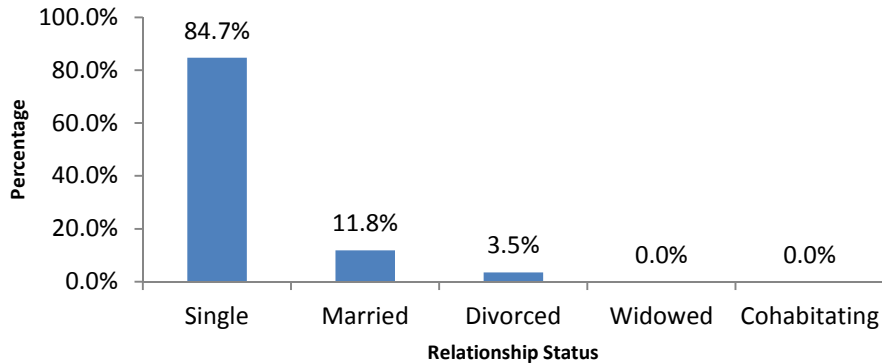
**Figure 14: Employment Status of Person Attending Verdun House during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2013**



Source: Verdun House

Lastly, it can be seen from Figure 15 that nearly all persons who received treatment at Verdun House during 2013 were single. Very few identified themselves as being either married (12%) or divorced (3%) (See Figure 15).

**Figure 15: Relationship Status of Persons attending Verdun House during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2013**



Source: Verdun House

### **Drug Use Profile**

Table 3 provides an overview of the drugs motivating the need for treatment among those attending Verdun House in 2013. The data is provided by age group.

**Table 3: Drugs for which Persons sought Treatment at Verdun House during 2013 by Age**

Age Group	Crack	Marijuana	Alcohol	Polysubstance	Total
18 to 25	8.2%	12.9%	0%	4.7%	25.9%
26 to 35	10.6%	8.2%	1.2%	3.5%	23.5%
36 to 45	11.8%	1.2%	3.5%	4.7%	21.2%
46 to 55	15.3%	0%	4.7%	2.4%	22.4%
56+	1.2%	0%	3.5%	2.4%	7.1%

Source: Verdun House

### **Age Group Analysis**

**18 to 25:** From Table 3, it is apparent that marijuana (12.9%) was the preferred drug for those in the 18 to 25 age group, followed by crack (8.2%) and polysubstance use (4.7%).

**26 to 35:** For those in the 26 to 35 age group, crack (10.6%) was the dominant drug followed by marijuana (8.2%), polysubstance use (4.7%) and alcohol (1.2%).

**36 to 45:** The largest proportion of persons in the 36 to 45 age group reported seeking treatment due the use of crack (11.8%). Fewer persons in this age group reported polysubstance use (4.7%) as well as alcohol (3.5%) and marijuana (1.2%) use.

**46 to 55:** Crack (15.3) was also the preferred drug for those age 46 to 55. In contrast, relatively few persons in this age group were admitted for alcohol (4.7%) and polysubstance (2.4%) use.

*56 and over:* There was little variation regarding the drugs for which persons in the 56 and over age group received treatment. As such, a similar proportion of persons were treated for alcohol (3.5%), polysubstance (2.4%) and crack (1.2%) use.

### *Drug Analysis*

In addition to the foregoing, a further examination of Table 3 reveals that no-one over the age of 46 reported marijuana use as the reason for their seeking treatment. In other words, marijuana was only reported as a problem drug by those ages 45 and younger. Furthermore, the data also reveals that the percentage of persons in each age group (18-25; 26-35; 36-45) who sought treatment for marijuana use decreased as client age increased.

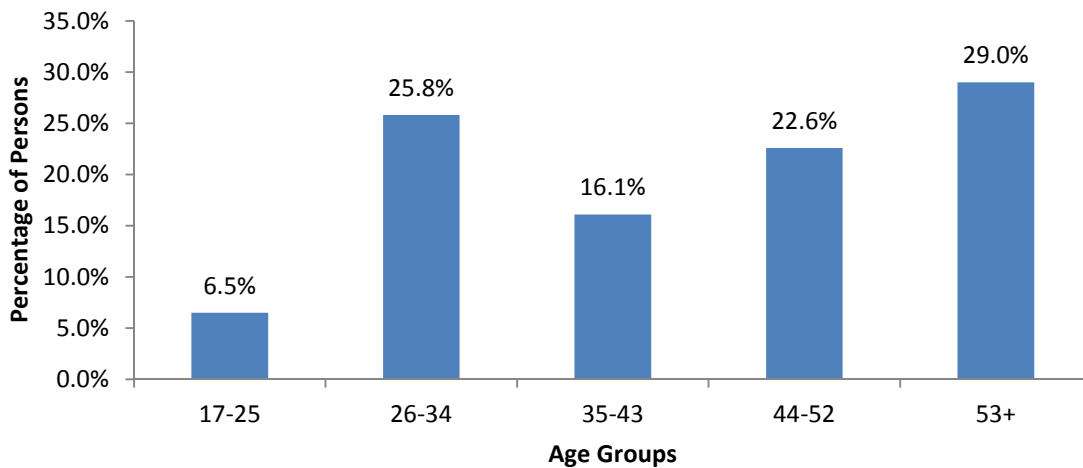
With regards to crack, the data reveals that the proportion of persons seeking treatment due to the use of this drug increased with age up to age 55. This was also the case with alcohol use. There was no discernable age-related pattern for polysubstance use. Nevertheless, the proportion of polysubstance users tended to be higher among those ages 45 and under.

### 4.3 Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling Programme

#### Demographic Profile

A total of 31 persons, *all of whom were males*, were admitted to the Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling Programme at HMP Dodds during the period January 1 to December 31, 2013. Figure 16 below reveals the age distribution of these persons. From the chart it can be seen that most persons receiving treatment within the IDRC programme were ages 35 and over. Nevertheless, there were persons in the 17 to 25 and 26 to 34 age groups who also took part in the programme.

**Figure 16: Age Distribution of Persons Receiving Treatment at the IDRC during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2013**

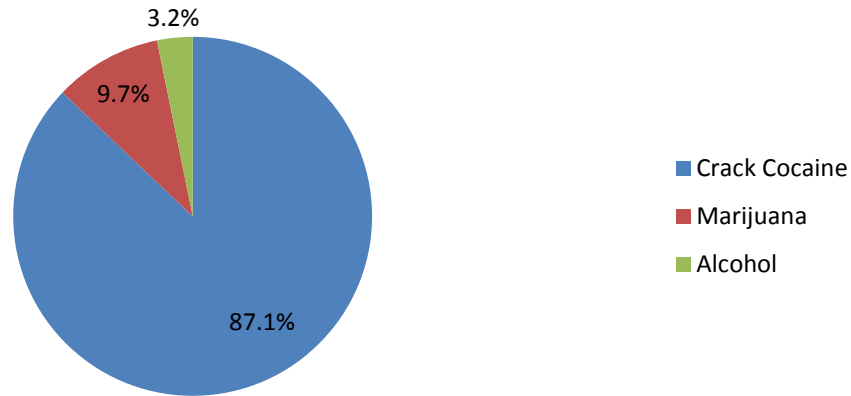


Source: HMP Dodds

#### Drug Use Profile

Figure 17 provides an overview of the substances for which persons sought treatment within the IDRC Programme during the year 2013. The chart reveals that crack cocaine was the dominant drug motivating the need for treatment among inmates during the said period followed by marijuana and alcohol.

**Figure 17: Drugs for Which Inmates Sought Treatment in the IDRC Programme during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2013**



Source: HMP Dodds

The data was then aggregated by age group, the results of which are presented in Table 4. From the Table it is apparent that crack cocaine was the most popular drug among persons in the 26 to 34, 35 to 43, 44 to 52 and 53 and over age groups. In contrast, an equal number of persons in the 17 to 25 age group sought treatment for cocaine and marijuana use.

**Table 4: Drugs for Which Inmates Sought Treatment at the IDRC by Age during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2013**

Age Group	Crack Cocaine	Marijuana	Alcohol
17-25 years	1	1	-
26-34 years	7	1	-
35-43 years	4	1	-
44-52 years	6	-	1
53+ years	9	-	-

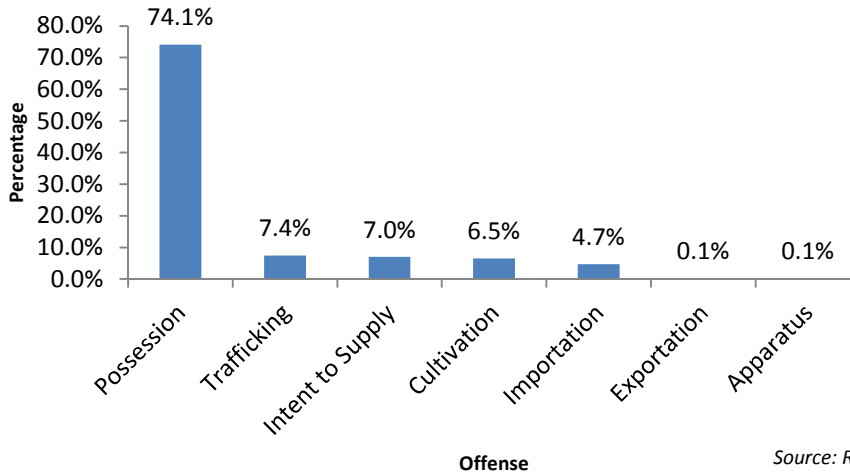
Source: HMP Dodds

## 5. Supply Control

### 5.1 Royal Barbados Police Force

#### **Cannabis**

**Figure 18: Cannabis Offenses for the Period January 1 to December 31, 2013**

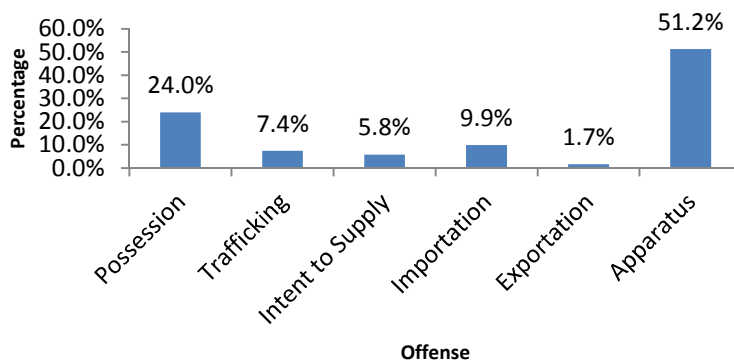


Source: Royal Barbados Police Force - Crime Statistics Department

From Figure 18 above, it can be seen that “Possession” was the most common cannabis-related offense for the period January 1 to December 31, 2013. This was distantly followed by “Trafficking”, “Intent to Supply”, “Cultivation” and “Importation” of the drug. There were very few charges for “Exportation” and “Apparatus”.

#### **Cocaine**

**Figure 19: Cocaine Offenses for the Period January 1 to December 31, 2013**



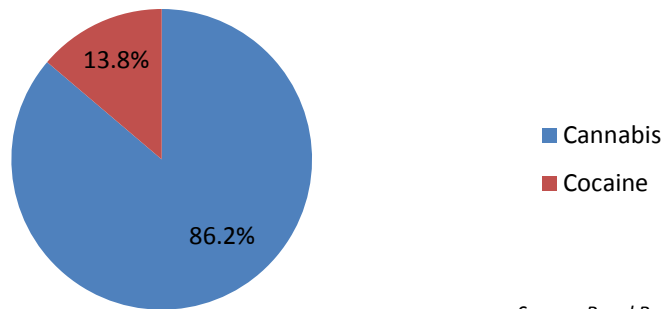
Source: Royal Barbados Police Force - Crime Statistics Department



With respect to the cocaine-related offenses during the same period, Figure 19 reveals that “Apparatus” was the most common followed by “Possession”. Charges for “Importation”, “Trafficking”, “Intent to Supply” and “Exportation” were less numerous.

### ***Cannabis vs. Cocaine***

**Figure 20: Cannabis vs. Cocaine Offenses for the Period January 1 to December 31, 2013**



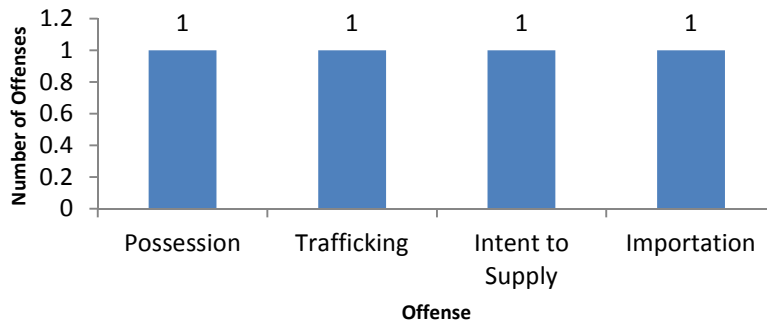
*Source: Royal Barbados Police Force - Crime Statistics Department*

A comparison of the cannabis- and cocaine-related offenses for the period January 1 to December 31, 2013, reveals that cannabis offenses were more numerous (See Figure 20).

### ***Ecstasy***

Ecstasy-related offenses for the period January 1 to December 31, 2013 were limited. In fact, there was only one charge for each of the following offenses: “Possession”, “Trafficking”, “Intent to Supply” and “Importation” (See Figure 21).

**Figure 21: Ecstasy Offenses for the Period  
January 1 to December 31, 2013**



*Source: Royal Barbados Police Force - Crime Statistics Department*

## 6. Discussion

The 2013 BARDIN report provides valuable insight into national efforts to reduce the demand for, and supply of, legal and illicit substances in Barbados. As in the previous BARDIN reports (for the years 2011 and 2012), marijuana, cocaine and alcohol were the three substances which engaged the attention of law enforcement and the drug treatment centers. With regard to the treatment sector in particular, various combinations involving marijuana and cocaine (powder and crack) were the motivators for treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital, Verdun House and the Prison. In contrast, marijuana was the drug most commonly used among students tested for drug use at the Edna Nicholls Centre.

Younger persons sought treatment for substance abuse at Verdun House and The Psychiatric Hospital. More specifically, individuals admitted for treatment at Verdun House were primarily 18 to 25 and 26 to 35 years; while those interned at the Psychiatric Hospital were mostly in the 15-25, 26-35 and the 36-50 age groups. In contrast, the majority of persons admitted for substance abuse treatment at the Prisons were over 35 years.

There was a notable trend of polydrug use (use of more than one drug) among persons admitted for treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital. In fact, the number of persons seeking treatment for polydrug use at the Psychiatric Hospital during 2013 was greater than the number admitted for single drug use. Combinations of marijuana, cocaine and alcohol, as well as marijuana and alcohol, were the most frequent polydrug combinations. The movement towards the use of multiple substances will present challenges for drug treatment providers and agencies responsible for delivering drug education and prevention programmes. Drug treatment practitioners in particular will face the challenge of identifying the effects attributable to each drug and designing a treatment plan for multiple drugs rather than for a single drug.

In addition to substance abuse treatment, efforts were also made to reduce the demand for drugs through drug education and prevention programmes. The NCSA delivered school-based drug education programs to primary and secondary school students as well as programmes for the wider community. Primary school students from 3 to 11 years and secondary school students between ages 11 and 17 years were targeted. Community activities focused on the delivery of drug education to individuals between 5 and 65 years.

NCSA's continued delivery of drug education to primary and secondary school students is important given that there is mounting concern in our society about the increase in adolescent drug and alcohol abuse and dependence (National Council on Substance Abuse, 2007). However, it should be noted that most young people who experiment with drugs, or use them recreationally, do not develop serious drug problems (National Council on Substance Abuse, 2012). Rather, only a small minority become intensive drug users, and develop serious drug-related health problems (National Council on Substance Abuse, 2013).

The growing trend of polydrug use also has implications for organisations that deliver drug prevention and education programs, such as the NCSA. As such, it is imperative that they incorporate learning strategies to counter this phenomenon in their future activities. Likewise, attention should also be paid to one of the factors driving drug use, namely cultural acceptance. Cultural and attitudinal correlates of drug use include beliefs and evaluations regarding drug use, as well as general values and behaviours that contribute to drug use (Little et al., 2013). Such cultural beliefs have resulted in the endorsement of negative social and psychological consequences of drug use that are influenced by broader societal values (Little et al., 2013).

## 7. Conclusion

The continued consumption of marijuana, cocaine and alcohol is problematic for law enforcement and social service agencies. The persistent use of these substances relates to school dropout, low academic performance, poor health and crime. The use of these substances, therefore, places a burden on individuals, families and communities. Thus, a response to substance abuse requires collaborative approaches that address the psychological, social and economic circumstances linked to drug use. However, the cultural acceptance of drug use can present challenges for drug prevention efforts, and therefore, should be taken into consideration.

Overall, the information provided in this report is useful as it allows for a better understanding of the drug problem in Barbados. Also, the concerns raised by the youth in the Haynesville and surrounding areas can inform the implementation of programmes that address their needs. In this regard, consideration should be given to conducting similar qualitative studies in communities across Barbados.

## 8. References

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