

**BARBDIN**

# Barbados Drug Information Network Report

An analysis of the 2014 Data



Prepared by

**The National Council on Substance Abuse**



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# 1. Key Findings

## 1.1 Drug Education

- The National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) is the leading agency responsible for drug education efforts across the island.
- The NCSA's Primary School Programme targeted the largest number of persons in 2014, followed by the Community and Secondary School Programmes respectively.
- The Primary School Programme reached more males than females during 2014. Gender-related data was not available for the Community and Secondary School Programmes.

## 1.2 Research

### Key Findings from the 2013 Secondary School Survey conducted by the NCSA

- Lifetime marijuana and alcohol use was higher among secondary school students while lifetime inhalant use was more prevalent among primary school students.
- The prevalence rates (lifetime, annual/past year, past month) for alcohol use among secondary school students were similar in 2006 and 2013.
- When alcohol use among secondary school students was considered by gender, findings showed that females outnumbered males in each of the use categories (lifetime, annual/past year, past month) in both 2006 and 2013.
- When marijuana use among secondary school students was considered by gender, males were found to have outnumbered females in each of the use categories (lifetime, annual/past year, past month) in both 2006 and 2013.
- Marijuana use increased among both male and female secondary school students between 2006 and 2013.
- The proportion of students who considered smoking marijuana (sometimes, frequently) to be very harmful decreased between 2006 and 2013.
- The proportion of students who were reportedly curious about trying illegal drugs increased between 2006 and 2013 while the proportion of those not curious decreased.
- In 2006 and 2013, marijuana was considered as being easy to access by more students than cocaine (powder), crack cocaine and ecstasy.
- In 2013, 31.3% of students indicated that they had seen students selling/giving drugs to others at or around school while 41.0% had seen fellow students using drugs on or near the school compound.

## 1.3 Drug Testing

- Of the 143 students who attended the Edna Nicholls Centre (ENC) in 2013, 20.3% tested positive for marijuana use or had trace amounts of the drug in their system.

- The majority (80%) of ENC students who tested positive for marijuana use were male. The remaining 20% were female.
- One male student tested positive for cocaine use during 2014.
- Marijuana was the preferred illicit drug among the ENC students who tested positive for drug use in 2014.

## 1.4 Treatment

### **Psychiatric Hospital**

- Males accounted for 98% of the persons seeking substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital during 2014.
- The majority of persons seeking substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital during 2014 were in the 36-50, 26-35 and 15-25 age groups respectively.
- Polydrug users outnumbered single drug users seeking treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital.
- Polydrug use was more problematic among those under the age of 51 who were seeking substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital.
- The most common polydrug combination for which treatment was sought at the Psychiatric Hospital was marijuana, cocaine and alcohol.
- Alcohol and marijuana were the most popular substances among those who sought treatment for single drug use at the Psychiatric Hospital.
- Among those seeking treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital for single drug use, marijuana was more popular with those under the age of 36 while alcohol was more popular among those ages 36 and over.

### **Verdun House**

- The 46 to 55 age group accounted for the largest percentage of persons seeking treatment at Verdun House during 2014, followed by the 26 to 35, 18 to 25 and 36 to 45 age groups respectively.
- The 56 and over age group accounted for the smallest proportion of Verdun House clients during 2014.
- Most persons who attended Verdun House during 2014 were single, unemployed individuals who possessed a secondary level education.
- Crack cocaine was the preferred substance among Verdun House clients of all ages.
- Only persons 35 and under reported seeking treatment for marijuana use/abuse at Verdun House.
- Only persons 36 and over received treatment for alcohol abuse at Verdun House.

### **Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling Programme**

- More males than females sought treatment in the Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling (IDRC) Programme during 2014.

- The 17 to 25 age group accounted for the largest number of inmates seeking treatment in the IDRC Programme, followed by the 53 and over, 44 to 52, 26 to 34 and 35 to 43 age groups respectively.
- Cocaine was the main drug for which inmates sought treatment (72.7%) during 2014. Fewer inmates (27.3%) received treatment for marijuana use/abuse.
- Cocaine was the dominant drug among male inmates while marijuana was the preferred substance among female inmates.
- Within the IDRC programme, cocaine was the preferred drug for the 26-34, 35-43, 44-52, and 53 and over age categories.
- For inmates in the 17 to 25 age category, marijuana was the dominant drug.

### 1.5 Supply Control

- “Possession” was the most common cannabis-related offense for which persons were charged by the Royal Barbados Police Force (RBPF) during 2014.
- “Apparatus” and “Possession” were the two most common cocaine-related offenses for which persons were charged by the RBPF during 2014.
- Cannabis offenses far outnumbered the cocaine offenses recorded by the RBPF during 2014.
- The majority of persons charged with drug offenses during 2014 were Barbadian nationals.
- The largest proportion of persons charged with drug offenses were between the ages of 23 and 42.

### 1.6 Select Trend Analysis

- The percentage of students testing positive for marijuana use at the Edna Nicholls Centre declined between 2011 and 2012 and then increased in 2013 and 2014.
- While the number of persons seeking substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital was similar in 2012 and 2013, there was a notable decrease in 2014.
- The 35 and under age category accounted for the largest proportion of persons seeking substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital between 2011 and 2014.
- Males outnumbered females seeking substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital between 2011 and 2014.
- There is an emerging polydrug use trend among those seeking substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital.
- While single drug users marginally outnumbered polydrug users in 2011, the proportion of polydrug users was increasingly larger than single drug users from 2012 onwards.
- Cannabis offenses consistently accounted for the majority of drug offenses recorded by the Royal Barbados Police Force between 2011 and 2014.
- The proportion of cannabis offenses increased annually between 2011 and 2014.
- “Possession of Cannabis” was the most common cannabis offense between 2012 and 2014.

## 2. Introduction

The consumption of alcohol, tobacco, pharmaceuticals and illicit drugs is associated with a wide variety of adverse health and social consequences. Thus, countries use various measures to combat the drug phenomenon. There are two primary strategies that governments use to deal with the problem: drug interdiction and demand reduction. Interdiction refers to the actions of law enforcement to reduce the access and availability of drugs. Demand reduction relates to the activities used to: prevent the use of drugs, treat individuals at risk for drug use and provide intensive treatment for the person addicted to drugs.

The Barbados Drug Information Network (BARDIN) is the mechanism through which the National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) collects and disseminates information on demand reduction and supply-control activities across the island. 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 2014 BARDIN report is the fourth in the BARDIN series and is a compilation of data collected from entities involved in demand reduction and supply reduction and control activities for the period January 1 to December 31, 2014. These agencies include the Psychiatric Hospital, Verdun House, the NCSA, the Edna Nicholls Centre, the Royal Barbados Police (RBPF) Force and the Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling Programme of the Barbados Prison Service. While the data for this report consists primarily of existing statistics from these agencies, primary data from the 2013 Secondary School Survey and comparisons of this data with that from the 2009 Primary School Survey and the 2006 Secondary School Survey are also included.

### 3. Demand Reduction

#### 3.1 National Council on Substance Abuse

##### *Drug Education Programming*

**Table 1: Persons Targeted by NCSA's Programmes during 2014 by Age and Gender**

Intervention	Age Range/ Population Targeted	No. of Males Targeted	No. of Females Targeted	Total no. of Persons Targeted
<b><u>Primary School</u></b>				
Safe & Unsafe	5-7 years	166	71	237
Jugs & Herrings	6-8 years	49	31	80
Just the Facts	7-8 years	49	49	98
Drugs & My World	8-9 years	121	60	181
Facts & Issues	9-10 years	11	3	14
Drugs & Decisions	10-11 years	86	35	121
Games 4 Life	10-11 years	1142	1230	2372
Cub Scouts	7-11 years	207	0	207
Life Education Centre (LEC)	3-16 years	3005	2815	5820
- Nursery	3-4 years	441	251	692
- Reception	4-5 years	292	285	577
- Infants A	5-6 years	336	289	625
- Infants B	6-7 years	318	317	635
- Class 1	7-8 years	296	339	635
- Class 2	8-9 years	322	357	679
- Class 3	9-10 years	319	305	624
- Class 4	10-11 years	313	334	647
- Summer Camps	4-16 years	368	338	706
General Drug Education	3-11 years	84	81	165
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4920</b>	<b>4375</b>	<b>9295</b>
<b><u>Secondary School</u></b>				
Drugs Education and Life Skills	11-16 years	725	610	1335
Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic Course	Various ages (17+ years)	181	64	245
Mass-based Events (career showcases, health fairs, full assemblies, etc.)*	11-16 years	-	-	Approx. 3500
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>1580</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>143</b>
<b>Irving Wilson – Peer Support</b>	<b>11-18 years</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Project SOFT</b>	<b>10-12 years</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Prevention First Club: Parents</b>	<b>Parents</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Drug Education Sessions</b>	<b>Various ages</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>492</b>
<b>I Make the Choice!</b>	<b>16-40 years</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>1178</b>
<b>Adolescent Programme</b>	<b>11-16 years</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>224</b>
<b>Workplace Drug Education Interventions</b>	<b>16-65 years</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>213</b>
<b>Summer Camp Presentations<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>4-18 years</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>Volunteer Training – New NCSA Volunteers Trained</b>	<b>Various ages (18+ years)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Mass-based Events**</b>	<b>7-65 years</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>Approx. 34, 700</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>2473</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 reveals that the NCSA Primary School Programme targeted the largest number of persons during the period January 1 to December 31, 2014. This was followed by the Community and Secondary School Programmes respectively. With regard to gender differences, the Primary School Programme reportedly reached more males than females. Unfortunately gender-related data was not available for all of the Community and Secondary School interventions/activities. This therefore prevented any gender-related analysis from being carried out for these departments.

<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

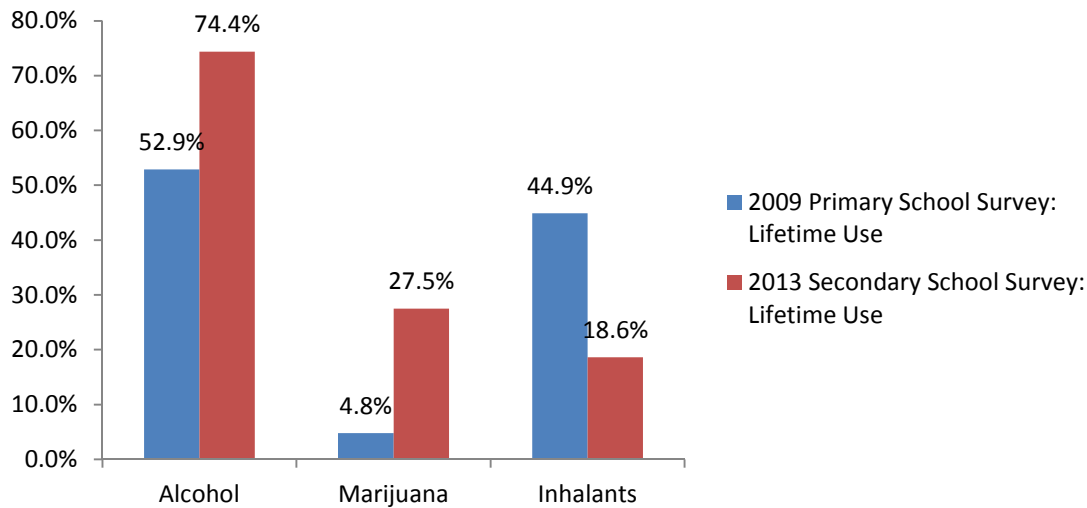
<sup>2</sup> N.B. Totals were not available for all of the Summer Camp Presentations which were made. As such, the number of persons reached by Summer Camp Presentations is larger than that presented.



## Research

In 2014, the NCSA Research Department compiled a report on the 2013 Secondary School Survey. Select findings from this report are presented below. In addition, a number of comparisons are also made to findings from previous school surveys, namely the 2009 Primary School Survey and the 2006 Secondary School Survey.

**Figure 1: Comparative Lifetime Drug Use: Primary & Secondary School Students**

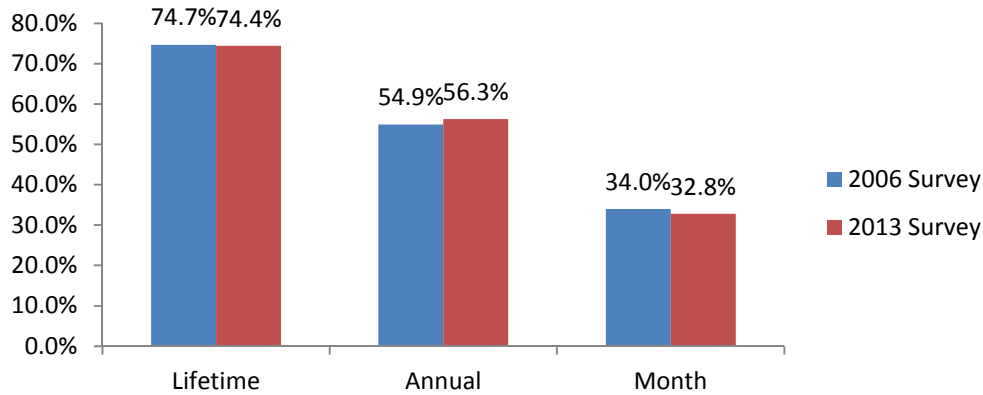


*Source: The National Council on Substance Abuse*

Figure 1 compares the proportion of primary and secondary school students who reported using alcohol, marijuana and inhalants at least once in their lifetime. From the chart it can be seen that a greater proportion of secondary school students reported alcohol and marijuana use. Alternately, primary school students outnumbered their secondary school counterparts with regards to inhalant use.

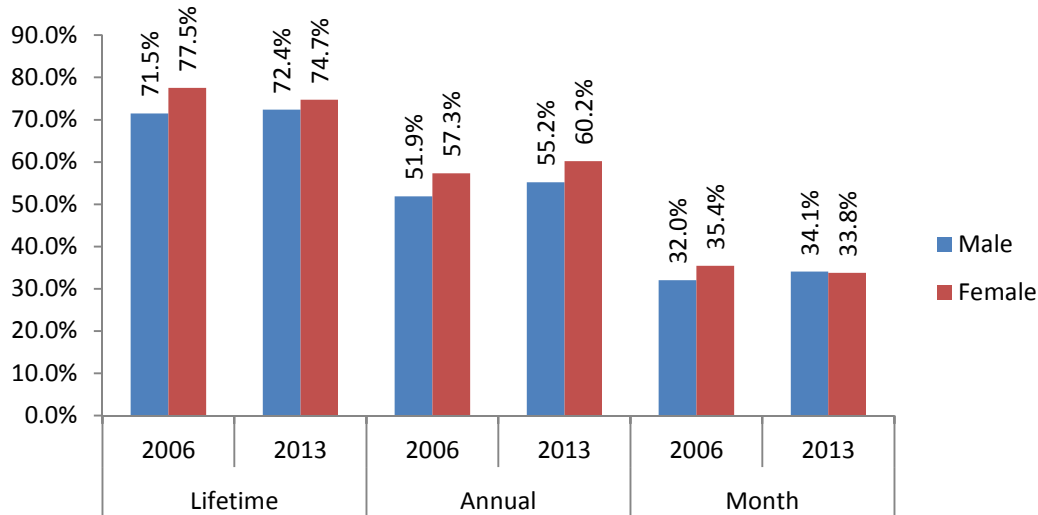
The percentage of students reporting lifetime, past year and past month alcohol use during the 2006 and 2013 secondary school surveys is presented in Figure 2. From the graph it can be seen that there was little difference in reported lifetime use in 2006 and 2013. Likewise, the annual (past year) and past month rates were also similar. However, it should be noted that annual (past year) use was marginally higher in the 2013 survey while past month use was marginally higher in 2006.

**Figure 2: Adolescent Consumption of Alcohol:  
Comparison of 2006 & 2013 Secondary School  
Surveys**



Source: The National Council on Substance Abuse

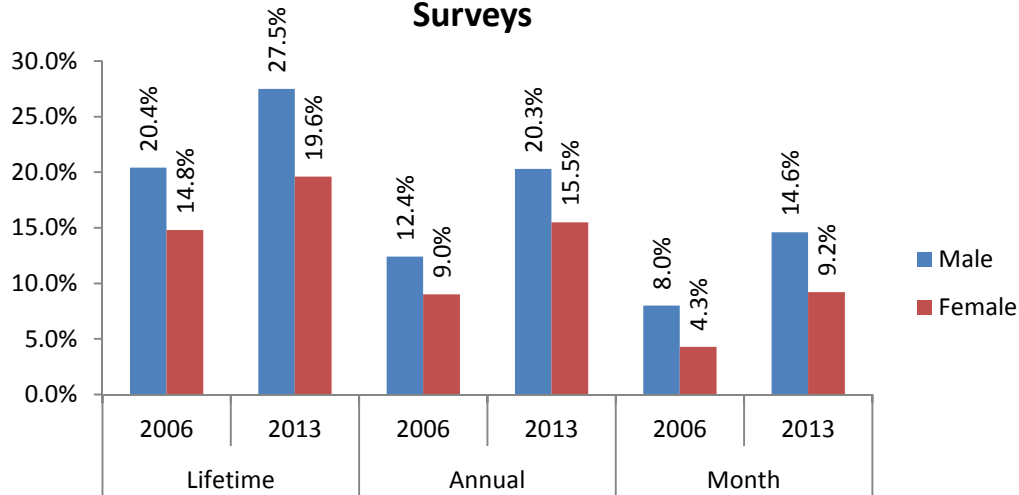
**Figure 3: Adolescent Alcohol Use by Gender:  
Comparison of the 2006 & 2013 Secondary School  
Surveys**



Source: The National Council on Substance Abuse

Figure 3 presents the data regarding alcohol use among secondary school students by gender. From the chart it can be seen that females outnumbered males in each of the use categories (lifetime, annual/past year, past month) in both 2006 and 2013. The chart also reveals that lifetime and past month use of alcohol by females marginally decreased between 2006 and 2013 while annual (past year) use increased during this period. For males, lifetime, annual (past year) and past month use increased, albeit to differing degrees, between 2006 and 2013.

**Figure 4: Adolescent Marijuana Use by Gender: Comparison of 2006 & 2013 Secondary School Surveys**

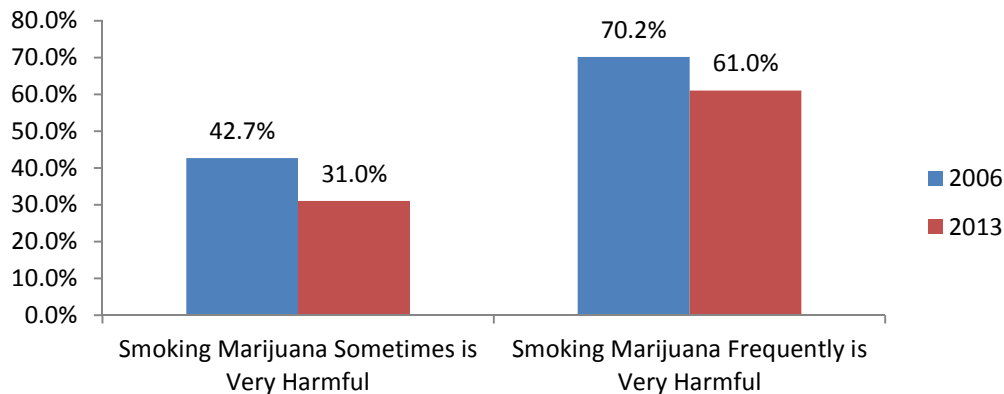


Source: The National Council on Substance Abuse

Figure 4 presents data regarding marijuana use by male and female secondary school students in 2006 and 2013. Males outnumbered the females in each of the use categories (lifetime, annual/past year, past month) in 2006 and 2013. Additionally, marijuana use (lifetime, annual/past year, past month) increased among both male and female students between 2006 and 2013.

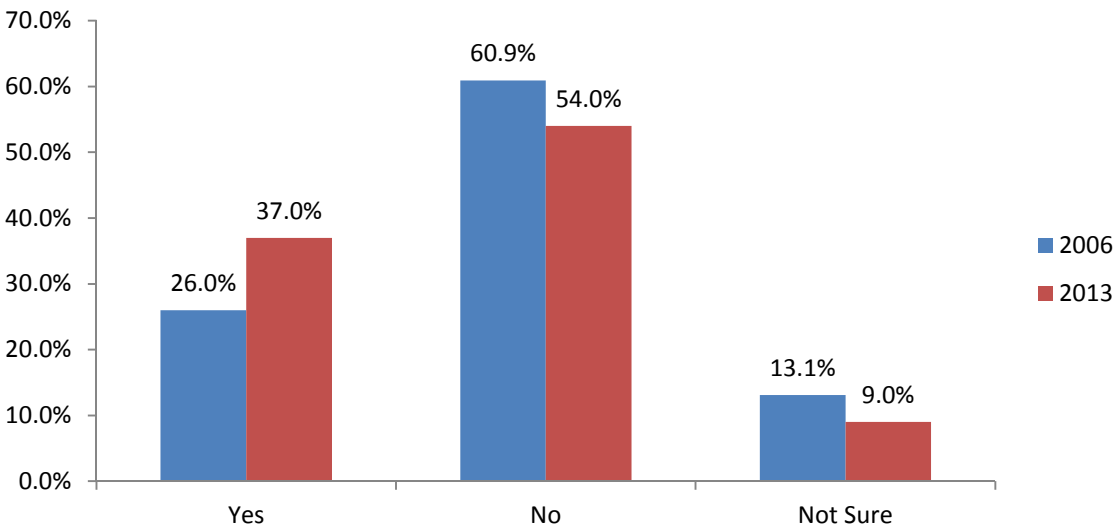
Figure 5 shows that, between 2006 and 2013, the proportion of secondary school students who considered smoking marijuana to be very harmful decreased. This was the case for both “smoking marijuana sometimes” and “smoking marijuana frequently”.

**Figure 5: Perception of Harm regarding Marijuana Use: Comparison of the 2006 & 2013 Secondary School Surveys**



Source: The National Council on Substance Abuse

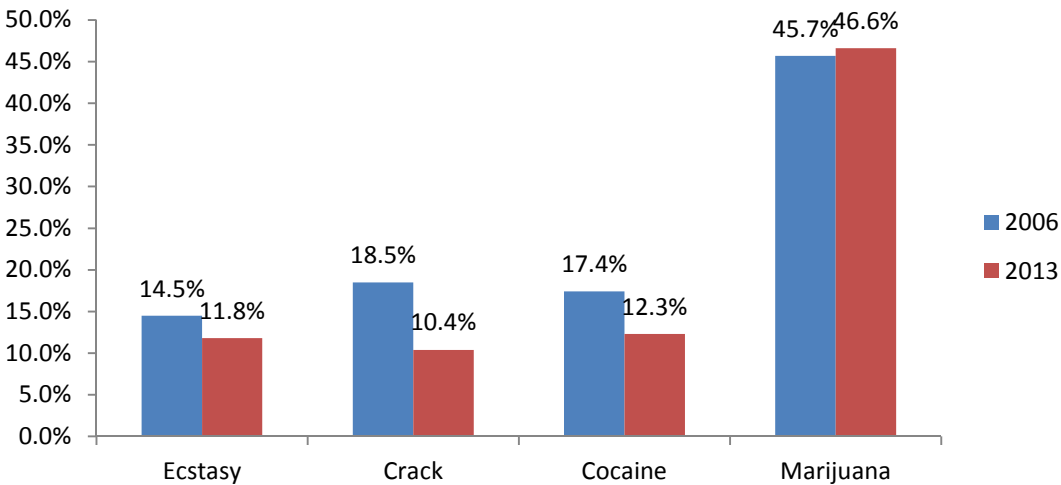
**Figure 6: Curious to Try an Illegal Drug: Comparison of 2006 & 2013 Secondary School Surveys**



Source: The National Council on Substance Abuse

From Figure 6 it can be seen that the proportion of students reportedly *curious* about trying illegal drugs increased between 2006 and 2013. Similarly, the proportion of students who were reportedly *not curious* decreased during the same period, as did those who indicated their uncertainty (not sure).

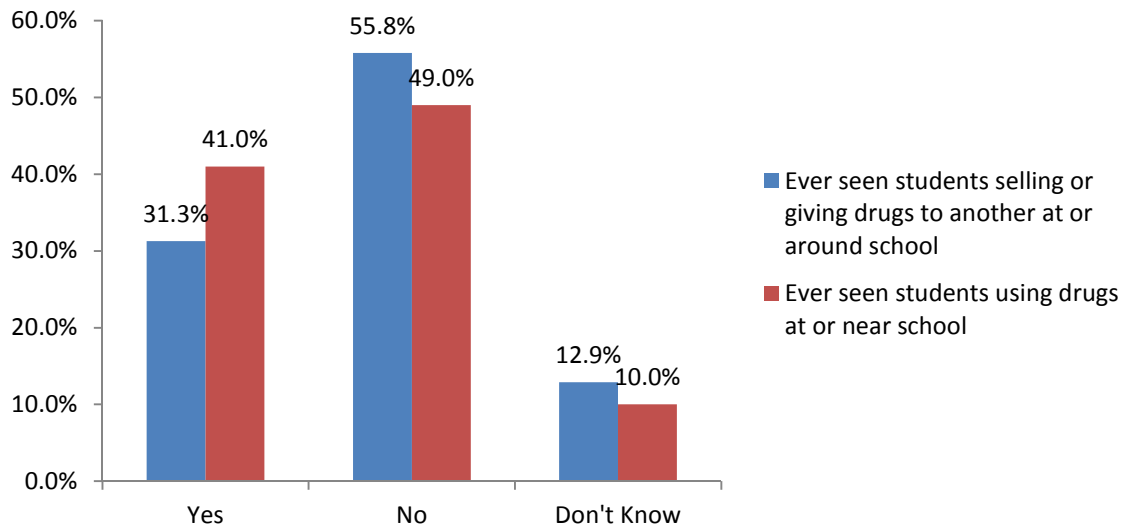
**Figure 7: 'Easy' Access to Illegal Drugs: Comparison of 2006 & 2013 Secondary School Surveys**



Source: The National Council on Substance Abuse

Figure 7 reveals that in 2006 and 2013, marijuana was considered as being easy to access by more students than drugs such as cocaine (powder), crack cocaine and ecstasy. Also evident is the fact that there was a marginal increase in the proportion of students considering marijuana to be easily accessible in 2013 while the proportion of students considering ecstasy, crack cocaine and cocaine (powder) to be easily accessible decreased during the same period.

**Figure 8: Selling/Using Drugs At or Near School: 2013  
Secondary School Survey**



Source: *The National Council on Substance Abuse*

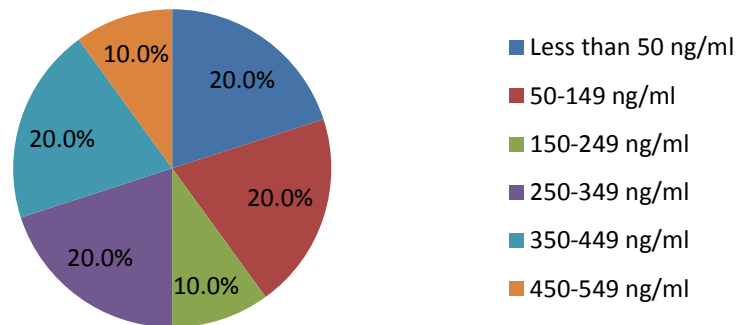
During the 2013 survey, secondary school students were asked if they had ever seen students using or selling/giving drugs to other students at or near school. Just under one third (31.3%) reported seeing students selling/giving drugs to others at or around school while 41.0% indicated that they had seen fellow students using drugs on or near the school compound (See Figure 8).

## 3.2 Edna Nicholls Centre

### ***Marijuana Use***

A total of 143 students<sup>3</sup> attended the Edna Nicholls Centre between January 1 to December 31, 2014. Of this number, 29 (20.3%) tested positive for marijuana use (a result of 50 ng/ml or over<sup>4</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 3% over that recorded in 2013 (17%). Additionally, it should be noted that the percentage of students testing positive for marijuana use/had trace amounts of the drug within their system during 2014 was higher than that reported in each of the preceding BARDIN reports (2011: 17.4%, 2012: 11.4%, 2013:17%).

**Figure 9: Marijuana Test Results for Students Testing Positive for Drug Use : January 1 to December 31, 2014**



*Source: The Edna Nicholls Centre*

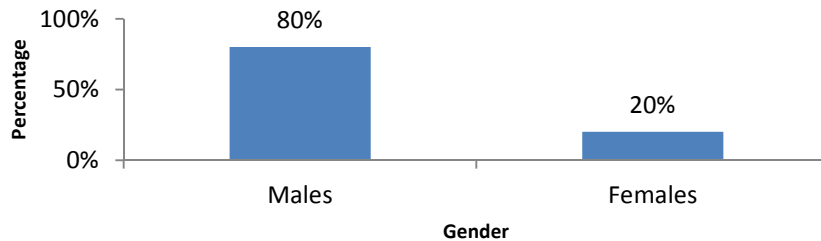
Figure 9 above presents the marijuana test results for those students who tested positive and/or were found to have trace amounts of the drug within their system (N=29). The chart reveals a near equal distribution of the test results, with each of the following categories accounting for 20%: 50 ng/ml, 50-149 ng/ml, 250-349 ng/ml and 350-449 ng/ml. Those students with test results in the 150-249 ng/ml (10%) and 450-549 ng/ml (10%) ranges accounted for the remaining 20%.

When gender was taken into consideration, it was found that males accounted for 80% of the 2014 students who tested positive for marijuana use/had trace amounts of the drug within their system (See Figure 10). The remaining 20% of students in this group were female (See Figure 10).

<sup>3</sup> Please note that a gender break down is not provided as this information was not available when the present report was prepared.

<sup>4</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.

**Figure 10: Students Testing Positive for Marijuana Use at Edna Nicholls Centre January 1 to December 31, 2014: Males vs. Females**



Source: The Edna Nicholls Centre

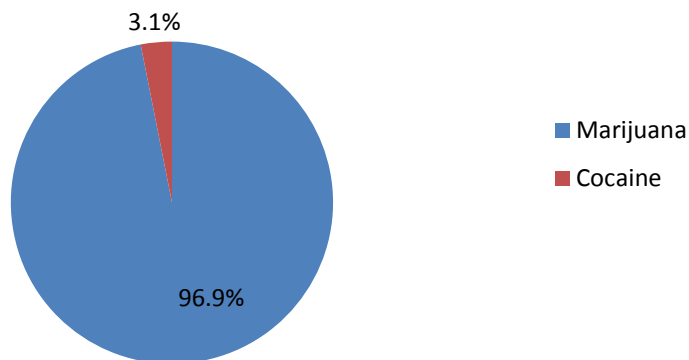
### ***Cocaine Use***

With respect to cocaine use, one male student tested positive during the year 2014. This corresponds with the findings from 2013, during which time a single male student also tested positive for use of the drug.

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

Marijuana was the preferred illicit drug for those students at the Edna Nicholls Centre who tested positive for drug use during the year 2014. This is evidenced in Figure 11 below which shows that marijuana was used by 96.9% of the students who tested positive for drug use while cocaine was used by 3.1%.

**Figure 11: Positive Drug Test Results for Students at Edna Nicholls Centre January 1 to December 31, 2014: Marijuana vs. Cocaine**



Source: The Edna Nicholls Centre

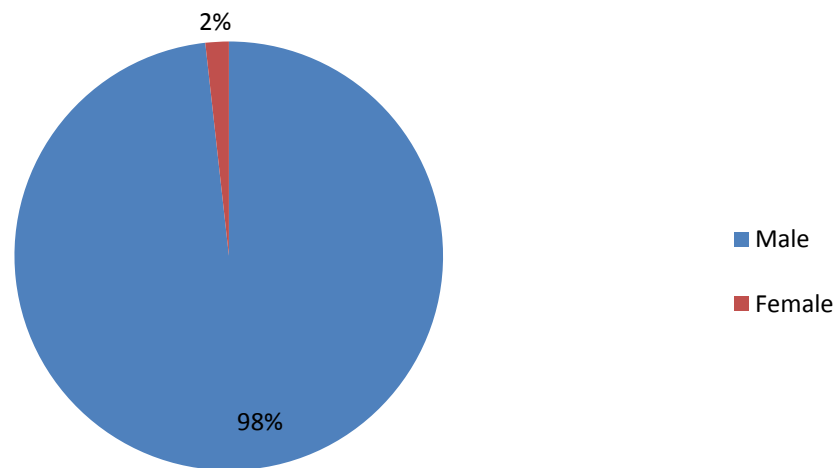
## 4. Treatment

### 4.1 Psychiatric Hospital

A total of 172 persons sought substance abuse treatment at the Drug Rehabilitation Unit of the Psychiatric Hospital during 2014. It should be noted that conflicting demographic information was received for 2 of the cases; as such, the data presented below is based on the remaining 170 clients.

#### *Demographic Profile*

**Figure 12: Psychiatric Hospital Drug Admissions by Gender: January 1 to December 31, 2014**



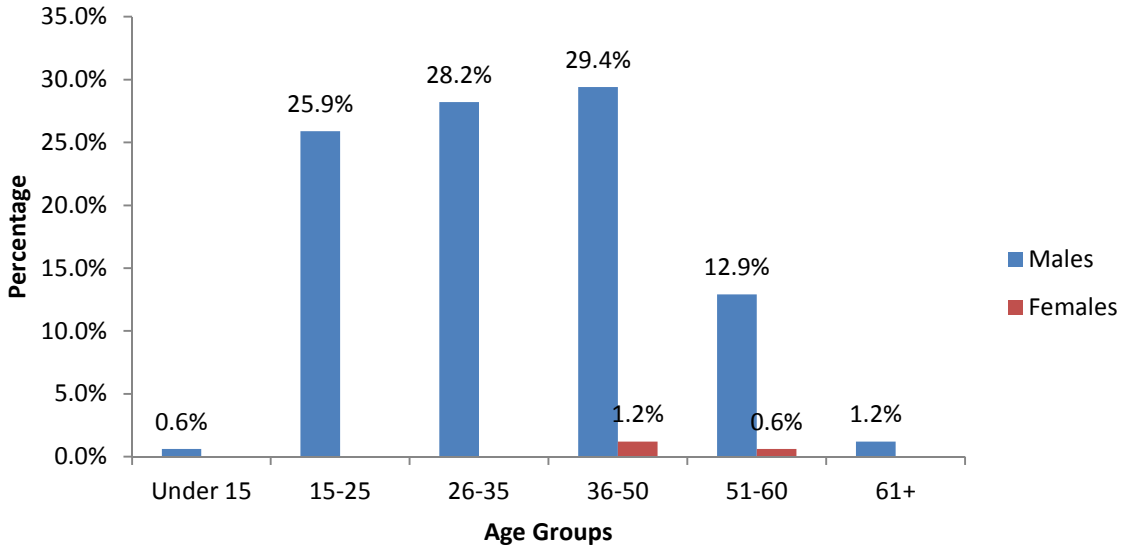
*Source: The Psychiatric Hospital*

Figure 12 highlights the gender disparity in persons seeking substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital during 2014. As in previous years, the male treatment seekers far outnumbered their female counterparts.

Figure 13 displays the drug admissions by age and gender. From the chart it can be seen that the majority of treatment seekers were in the 36-50, 26-35 and 15-25 age groups respectively. Fewer patients were in the 51-60, 61 and over, and under 15 age groups. Figure 13 also further emphasizes the gender disparity among the patients.



**Figure 13: Psychiatric Hospital Drug Admissions by Age & Gender: January 1 to December 31, 2014**

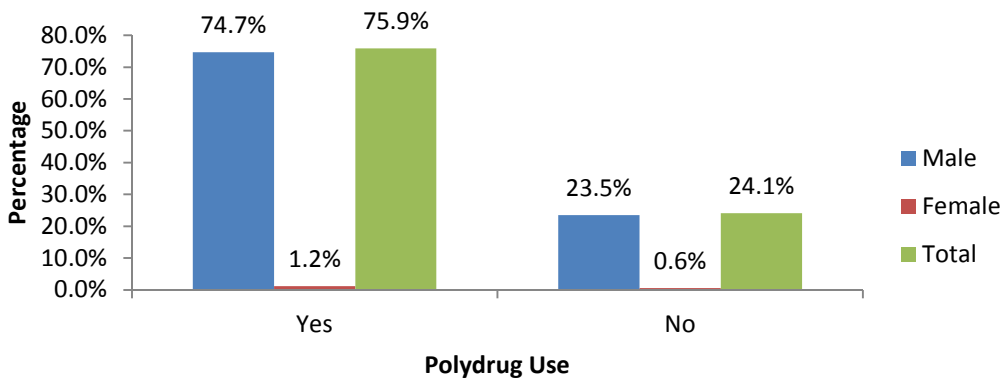


Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

**Drug Use Profile**

Polydrug use was very common among those seeking substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital during 2014. As was the case in 2013, polydrug users outnumbered single drug users (See Figure 14).

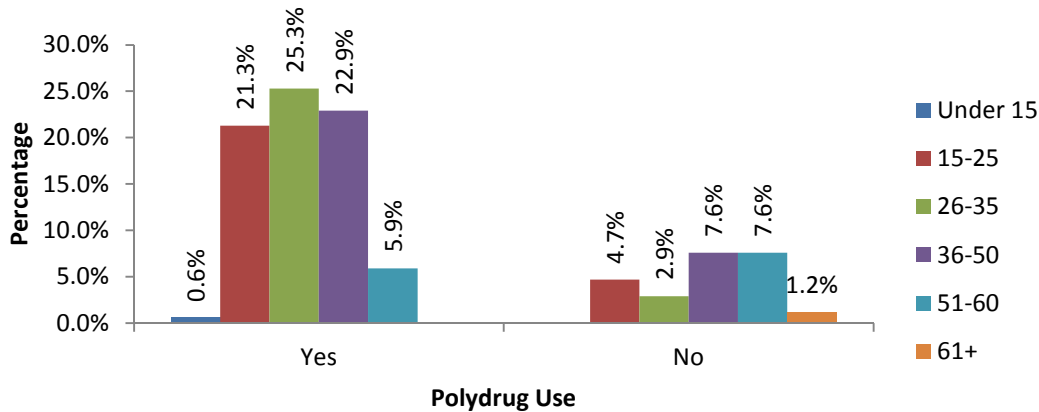
**Figure 14: Psychiatric Hospital Polydrug Use Admissions by Gender: January 1 to December 31, 2014**



Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

Polydrug use appears to have been more problematic among the treatment seekers who were below the age of 51. This can be said as the polydrug users far outnumbered the single drug users in the under 15, 15-25, 26-35 and 36-50 age groups (See Figure 15). In contrast, single drug use was marginally greater in the 51-60 and 61+ age groups (See Figure 15).

**Figure 15: Psychiatric Hospital Polydrug Use Admissions by Age: January 1 - December 31, 2015**



Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

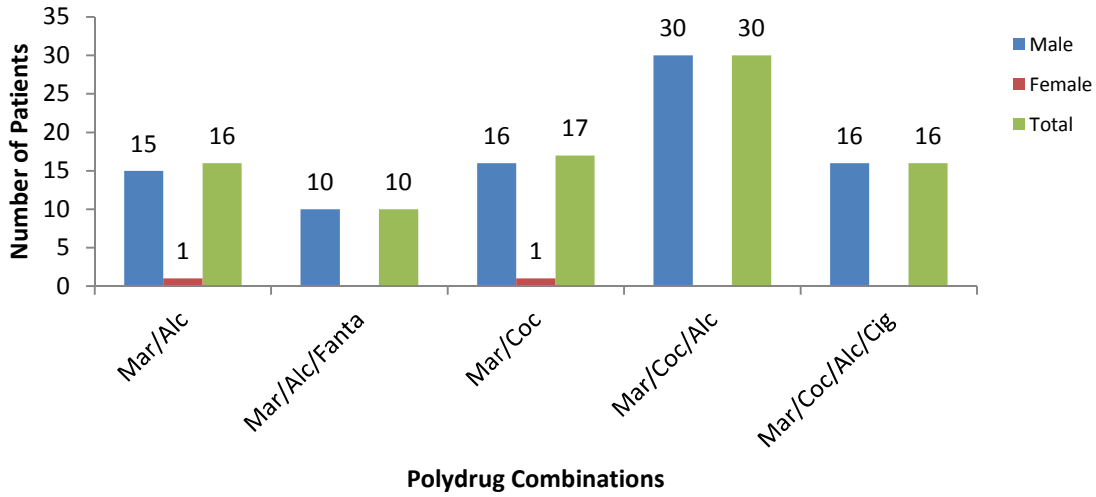
### **Common Polydrug Combinations**

There were a number of common polydrug combinations for which persons sought treatment during 2014. The most common combination was marijuana, cocaine and alcohol (See Figure 16). This was followed by: marijuana and cocaine; marijuana, cocaine, alcohol and cigarettes; marijuana and alcohol; and marijuana, alcohol and fanta (See Figure 16).

The polydrug trends for the wider treatment seeking group held true for the males (See Figure 16). However, this was not the case for the females. Of the 3 female patients, 2 sought treatment for polydrug use. Their preferred drug combinations were: (1) marijuana and alcohol, and (2) marijuana and cocaine (See Figure 16).

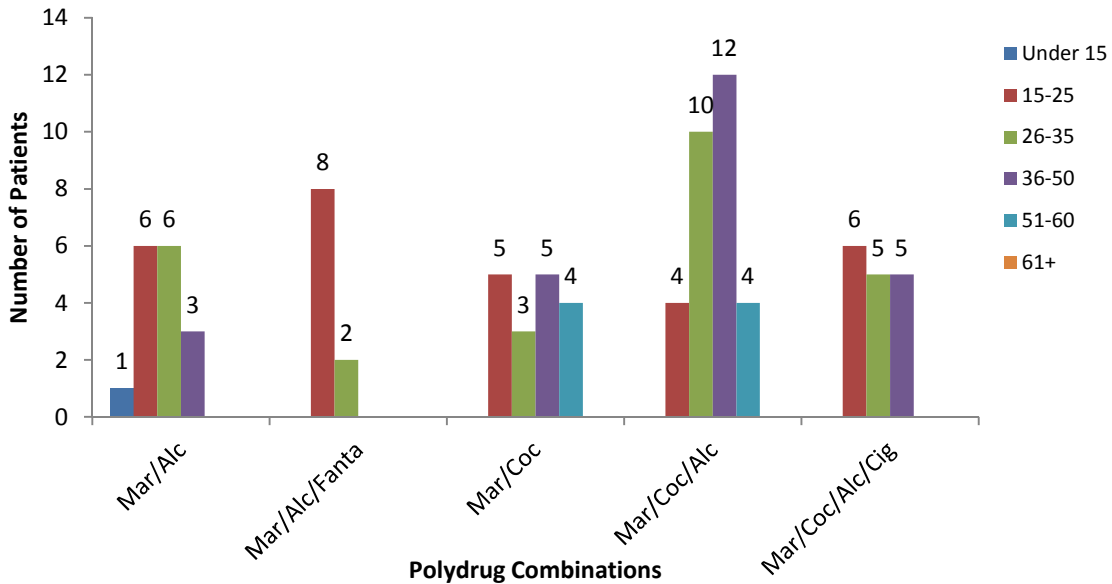
Figure 17 supports the conclusion that polydrug use was more problematic among those ages 50 and under. It also shows that the triple-drug combination of marijuana, cocaine and alcohol was the most common polydrug combination for those in the 26-35 and 36-50 age groups (See Figure 17). Alternately, the triple-drug combination of marijuana, alcohol and fanta was the most common among those between the ages of 15 and 25 (See Figure 17). There were a limited number of polydrug cases in the 51-60 age category. Within this group, the combinations of marijuana and cocaine and marijuana, cocaine and alcohol were equally popular (See Figure 17).

**Figure 16: Common Polydrug Combinations For Which Treatment was Sought at Psychiatric Hospital by Gender: January 1 to December 31, 2014**



Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

**Figure 17: Common Polydrug Combinations for Which Treatment was Sought at the Psychiatric Hospital by Age: January 1 - December 31, 2014**



Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

### *Less Common Polydrug Combinations*

There were also a number of less common polydrug combinations for which persons sought treatment. Table 2 shows that there were isolated cases in which ecstasy, heroin, amphetamines, blackies and MBMA 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 – December 31, 2014**

<b>POLYDRUG COMBINATIONS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Alc/Cig	6
Coc/Alc	2
Coc/Alc/Cig	2
Mar/Alc/Cig	6
Mar/Cig	1
Mar/Coc/Alc/Fanta	1
Mar/Coc/Blackies	1
Mar/Coc/Cig	5
Mar/Coc/MBMA/Fanta/Ecstasy	1
Mar/Crack	3
Mar/Crack/Alc	4
Mar/Crack/Alc/Cig	2
Mar/Ecst/Alc/Amphetamines	1
Mar/Ecst/Alc/Cig	1
Mar/Fanta	1
Mar/Fanta/Alc/Cig	1
Mar/Fanta/Cig	1
Ecst/Heroin	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>170</b>

*Source: The Psychiatric Hospital*

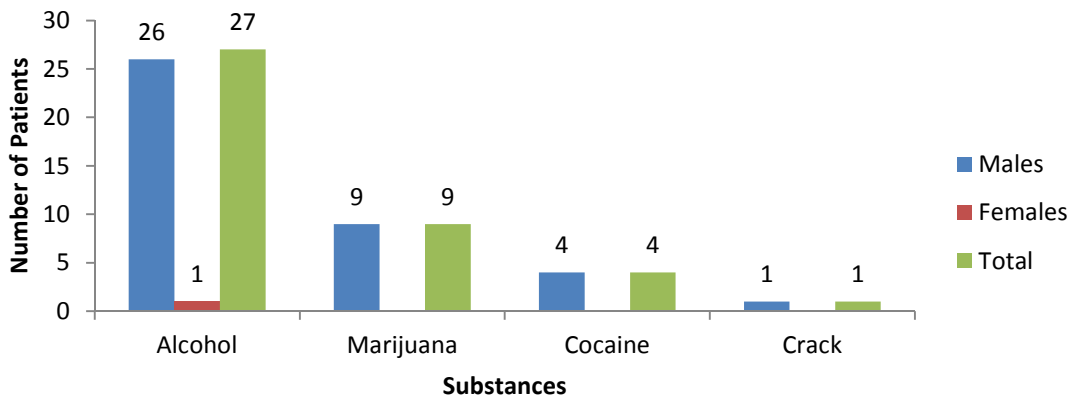
### *Single Drug Use*

In addition to the many cases of polydrug use, there were also persons who sought treatment for their use of a single substance (See Figures 18 and 19).

Figures 18 and 19 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.

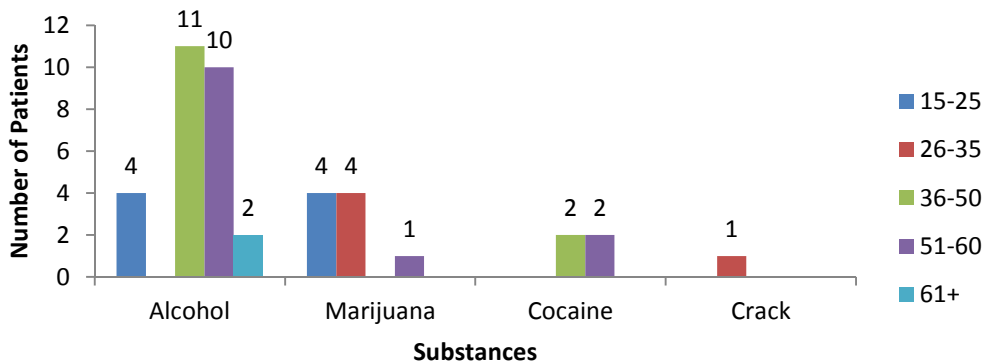
With respect to age differences, Figure 19 shows that marijuana was more popular among those under the age of 36, while alcohol was more popular among those ages 36 and over. Cocaine powder was used by those between the ages of 36 and 50 while the lone case of crack use involved an individual in the 26-35 age group.

**Figure 18: Single Drugs for Which Treatment was Sought at the Psychiatric Hospital by Gender: January 1 to December 31, 2014**



Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

**Figure 19: Single Drugs for Which Treatment was Sought at the Psychiatric Hospital by Age: January 1 to December 31, 2014**



Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

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

### Demographic Profile

Sixty-four (64) persons were admitted to Verdun House for substance abuse treatment during the period January 1 to December 31, 2014.

From Figure 20 it can be seen that the 46 to 55 age group accounted for the largest proportion of persons attending Verdun House in 2014. This was followed by the 26 to 35, 18 to 25 and 36 to 45 age groups respectively (See Figure 20). The 56 and over age group accounted for the smallest proportion of the 2014 clients attending this institution (See Figure 20).

**Figure 20: Age of Persons Attending Verdun House for the Period January 1 to December 31, 2014**

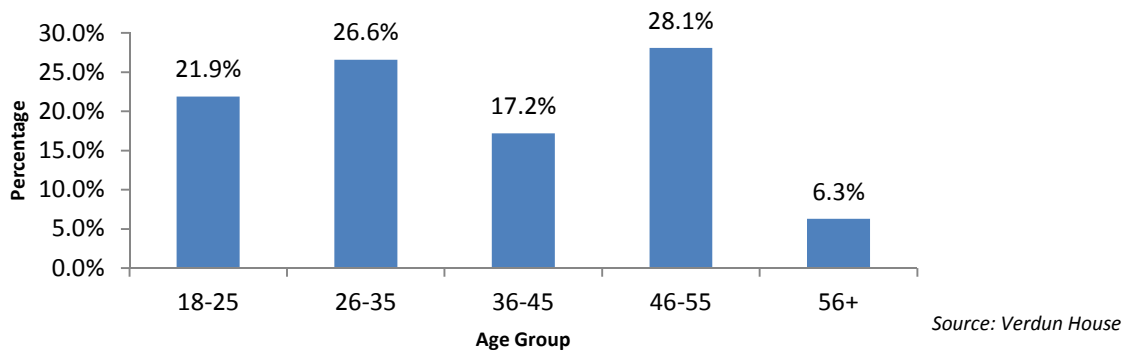
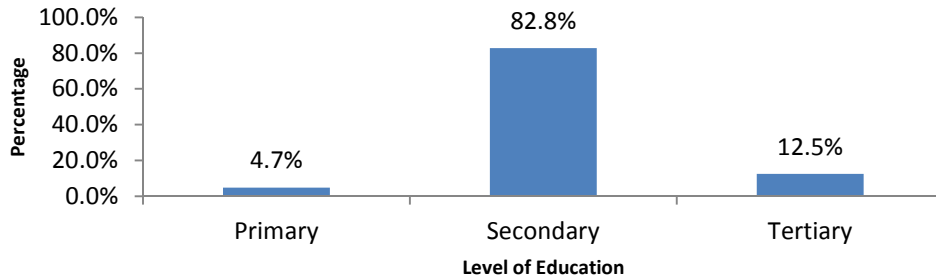


Figure 21 below reveals that a secondary level education was the highest level of education attained by most persons (82.8%) attending Verdun House during 2014. Very few of the 2014 clients had a tertiary (12.5%) or primary (4.7%) level education.

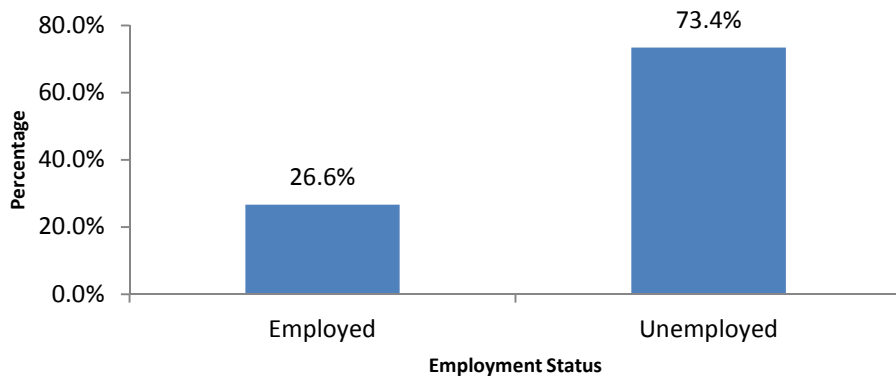
<sup>5</sup> Verdun House is the island's only residential treatment facility. It caters to males 18 years of age and older.

**Figure 21: Highest Level of Education Attained by Persons Attending Verdun House for the Period January 1 to December 31, 2014**



Source: Verdun House

**Figure 22: Employment Status of Persons Attending Verdun House during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2014**

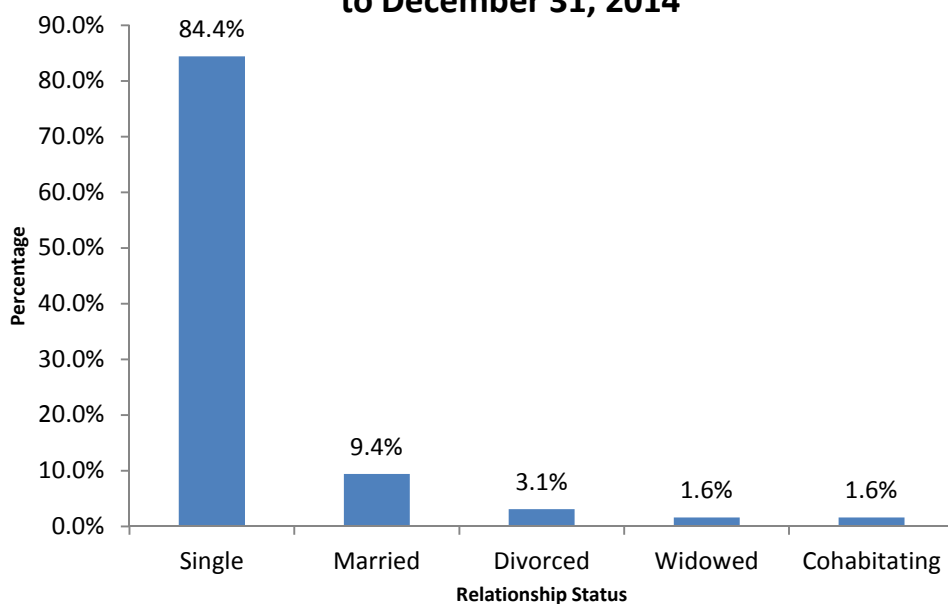


Source: Verdun House

Just under three quarters (73.4%) of the persons seeking treatment at Verdun House during 2014 were unemployed (See Figure 22). The remaining 26.6% reported being employed (See Figure 22).

With respect to the relationship status of the 2014 clients, the data presented in Figure 23 below shows that most of the clients reported being “single” (84.4%). Very few identified themselves as being “married” (9.4%), “divorced” (3.1%), “widowed” (1.6%) or “cohabitating” (1.6%).

**Figure 23: Relationship Status of Persons Attending Verdun House for the Period January 1 to December 31, 2014**



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 2014. The data is provided by age group.

**Table 3: Drugs for which Persons sought Treatment at Verdun House during 2014 by Age**

Age Group	Crack	Marijuana	Alcohol	Blackie	Polysubstance	Total
18 to 25	12.5%	4.7%	0%	1.6%	3.1%	21.9%
26 to 35	12.5%	6.3%	0%	0%	7.8%	26.6%
36 to 45	9.4%	0%	1.6%	0%	6.3%	17.2%
46 to 55	18.8%	0%	6.3%	0%	3.1%	28.1%
56+	4.7%	0%	1.6%	0%	0%	6.3%

Source: Verdun House

### Age Group Analysis

**18 to 25:** Crack use was the main reason persons in the 18 to 25 age group sought treatment at Verdun House during 2014. This was followed by marijuana use (4.7%), polysubstance use (3.1%) and the use of blackies (1.6%).



*26 to 35:* Persons in the 26 to 35 age group reported seeking treatment due to: crack use (12.5%), polysubstance use (7.8%) and marijuana use (6.3%) respectively.

*36 to 45:* The use of crack (9.4%) was the main motivating factor for persons seeking treatment in the 36 to 45 age group. This was followed somewhat closely by polysubstance use (6.2%). Very few persons (1.6%) cited alcohol use as the reason behind their need for treatment.

*46 to 55:* Crack use accounted for the largest proportion of persons seeing treatment in the 46 to 55 age group, followed by alcohol (6.3%) and polysubstance (3.1%) use.

*56 and over:* There were only 2 drugs identified by persons ages 56 and over as the reason for their treatment seeking behavior. These were crack (4.7%) and alcohol (1.6%).

### *Drug Analysis*

Crack was the preferred substance for persons of all ages during 2014. This can be said as the drug accounted for the largest proportion of treatment seekers in each age group. With regards to marijuana, this drug was only problematic among those in the younger age groups, that is, persons ages 35 and below. None of the clients ages 36 and over cited marijuana use as their reason for seeking treatment. In contrast, alcohol was only a problem drug for persons ages 36 and over.

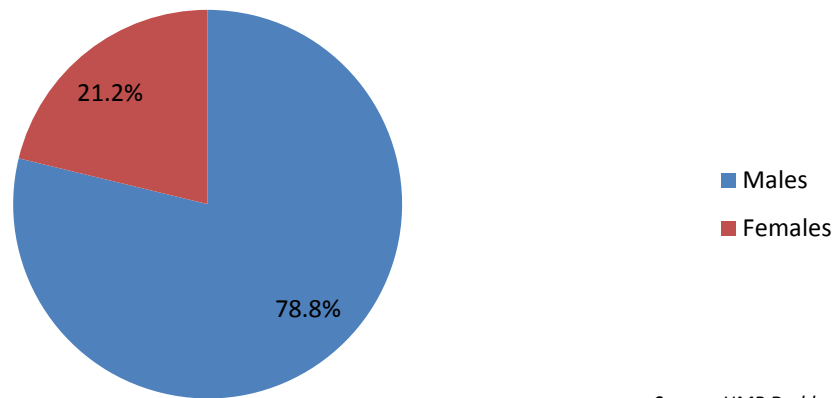
While there was no observable pattern with regards to the reporting of polysubstance use, it is noteworthy that there were persons from each age group who reported this as the main motivation for their obtaining treatment at Verdun House. Blackies, on the other hand, were only cited by persons in the 18 to 25 age group.

### 4.3 Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling Programme

#### Demographic Profile

A total of 33 persons, 26 males and 7 females, were admitted to the Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling (IDRC) Programme for substance abuse treatment during 2014. Figure 24 underscores the disproportionate number of males and females receiving treatment within the programme during the said year.

**Figure 24: Gender Distribution of Inmates Seeking Treatment within the IDRC Programme during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2014**

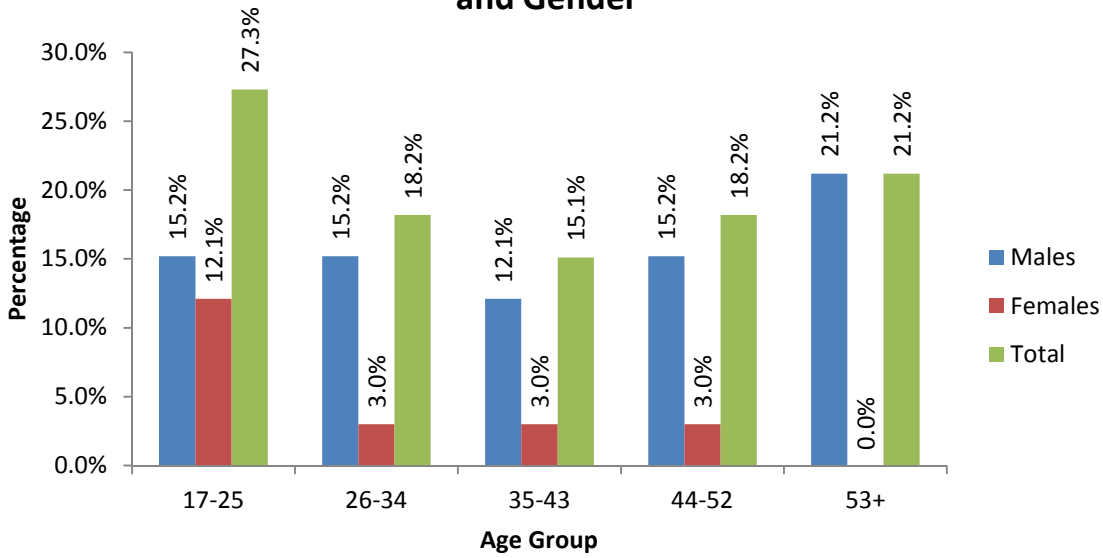


Source: HMP Dodds

An analysis of the age distribution data for the 2014 cohort revealed that the 17 to 25 age group contained the largest proportion of incarcerated treatment seekers (See Figure 25). This was followed by the 53 and over, 44 to 52, 26 to 34 and 35 to 43 age groups respectively (See Figure 25).

When gender was considered in conjunction with age, the largest proportion of males was found to be in the 53 and over category (See Figure 25). In contrast, the 17 to 25 age group accounted for the largest number of females, as was the case for the wider group of inmates seeking treatment (See Figure 25).

**Figure 25: Distribution of Inmates Admitted to the IDRC during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2014 by Age and Gender**

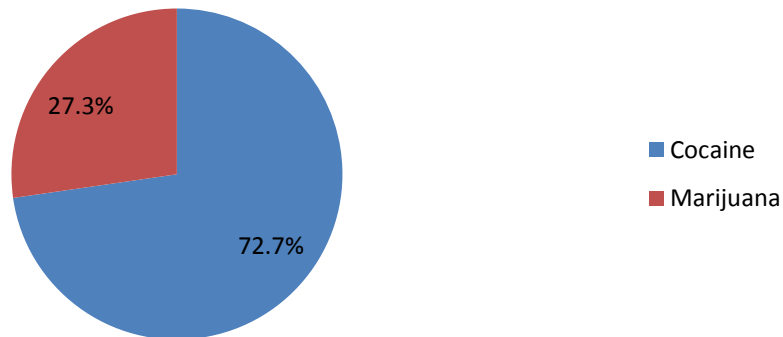


Source: HMP Dodds

**Drug Use Profile**

Figure 26 provides an overview of the substances for which inmates sought treatment within the IDRC programme during 2014. The chart reveals that cocaine and marijuana were the only two substances for which persons received treatment; and of these, cocaine was the main motivating substance.

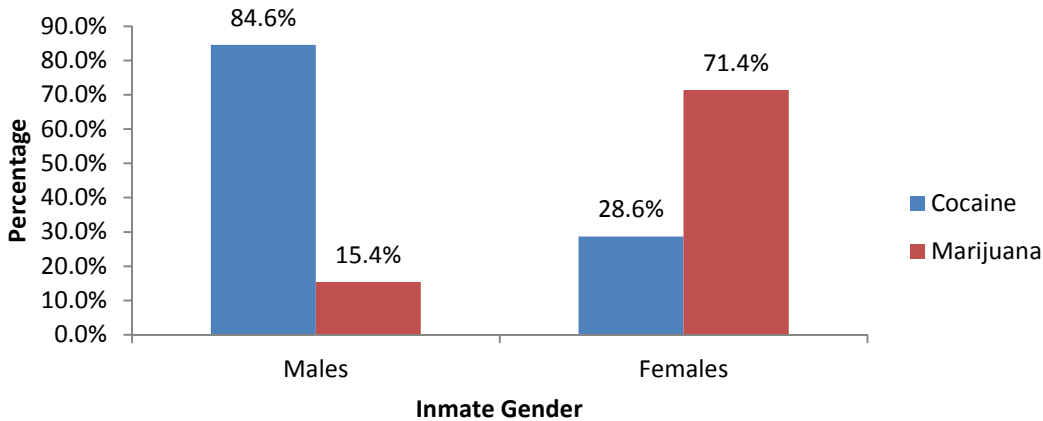
**Figure 26: Substances for which Inmates Received Treatment in the IDRC Programme during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2014**



Source: HMP Dodds

The foregoing data was aggregated by age and gender, the results of which are presented in Figures 27 and 28 below. From Figure 27, it is apparent that cocaine was the dominant drug among the males while marijuana was the preferred substance among the females.

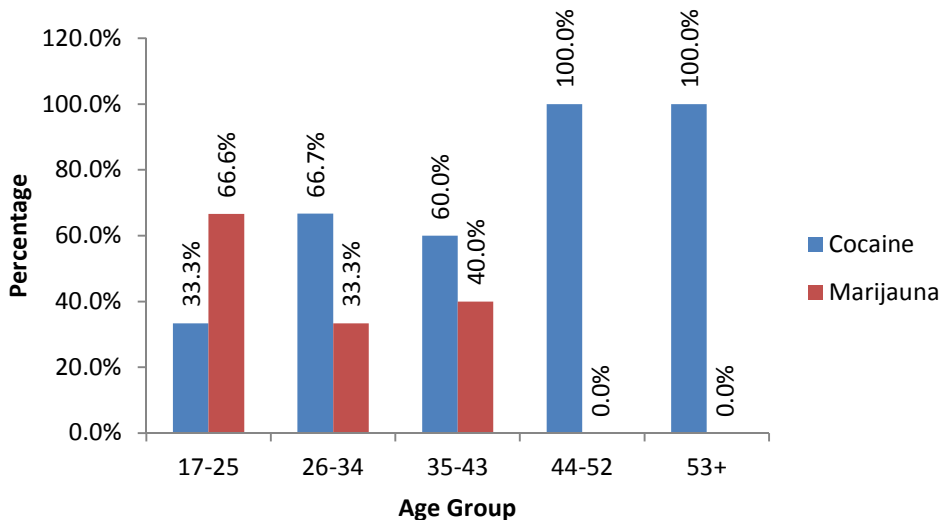
**Figure 27: Substances for which Males and Females Sought Treatment in the IDRC Programme During the Period January 1 to December 31, 2014**



Source: HMP Dodds

With regards to age, Figure 28 shows that cocaine was the main drug motivating treatment in each age group, with the exception of the 17 to 25 age category for which marijuana was found to be the preferred drug.

**Figure 28: Substances for which Inmates Sought Treatment in the IDRC Programme during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2014 by Age**



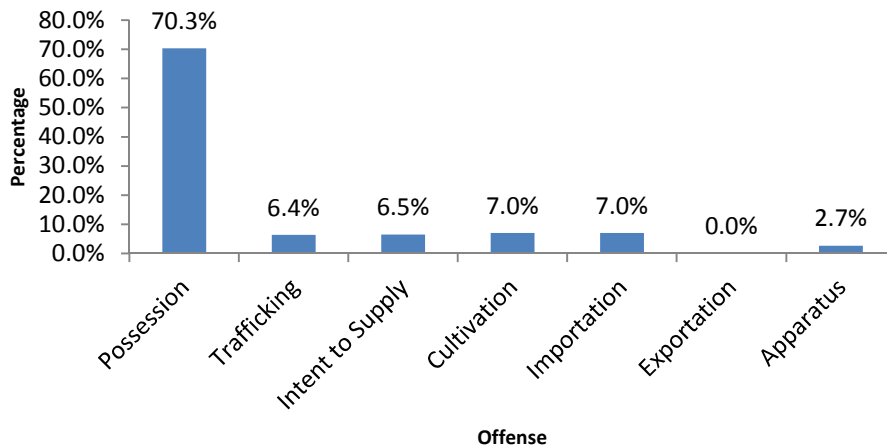
Source: HMP Dodds

## 5. Supply Reduction

### 5.1 Royal Barbados Police Force

#### ***Cannabis***

**Figure 29: Cannabis Offenses for the Period  
January 1 to December 31, 2014**



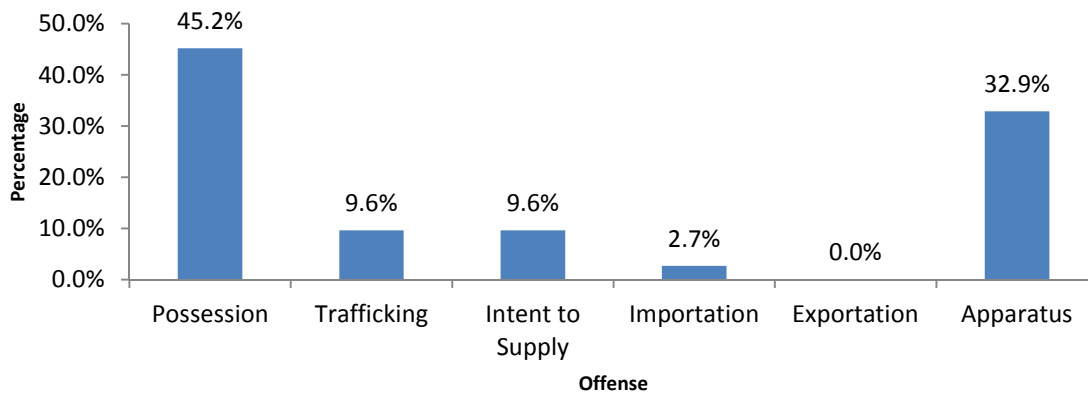
*Source: Royal Barbados Police Force - Crime Statistics Department*

“Possession” of cannabis was the most common cannabis-related offense for the period January 1 to December 31, 2014 (See Figure 29). “Importation”, “Cultivation”, “Intent to Supply” and “Trafficking” offenses were far less numerous; however, Figure 29 shows that they accounted for near equal amounts of cannabis-related charges during the said year. “Possession of Apparatus” was the least common cannabis offense.

#### ***Cocaine***

An examination of Figure 30 reveals that “Possession”- and “Apparatus”-related charges accounted for the largest proportion of cocaine offenses recorded between January 1 and December 31, 2014. These were distantly followed by “Trafficking”, “Intent to Supply” and “Importation”.

**Figure 30: Cocaine Offenses for the Period January 1 to December 31, 2014**

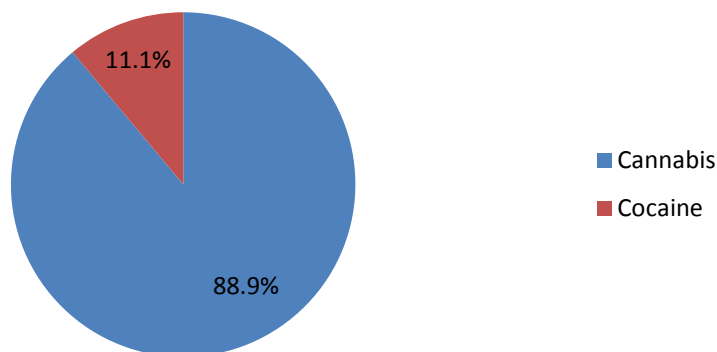


Source: Royal Barbados Police Force - Crime Statistics Department

**Cannabis vs. Cocaine**

Figure 31 below reveals that, as in previous years, the cannabis-related offenses for 2014 were far more numerous than the cocaine-related offenses recorded for the same period. More specifically, cannabis offenses outnumbered cocaine offenses with a ratio of approximately 9:1.

**Figure 31: Cannabis vs. Cocaine Offenses for the Period January 1 to December 31, 2014**



Source: Royal Barbados Police Force - Crime Statistics Department

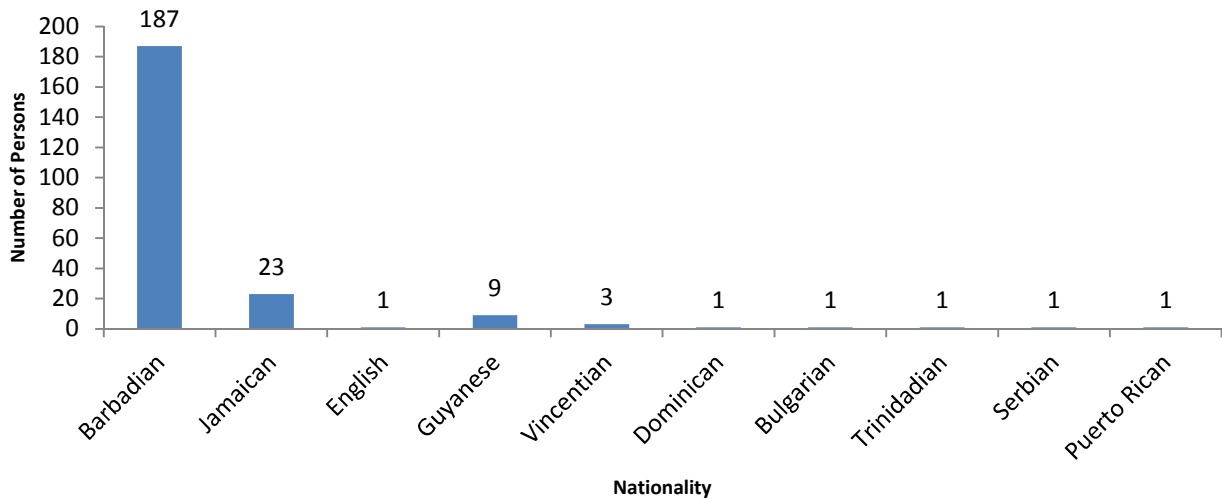
**Nationality and Age of Persons Charged with Drug Offenses**

Data obtained from the Drug Squad division of the Royal Barbados Police Force revealed that the majority of persons charged with drug offenses during the period January 1 to December 31, 2014 were

Barbadian (See Figure 32). Only a small number of persons from other countries were charged with such offenses during the same period (See Figure 32).

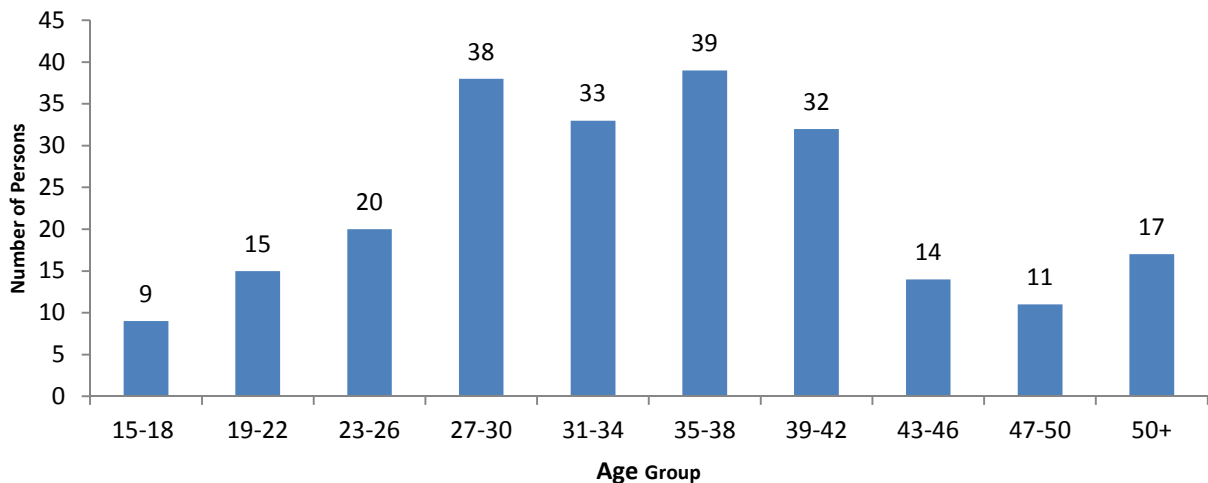
With respect to age, Figure 33 reveals that persons charged with drug offenses during 2014 ranged from 19 years to over 50. However, it should be noted that the largest proportion of persons were between the ages of 23 and 42 (See Figure 33).

**Figure 32: Nationality of Persons Charged with Drug Offenses for the Period January 1 to December 31, 2014**



Source: Royal Barbados Police Force – Drug Squad

**Figure 33: Age of Persons Charged with Drug Offenses for the Period January 1 to December 31, 2014**

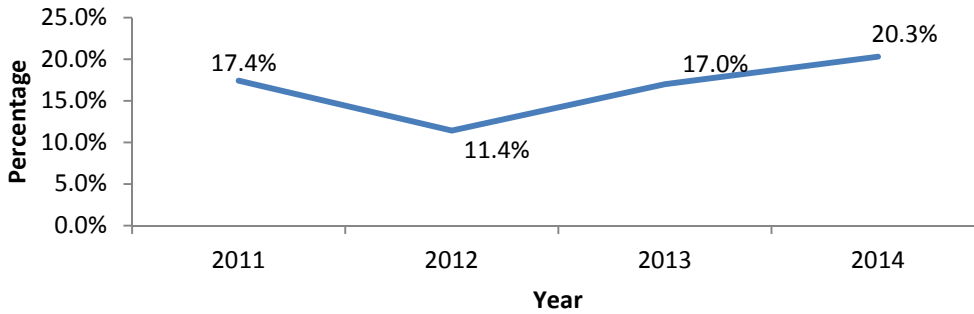


Source: Royal Barbados Police Force – Drug Squad

## 6. Select Trend Analysis: 2011 to 2014

### 6.1 Edna Nicholls Centre

**Figure 34: Edna Nicholls Centre: Percentage of Students Testing Positive for Marijuana Use 2011-2014**



*Source: Barbados Drug Information Network*

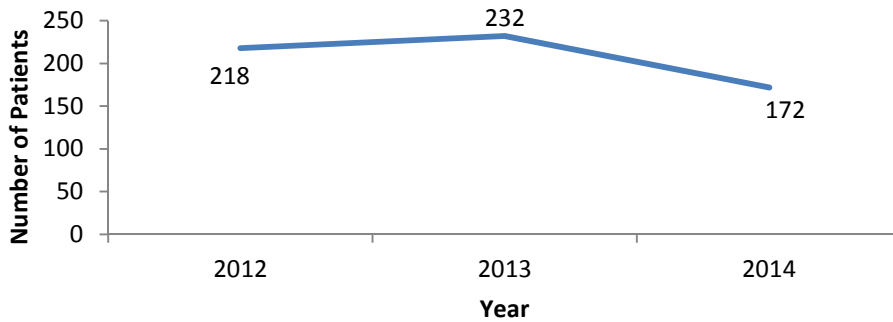
Figure 34 displays the percentage of students attending the Edna Nicholls Centre who tested positive for marijuana use or had trace amounts of the drug within their system during the period 2011-2014. From the chart it can be seen that the percentage of students declined between 2011 and 2012. This decline was followed by increases in 2013 and 2014. Given that the 2013 and 2014 percentages were similar to the 2011 baseline, no definitive trend can be identified at this time.

### 6.2 Psychiatric Hospital

Figure 35 shows that there was little difference in the number of persons seeking substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital during 2012 and 2013. In contrast, the number of substance abuse admissions was notably less in 2014. Despite this observation, no discernable trend regarding the number of substance abuse admissions can be identified at this time. Please note that no data is included for 2011 as this was not available when the present report was prepared.



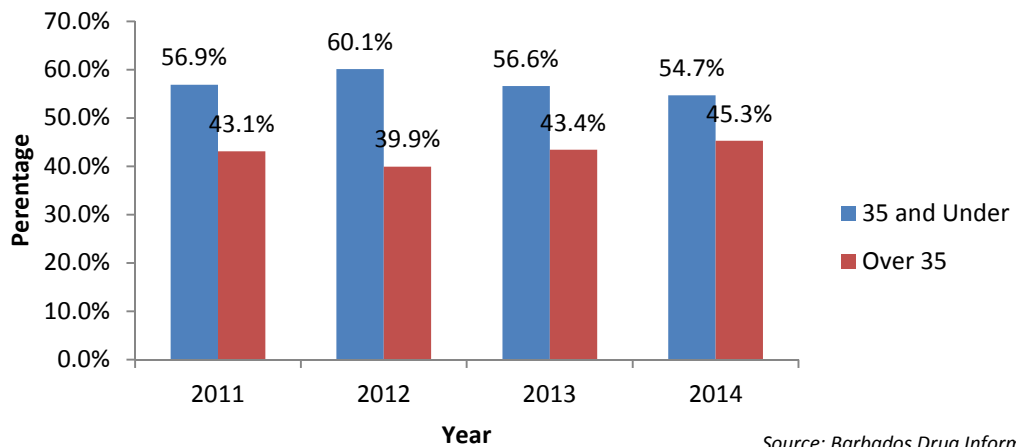
**Figure 35: Psychiatric Hospital Admissions for Substance Abuse Treatment: 2012-2014**



Source: Barbados Drug Information Network

Figure 36 compares the age-related data for substance abuse admissions during the period 2011-2014. From the chart it can be seen that the 35 and under age category accounted for the largest proportion of treatment seekers during each year.

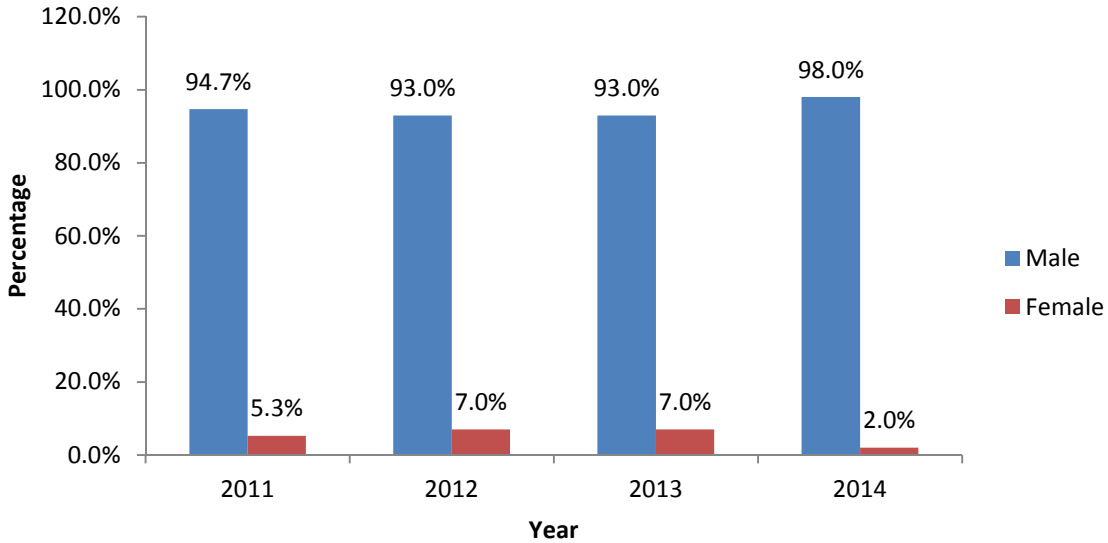
**Figure 36: Psychiatric Hospital Admissions for Substance Abuse Treatment: Age Comparisons 2011-2014**



Source: Barbados Drug Information Network

With regards to gender, males seeking substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital far outnumbered their female counterparts during the years 2011-2014 (See Figure 37).

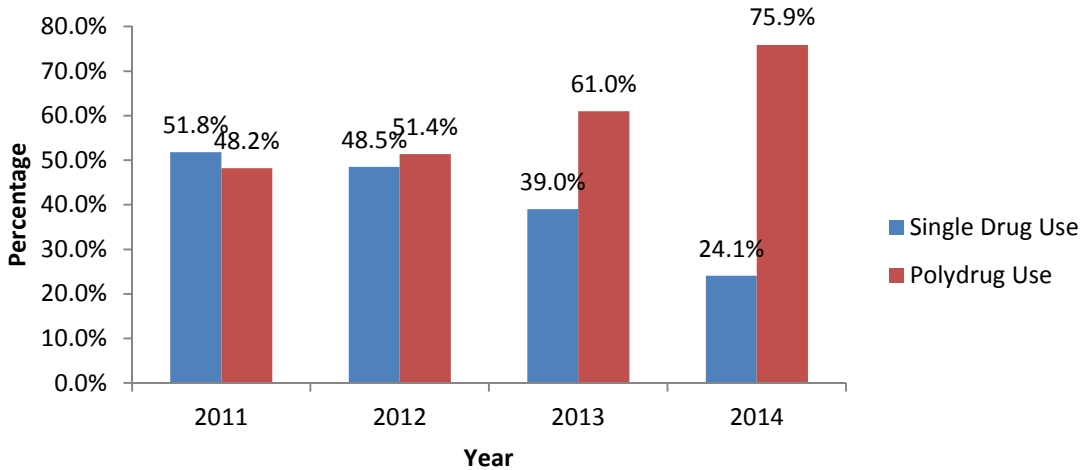
**Figure 37: Psychiatric Hospital Admissions for Substance Abuse Treatment: Gender Comparisons 2011-2014**



Source: Barbados Drug Information Network

Figure 38 below shows what appears to be an emerging polydrug use trend among those seeking substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital. In 2011, single drug users marginally outnumbered polydrug users. However, from 2012 onwards, the proportion of polydrug users was found to be increasingly larger than the number of single users.

**Figure 38: Psychiatric Hospital Admissions for Substance Abuse Treatment: Single Drug Use vs. Polydrug Use 2011-2014**

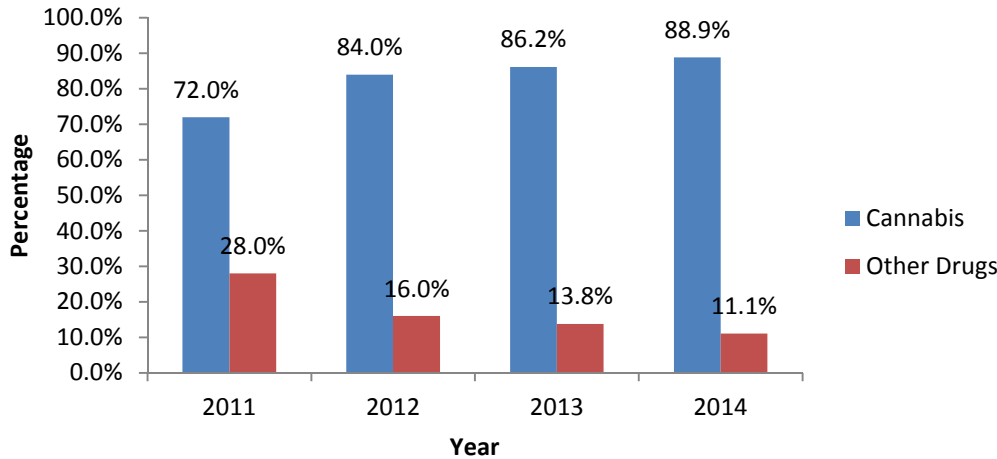


Source: Barbados Drug Information Network

### 6.3 Royal Barbados Police Force

Figure 39 reveals that cannabis offenses consistently accounted for the majority of drug offenses recorded by the Royal Barbados Police Force for the years 2011-2014. Also apparent is the fact that the proportion of cannabis offenses increased annually during the said period.

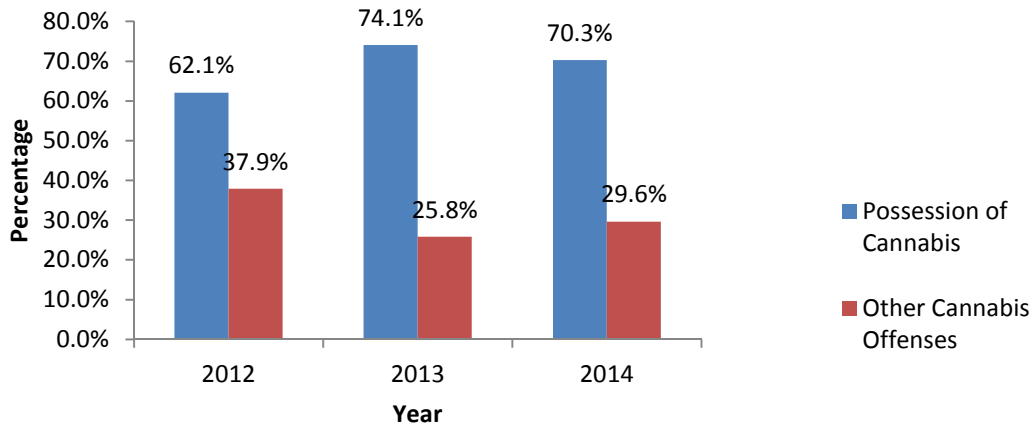
**Figure 39: Royal Barbados Police Force: Drug Offenses 2011-2014**



Source: Barbados Drug Information Network

From Figure 40 it can be seen that “Possession of Cannabis” was consistently the most common cannabis offense between 2012 and 2014. Apart from this, no other discernable pattern can be identified at this time, as the percentage of “Possession” charges increased in 2013 and subsequently decreased in 2014. Please note that data collection differences prevented the inclusion of data for the year 2011.

**Figure 40: Royal Barbados Police Force: Cannabis Offenses 2012-2014**



Source: Barbados Drug Information Network 34

## 7. Discussion

Primary School students accounted for the largest proportion of persons targeted by NCSA's drug interventions during 2014. As in previous years, there was a notable disparity between the number of students reached at the Primary and Secondary School levels. While gender-related data was available for the Primary School interventions, no such data was available for the Secondary School and Community interventions conducted by the NCSA. This limits the ability to introduce targeted responses based on gender. The ability to do so is particularly important given that data from recent Secondary School surveys shows that females outnumber males with respect to alcohol use while more males use marijuana (National Council on Substance Abuse, 2007; National Council on Substance Abuse, 2015).

In addition to differences in drug use patterns, agencies responsible for the provision of drug education, such as the NCSA, should also focus on risk and protective factors. Although not presented in this report, the 2013 Secondary School Survey revealed that students who had better relationships with their educators reported lower rates of drug use (National Council on Substance Abuse, 2015). In contrast, those students who reported having poor student-teacher relationships reported higher levels of drug use (National Council on Substance Abuse, 2015). Similarly, students who reported having higher quality relationships with their parents also tended to have lower prevalence rates. This is an important finding as a strong parent-child relationship is a key protective factor in the prevention of substance abuse problems during adolescence, as well as in young adulthood (Davis & Spillman, 2011; Spear, 2011).

Positive outcomes from greater involvement in the lives of adolescents by parents and educators may suggest the need to find new ways to involve them in drug prevention efforts. However, it must be noted that depending on the psychoactive properties of a drug, the period between a person's first use of a drug and their subsequent abuse of this drug can vary. Therefore, drug prevention practitioners should continue to focus on the reasons why young people use drugs. Some of the reasons given by young people include lower perceptions of harm associated with marijuana use, increased curiosity to use an illegal drug (National Council on Substance Abuse, 2015), and the relaxing characteristics of marijuana (National Council on Substance Abuse, 2014).

With regards to interdiction activities, the possession of cannabis was the primary drug offence recorded during 2014. This, coupled with the continued ease with which marijuana can be accessed by adolescents (National Council on Substance Abuse, 2015) underscores the need for a proactive approach which supports the current legal response to marijuana. In addition to efforts within the wider society, action should be taken to eradicate the selling and use of drugs at or on the school compound. These should include innovative strategies involving the ancillary and administrative staff of secondary schools, parents, the wider community and the police.

Most persons admitted for drug treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital in 2014, were males in the 15-25 and 36-50 age groups. This is similar to previous years where most persons admitted for substance abuse treatment at this institution were primarily under 50 years old. The vast majority of the 2014 substance abuse patients at the Psychiatric Hospital were polydrug users. This is noteworthy as trend

analysis for the years 2011 through 2014 shows that there has been a noticeable shift towards polydrug use. Furthermore, between 2011 and 2014, the drugs motivating treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital were primarily combinations of drugs involving the use of marijuana.

Treatment data from the IDRC programme revealed that most offenders receiving substance abuse treatment at the Prison were males. However, in contrast to the Psychiatric Hospital, the offenders were mostly seeking treatment for their use of crack cocaine. Research has indicated that crack cocaine is consistent with higher recidivism rates and poor attempts to reintegrate into the community (Deleon & Wexler, 2009; van Wormer & Persson, 2010). Part of the reason is that drug addicted offenders have difficulty in coping with their drug problems on release from prison (Deleon & Wexler, 2009). In this regard, consideration should be given to approaches that address the personal and social circumstances drug addicted persons face in the community (Pinard, 2010).

## 8. Conclusion

The misuse of drugs and alcohol among adolescents' is recognised as a public health problem and is associated with the three leading causes of death during this developmental period, namely suicide, homicide and accidents (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2007). Adolescents abusing drugs and alcohol are also more likely to engage in delinquent and criminal activity, experience poor school performance and retention, early and unplanned pregnancy, and various mental health problems (Chasin, Hussong & Beltran, 2009). Moreover, the use of substances before age 14 may increase the likelihood of having an adult alcohol and drug use disorder by as much as 35% (Grant & Dawson, 1997). Also, adolescents who use drugs early are more likely to experience increased risk of continued use in adulthood (Flanzer, 2005).

It is also clear that a notable number of people are seeking treatment for drug problems in the prison and the community (National Council on Substance Abuse, 2012; 2013). As a result, there has been increasing pressure to provide services for those persons who come into contact with the criminal justice system. However, responding to the drug problem requires a considerable investment in human and financial resources. Currently, the government provides resources to those agencies directly involved in tackling the use and abuse of legal and illicit substances. However, what is needed is a concerted effort to coordinate the activities of these agencies in an integrated response to the drug problem.

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