

**BARBDIN**

# Barbados Drug Information Network Report

An Analysis of the 2015 Data



Prepared by

**The National Council on Substance Abuse**



## Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	1
1. Summary of Key Findings.....	2
1.1 Drug Education.....	2
1.2 Drug Testing.....	2
1.3 Treatment.....	2
1.4 Supply Control.....	3
1.5 Select Trend Analysis 2011-2015.....	4
2. Introduction.....	5
3. Demand Reduction.....	6
3.1 National Council on Substance Abuse.....	6
3.2 The Edna Nicholls Centre.....	9
4. Treatment and Rehabilitation.....	11
4.1 Psychiatric Hospital.....	11
4.2 Substance Abuse Foundation Inc.....	16
4.3 Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives (CASA).....	20
4.4 Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling Programme.....	23
5. Supply Control.....	27
5.1 Royal Barbados Police Force.....	27
5.2 H.M.P. Dodds.....	31
6. Select Trend Analysis.....	34
6.1 Edna Nicholls Centre.....	34
6.2 Psychiatric Hospital.....	35
6.3 Royal Barbados Police Force.....	37
7. Discussion.....	38
8. Conclusion.....	40
9. References.....	41

## 1. Summary of 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 2015.
- The Primary School Programme reached more males than females during 2015. Gender-related data was not available for the Community Programme or the NCSA's Training Programmes and Courses.

### 1.2 Drug Testing

- Of the 186 students who attended the Edna Nicholls Centre (ENC) in 2015, 36 (19.4%) tested positive for marijuana use or had trace amounts of the drug in their system.
- The majority of Edna Nicholls' students who tested positive for marijuana use in 2015 were male and between the ages of 14 and 15.

### 1.3 Treatment

#### **Psychiatric Hospital**

- Males accounted for 93% of persons seeking substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital in 2015.
- Persons in the 'over 35' age category marginally outnumbered those in the '35 and under' age group.
- Poly substance use was the main issue driving the demand for substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital during 2015.
- Marijuana (alone and in poly drug combinations) was the most common drug for which persons sought treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital followed by alcohol and cocaine.
- Verdun House and the Psychiatric Hospital's Day Programme received the majority of the substance abuse treatment referrals from the Psychiatric Hospital in 2015.

#### **Substance Abuse Foundation (SAF)**

- 56 males (Verdun House) and 9 females (Marina House) sought treatment from the Substance Abuse Foundation (SAF) during 2015.
- The majority of persons receiving treatment from the SAF during 2015 were 55 years of age or younger and unemployed.
- Most persons receiving treatment did so voluntarily (self-referrals).
- The 18-35 age group accounted for the largest proportion of persons seeking treatment for marijuana use.

- The majority of persons receiving treatment for the use of crack cocaine were in the 46-55 age group.
- All of the persons seeking treatment for cocaine powder were in the 36-45 age group
- Only those between the ages of 36 and 55 sought treatment for alcohol use.
- The majority of persons seeking treatment for poly drug use were between 26 and 45 years of age.

#### **Centre for Counselling Addition Support Alternatives (CASA)**

- 92% of persons seeking treatment at CASA during 2015 were male.
- The under 20 age category was the single largest group of treatment seekers at CASA during 2015.
- Approximately half of all persons receiving treatment at CASA in 2015 were employed. The remainder were either students or were unemployed.
- Most persons receiving treatment at CASA reported being arrested at least once in their lifetime.
- The majority of CASA's treatment referrals in 2015 came from the Probation Department.
- Marijuana was the main substance for which persons sought treatment from CASA in 2015.

#### **Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling Programme (IDRC)**

- 79% of persons seeking treatment within the IDRC programme during 2015 were male.
- The 20-29 age category accounted for the largest proportion of treatment seekers in the IDRC programme in 2015.
- Prison referrals accounted for the largest proportion of persons admitted to the IDRC programme. This was closely followed by court ordered admissions.
- Marijuana was the main drug motivating the need for treatment within the IDRC programme during 2015.

### **1.4 Supply Control**

#### **Royal Barbados Police Force (RBPF)**

- Drug offenses accounted for 15% of all offenses recorded by the RBPF during 2015.
- 93% of persons charged with drug offenses during 2015 were male.
- The 20-29 age category accounted for the largest proportion of persons charged with drug offenses during 2015. This was closely followed by the 30-39 age category.
- Cannabis offenses were the most numerous, accounting for 85.5% of all drug offenses recorded during 2015.
- Possession of cannabis was the most common cannabis-related offense during the period.
- Possession of cocaine was the most common cocaine-related offense.
- There were only 2 methamphetamine-related offenses during 2015, both of which were for possession of the drug.

- Cannabis, both compressed and in plant form, was the substance most commonly seized by the RBPF during 2015.

#### **H.M.P. Dodds**

- Drug-related offenses accounted for 15% of the admissions to HMP Dodds during 2015.
- More males (85%) than females (15%) were admitted to HMP Dodds for drug offenses during 2015.
- The 30-39 and 20-29 age categories accounted for the largest proportion of persons admitted for drug offenses during the period under review.
- Approximately two-thirds of the females admitted to HMP Dodds during 2015 were admitted for cannabis-related offenses.
- Possession of cannabis was the most common cannabis-related offense for which females were admitted to HMP Dodds in 2015. This was closely followed by Importation and Trafficking of cannabis.
- Importation of cocaine was the most common cocaine-related offense for which females were admitted to HMP Dodds in 2015.

#### **1.5 Select Trend Analysis 2011-2015**

- The percentage of students at the Edna Nicholls Centre testing positive for marijuana use was similar in 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2015. The percentage in 2012 was noticeably smaller.
- 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. In 2015, persons in the 'over 35' age category marginally outnumbered those in the '35 and under' age group.
- Males seeking substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital significantly outnumbered females between 2011 and 2015.
- There continues to be an emerging poly drug use trend among those presenting for substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital.
- Between 2012 and 2015, the percentage of poly drug users seeking substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital was greater than the percentage of single drug users.
- From 2012 onwards, the percentage of poly drug users increased incrementally with each passing year.
- Cannabis offenses outnumbered 'other drug' offenses recorded by the RBPF between 2011 and 2015.
- The percentage of cannabis offenses increased annually between 2011 and 2014 but decreased in 2015.
- Possession of cannabis was the most common cannabis-related offense recorded annually by the RBPF between 2012 and 2015.

## 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 on an annual basis<sup>1</sup>. This information is based on existing data received from participating agencies and provides a useful overview of the drug situation in Barbados.

The objectives of BARDIN are as follows:

- To strengthen the capacity of Barbados to respond to changing drug use trends
- To provide current epidemiological and other information on substance abuse
- To regularly update this information
- To identify trends in drug trafficking
- To provide relevant information for the planning, evaluation and management of drug control programmes

The present document is the fifth BARDIN report to be published since the re-launch of the BARDIN project in 2010/2011. It presents data for the period January 1 to December 31, 2015. The report contains contributions from the National Council on Substance Abuse, the Edna Nicholls Centre, the Psychiatric Hospital, the Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives, the Substance Abuse Foundation, the Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling Programme, the Royal Barbados Police Force and HMP Dodds. The data from these agencies is divided into the following broad sections: Demand Reduction, Treatment and Rehabilitation, and Supply Control.

In addition to presenting data from the aforementioned agencies for the year 2015, the current report also includes a trend analysis section which presents a comparative assessment of data for the years 2011 through 2015. This is the second trend analysis to be published in a BARDIN report. The first was presented in the preceding report (2014) and focused on select findings for the period 2011 to 2014.

Trend analysis is key to the design and implementation of appropriate strategies aimed at reducing the consumption, trafficking and supply of illicit drugs. The results of such analysis can serve as a warning signal, identifying changes which are taking place, including the emergence of new drugs on the market. The resulting knowledge of new trends can in turn guide research efforts and inform the development of suitable responses.

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<sup>1</sup> For a more detailed explanation of BARDIN, please see the BARDIN report for the year 2011. This is available on our website: [www.ncsa.org.bb](http://www.ncsa.org.bb)

### 3. Demand Reduction

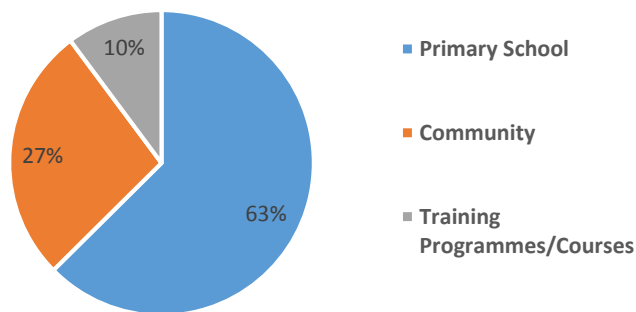
#### 3.1 National Council on Substance Abuse

##### *Drug Education Programming*

Figure 1 shows the distribution of persons targeted by the NCSA during the period January 1 to December 31, 2015. From the chart, it can be seen that the Primary School Programme targeted the largest number of persons, followed by the Community Programme and NCSA's Training Programmes and Courses respectively.

It is important to note that during 2015, NCSA's Secondary School Drug Education programme was reviewed and re-designed in accordance with the findings from the 2013 Barbados Secondary School Survey. As a result, Figure 1 does not include data pertaining to secondary school interventions as no formal drug education was offered within secondary schools during this time.

**Figure 1: Distribution of Persons Targeted by NCSA Programmes/Interventions between January 1 and December 31, 2015**



*Source: The National Council on Substance Abuse*

Table 1 presents detailed data regarding the number of persons who participated in the various interventions/activities carried out by the NCSA during the period under review. This table reiterates the fact that the Primary School Programme targeted the largest number of persons followed by the Community Programme and NCSA's Training Programmes and Courses 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 School Programme (See Table 1). It was not possible to determine such differences for the Community Programme and NCSA's Training Programmes and Courses as gender data was not available for all of the activities/interventions within these categories.

**Table 1: Persons Targeted by NCSA's Programmes/Interventions during 2015 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>				
General Drug Education	3-11 years	192	177	369
Drugs & My World	8-9 years	6	11	17
Facts & Issues	9-10 years			
Drugs & Decisions	10-11 years	15	8	23
Games 4 Life	10-11 years	34	37	71
Cub Scouts	7-11 years	156	-	156
Life Education Centre (LEC)	3-16 years	1495	1350	2845
- Nursery	3-4 years	176	125	301
- Reception	4-5 years	228	199	427
- Infants A	5-6 years	202	192	394
- Infants B	6-7 years	180	156	336
- Class 1	7-8 years	168	165	333
- Class 2	8-9 years	151	131	282
- Class 3	9-10 years	173	160	333
- Class 4	10-11 years	217	222	439
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1898</b>	<b>1583</b>	<b>3481</b>
<b><u>Community Department</u></b>				
Edna Nicholls Centre <sup>2</sup>	11-16 years	-	-	186
Irving Wilson – Peer Support	11-18 years	6	9	15
Prevention First Club: Children		15	16	31
UWI Internship	Social Work Interns	-	2	2
Drug Education Sessions	Various ages	-	-	504
Workplace Drug Interventions	16-65 years	126	133	259
NCSA Adolescent Programme	11-16 years	91	254	345
Drugs & HIV	14-40 years	30	58	88
Barbados Youth Service Drug Education Programme	16-22 years	40	40	80
Mass-based Events	10-60 years	-	-	1865*
Counselling	Various ages	4	1	5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1515</b>

<sup>2</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



<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>Training Programmes &amp; Courses</u></b>				
<b>PROCCER</b>		<b>44</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>66</b>
- Proccer Treatment Track	<b>18+</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>36</b>
- Proccer Prevention Track	<b>18+</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>SAMUEL JACKMAN PRESCOD POLYTECHNIC<sup>3</sup></b>				
- Drugs Education and Life Skills	<b>18+ years</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>436</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>568</b>

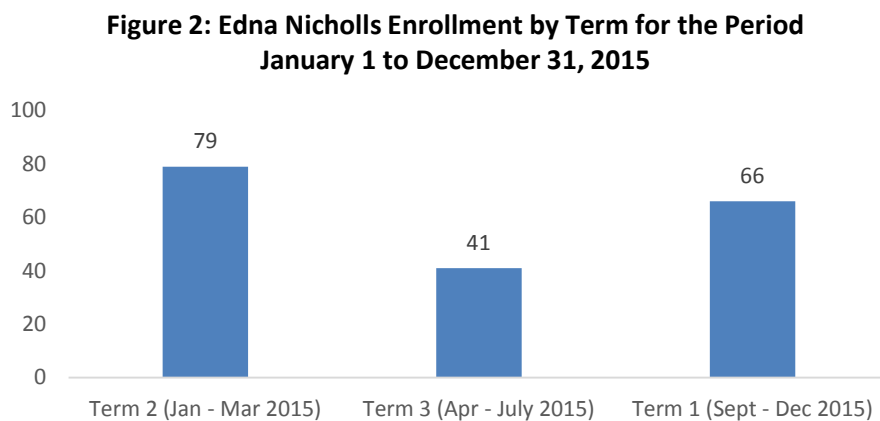
\* This number was not included in the Community Intervention Total as it has the potential to artificially inflate the number of persons targeted by the Community Programmes/Activities.

*Source: The National Council on Substance Abuse*

<sup>3</sup> The Secondary School Drug Education Officer facilitated a Drug Education and Life Skills course at the Samuel Jackman Prescod Polytechnic (SJPP) during the time that the Secondary School Drug Education programme was being reviewed and re-designed. The data presented here reflects the combined total of students enrolled in the course during Semester 2 of the academic year 2014/2015 (January – April, 2015) and Semester 1 of the academic year 2015/2016 (September – December, 2015).

### 3.2 The Edna Nicholls Centre

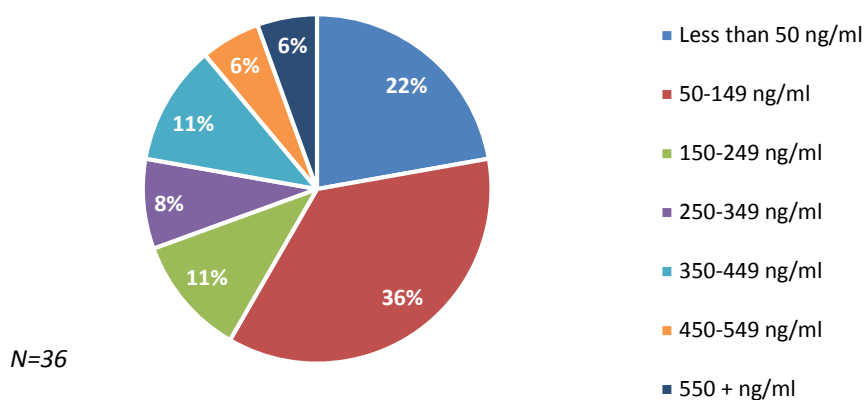
A total of 186 students were enrolled at the Edna Nicholls Centre between January 1 and December 31, 2015. Figure 2 presents the enrollment distribution by term during this period.



*Source: The Edna Nicholls Centre*

Of the 186 students admitted to the Edna Nicholls Centre during 2015, 36 (19.4%) tested positive for marijuana use or were found to have trace amounts of the drug within their system. Figure 3 presents the drug test results for these students. It can be seen that 22% were considered to have trace amounts of the drug within their system (a result of less than 50 ng/ml) while the remaining 88% had results ranging from 50 ng/ml to over 550ng/ml<sup>4</sup>.

**Figure 3: Marijuana Test Results for Edna Nicholls' Students Testing Positive for Marijuana Use during the period January 1 to December 31, 2015**

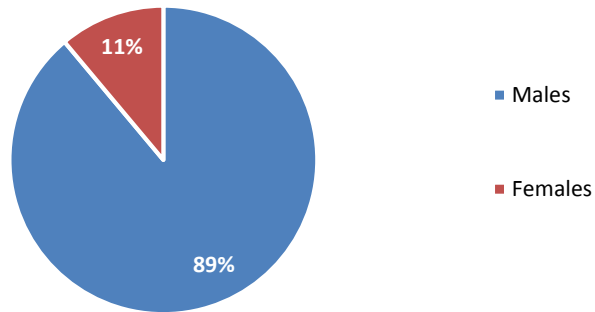


*Source: The Edna Nicholls Centre*

<sup>4</sup> NB There were 2 students in the 550 ng/ml and over category. Their test results were 966 ng/ml and 1201 ng/ml respectively.

Figure 4 shows that males testing positive for marijuana use outnumbered females at a rate of approximately 9:1.

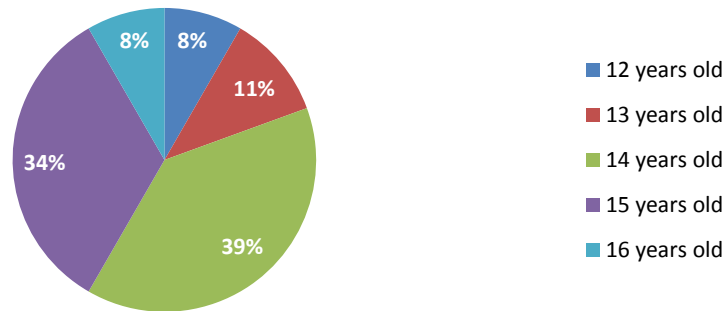
**Figure 4: Gender Distribution of Students Testing Positive for Marijuana Use at the Edna Nicholls Centre during the period January 1 to December 31, 2015**



Source: The Edna Nicholls Centre

When age was taken into consideration, it was found that students between the ages of 14 and 15 years accounted for just under three-quarters (73%) of those testing positive for marijuana use (See Figure 5). Notably fewer 12, 13 and 16 year olds tested positive for this drug.

**Figure 5: Age Distribution of Students Testing Positive for Marijuana Use at the Edna Nicholls Centre during the period January 1 to December 31, 2015**



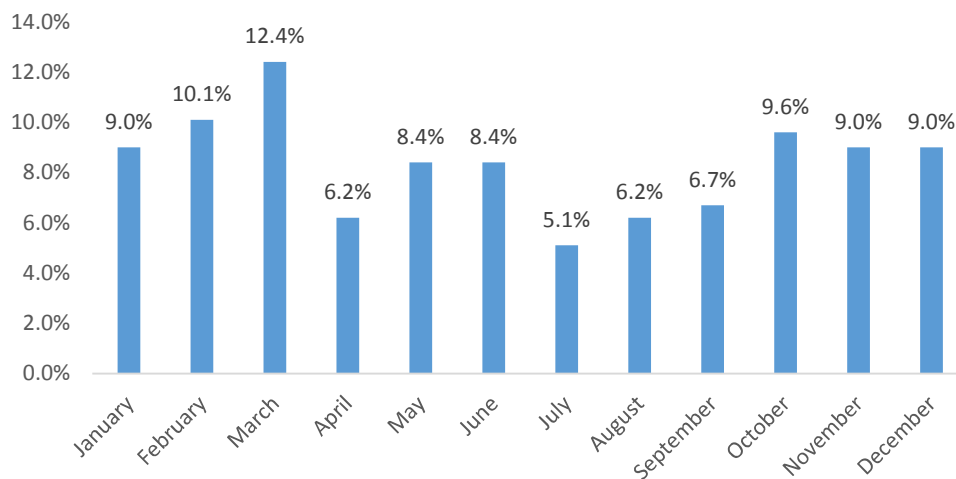
Source: The Edna Nicholls Centre

## 4. Treatment and Rehabilitation

### 4.1 Psychiatric Hospital

A total of 178 persons sought treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital's Drug Rehabilitation Unit during 2015. In addition to substance abuse assessment services, this Unit delivers an eight-week non-residential treatment programme. Figure 6 shows the distribution of persons seeking treatment at this institution by month during the calendar year. It can be seen that March had the highest percentage of admissions followed by February. The chart also shows that more persons were admitted during the first and last three months of 2015 (See Figure 6).

**Figure 6: Monthly Distribution of Persons Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital between January 1 and December 31, 2015**

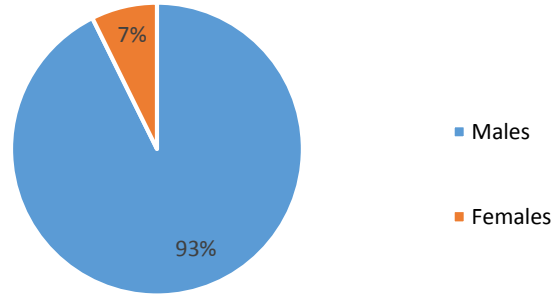


Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

### **Demographic Profile**

Figure 7 shows that the majority of persons seeking substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital during 2015 were male.

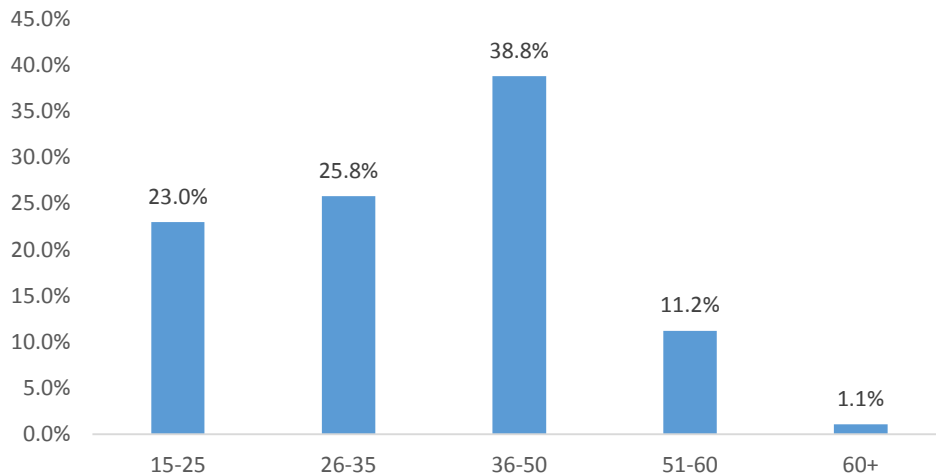
**Figure 7: Gender Distribution of Persons Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital between January 1 and December 31, 2015**



Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

When age was taken into consideration, it was found that the 36-50 age category accounted for the largest percentage of persons seeking substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital during 2015 (See Figure 8). This was followed by the 26-35, 15-25, 51-60 and 60+ age categories respectively (See Figure 8).

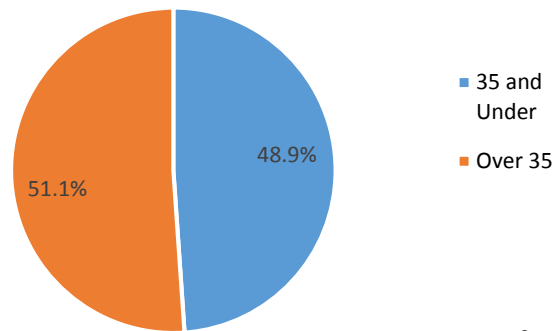
**Figure 8: Age Distribution of Persons Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital between January 1 and December 31, 2015**



Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

When the age-related data was divided into two broad categories, namely '35 and under' and 'over 35', persons in the 'over 35' age category marginally outnumbered those in the '35 and under' age group (See Figure 9).

**Figure 9: Age Comparison for Persons Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital between January 1 and December 31, 2015**

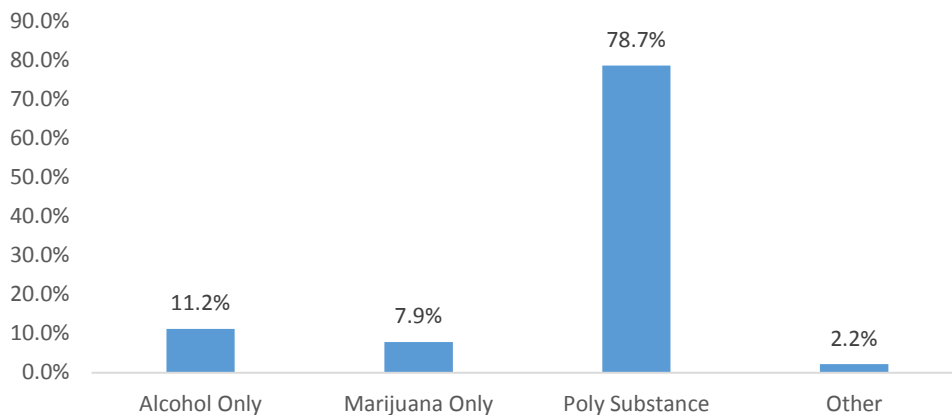


Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

**Drug Use Profile**

Figure 10 presents a summary of the drugs for which substance abuse treatment was sought at the Psychiatric Hospital during 2015<sup>5</sup>. From the chart it can be seen that poly substance use drove the demand for such treatment at the institution. This was distantly followed by alcohol use alone, marijuana use alone and what has been categorized as 'other' (See Figure 10). No explanation/definition was provided for the 'other' category.

**Figure 10: Substances for Which Treatment was Sought at the Psychiatric Hospital between January 1 and December 31, 2015**

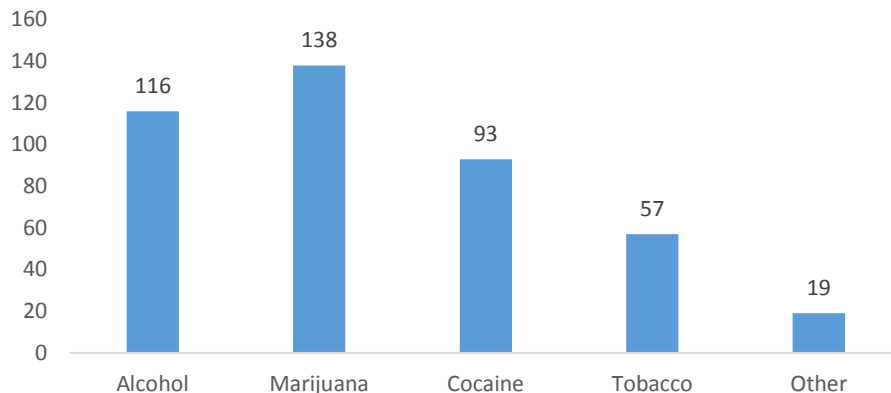


Source: The Psychiatric Hospital

<sup>5</sup> N.B. This information was obtained via client/patient self-reports.

In addition to the foregoing, an analysis of *all* of the drugs motivating the need for treatment was carried out, including those involved in poly drug combinations. Figure 11 presents the number of persons for each substance. It can be seen that marijuana was the most common drug for which persons sought treatment, followed by alcohol, cocaine (N.B. no distinction was made between crack cocaine and cocaine powder), tobacco and “other” drugs.

**Figure 11: Number of Persons Seen for Each Substance at the Psychiatric Hospital during the period January 1 to December 31, 2015**



*Source: The Psychiatric Hospital*

Note: The breakdown of drugs included in poly drug combinations resulted in the double counting of patients. As such, the sum total for all of the substances in Figure 11 is greater than the number of persons who sought substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital during 2015 (178). Given the occurrence of double counting, the decision was taken to present raw numbers and not percentages in Figure 11, as percentages would not provide an accurate reflection of the data.

### ***Treatment Referrals***

The Psychiatric Hospital is the central agency for substance abuse treatment in Barbados and is typically the first point of assessment for persons seeking such treatment. This institution therefore makes referrals to treatment programmes and centres as necessary. Table 2 presents an overview of the treatment referrals made by the Psychiatric Hospital by month during 2015. It can be seen that Verdun House and the Psychiatric Hospital’s Day Programme received the largest percentage of treatment referrals each month.

**Table 2: Monthly Summary of Referrals for Substance Abuse Treatment made by the Psychiatric Hospital during 2015**

<b>Treatment Agency/Programme</b>	<b>January</b>	<b>February</b>	<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>December</b>
<b>Psychiatric Hospital Day Programme</b>	19%	33%	36%	25%	13%	27%	22%	36%	-	18%	19%	38%
<b>Verdun House</b>	38%	39%	14%	46%	33%	47%	33%	45%	42%	29%	44%	19%
<b>Marina House</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17%	6%	-	-
<b>Alcoholics Anonymous &amp; Narcotics Anonymous</b>	19%	-	14%	16%	-	7%	11%	-	8%	6%	6%	12%
<b>Vagrants &amp; Homeless Society</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8%	-	-	-
<b>Psychology &amp; Social Work</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6%	-
<b>Other</b>	19%	11%	18%	13%	33%	7%	22%	9%	8%	12%	18%	12%
<b>Not Interested</b>	6%	17%	18%	-	20%	13%	11%	9%	17%	24%	6%	19%
<b>Refused Programme</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6%	-	-

*Source: The Psychiatric Hospital*

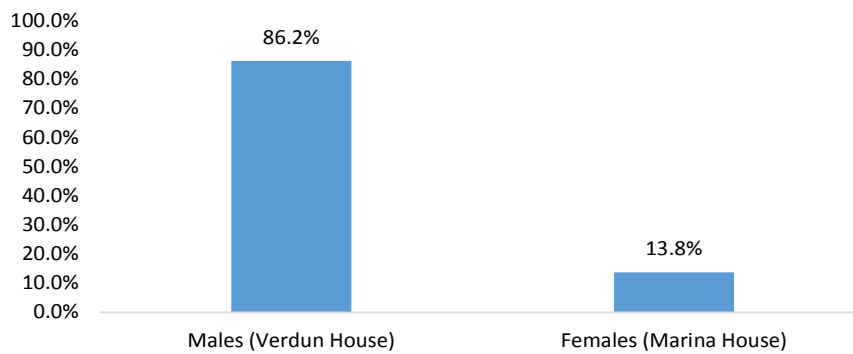


## 4.2 Substance Abuse Foundation Inc.

### **Demographic Profile**

Sixty-five (65) persons sought treatment from the Substance Abuse Foundation Inc<sup>6</sup> (SAF) between January 1 and December 31, 2015. Of those receiving treatment from the SAF, 56 (86.2%) were males (attending Verdun House) and 9 (13.8%) were females (attending Marina House) (See Figure 12).

**Figure 12: Persons Receiving Treatment from the Substance Abuse Foundation between January 1 and December 31, 2015 by Gender/Treatment Centre**



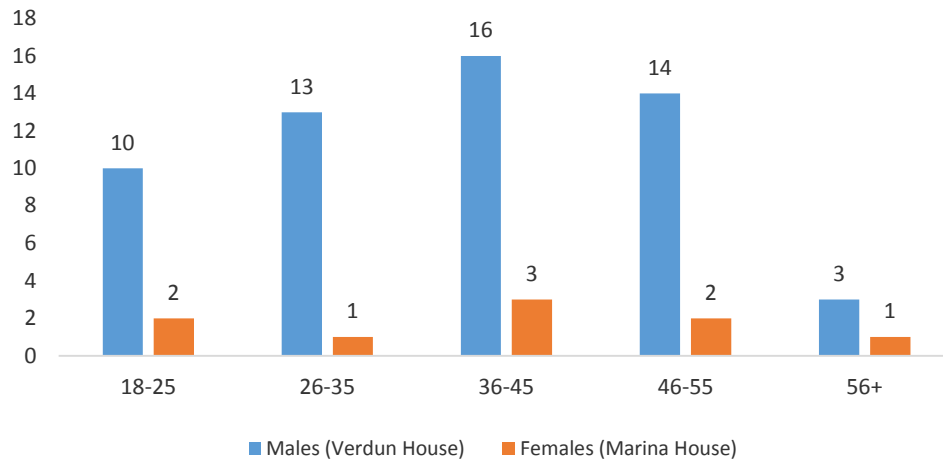
*Source: The Substance Abuse Foundation*

Most persons receiving treatment from the SAF during 2015 were older rather than younger (See Figure 13). For males, the 36-45 age group contained the largest number of persons, followed by the 46-55, 26-35, 18-25 and 56+ age categories respectively (See Figure 13). For females, the 36-45 age category was also the largest, followed closely by the 46-55, 18-25, 26-35 and 56+ age groups respectively (See Figure 13). Raw numbers are used in Figure 13 as opposed to percentages due to the small numbers in some of the categories.

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<sup>6</sup> The Substance Abuse Foundation Inc comprises of 2 treatment facilities: Verdun House and Marina House. Verdun House caters to males 18 years of age and older while Marina House caters to females 18 years and over.

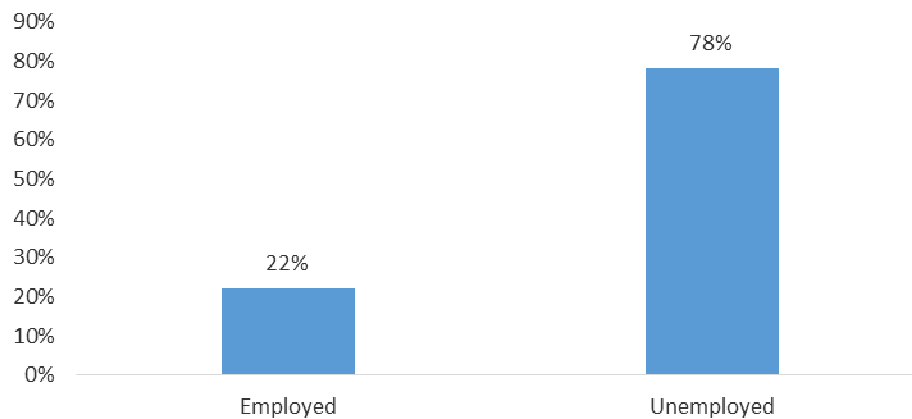
**Figure 13: Persons Seeking Treatment from the Substance Abuse Foundation between January 1 and December 31, 2015 by Age and Gender/Treatment Centre**



Source: The Substance Abuse Foundation

With respect to employment status, the majority of persons receiving treatment from the SAF during 2015 were unemployed (See Figure 14).

**Figure 14: Employment Status of Persons Seeking Treatment at the Substance Abuse Foundation during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015**

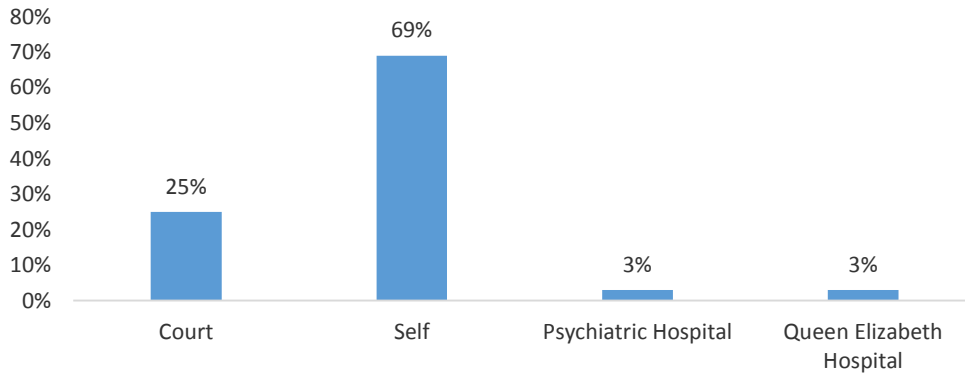


Source: The Substance Abuse Foundation

### Referral Sources

Most persons receiving treatment from the SAF during the period under review were self-referred i.e. they sought treatment voluntarily (See Figure 15). In addition to self-referrals, there were also a number of court referrals (25%) and referrals from medical professionals (Psychiatric Hospital – 3%; Queen Elizabeth Hospital - 3%).

**Figure 15: Referral Sources for Persons Seeking Treatment at the Substance Abuse Foundation during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015**

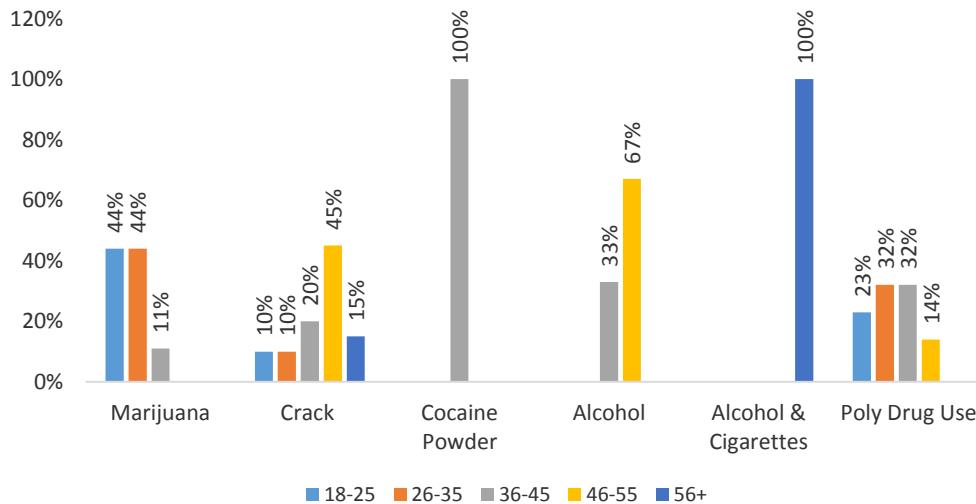


Source: The Substance Abuse Foundation

### Drug Use Profile

Figure 16 presents the drugs for which treatment was sought from the SAF during 2015 by age.

**Figure 16: Substances for which Treatment was Sought from the Substance Abuse Foundation during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015 by Age**



Source: The Substance Abuse Foundation

From Figure 16, the following can be seen with respect to each drug category:

*Marijuana:* Persons between the ages of 18 and 35 accounted for the largest proportion of persons receiving treatment for marijuana use. The remaining persons seeking treatment for this drug were in the 36-45 age group. Marijuana use was not a presenting issue for anyone over the age of 45.

*Crack cocaine:* The 46-55 age group accounted for the largest proportion of crack-related treatment followed by the 36-45, 56+, 26-35 and 18-25 age groups respectively.

*Cocaine powder:* All of the individuals receiving treatment for cocaine powder were in the 36-45 age group.

*Alcohol:* Only persons between the ages of 36 and 55 sought treatment for alcohol use. The 46-55 age group contained the largest number of individuals seeking treatment for alcohol consumption followed by the 36-45 age group.

*Alcohol & cigarettes:* The 56 and over age category accounted for all persons seeking treatment for the combined use of alcohol and cigarettes.

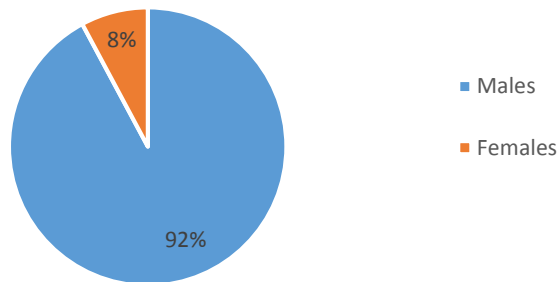
*Poly drug Use:* The majority of persons seeking treatment for poly drug use were between the ages of 26 and 45 years of age. The 26-35 and 36-45 age groups contained an equal number of persons and were followed by the 18-25 and 46-55 age groups respectively. Poly drug use was not a presenting issue for anyone within the 56 and over age category.

### 4.3 Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives (CASA)

#### Demographic Profile

Fifty-one (51) persons sought treatment at CASA during the period January 1 to December 31, 2015. Figure 17 shows that a disproportionate number of males sought treatment at this organization during this time.

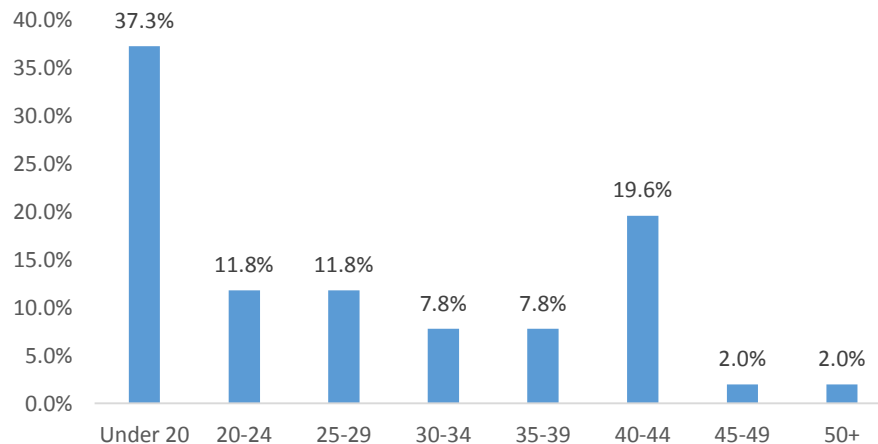
**Figure 17: Gender Distribution of Persons Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at CASA during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015**



Source: Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives

From Figure 18 it can be seen that, in 2015, the Under 20 age category accounted for the largest percentage of treatment seekers. This was followed by the 40-44, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34 and 35-39 age groups respectively (See Figure 18). Fewer persons in the 45-49 and 50+ age categories sought treatment at CASA during 2015 (See Figure 18).

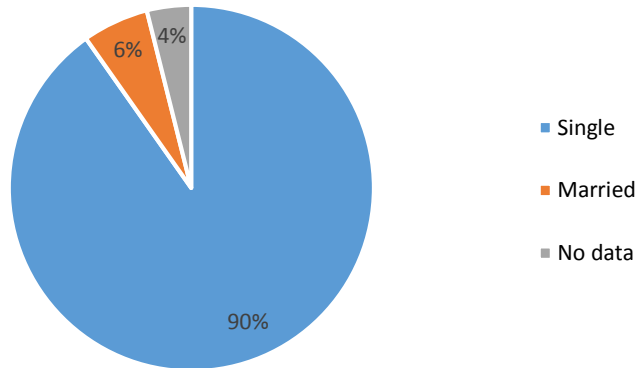
**Figure 18: Age Distribution of Persons Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at CASA during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015**



Source: Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives

The 2015 data also showed that most persons seeking treatment at CASA during this year were single (See Figure 19). Only a very small proportion (6%) were married.

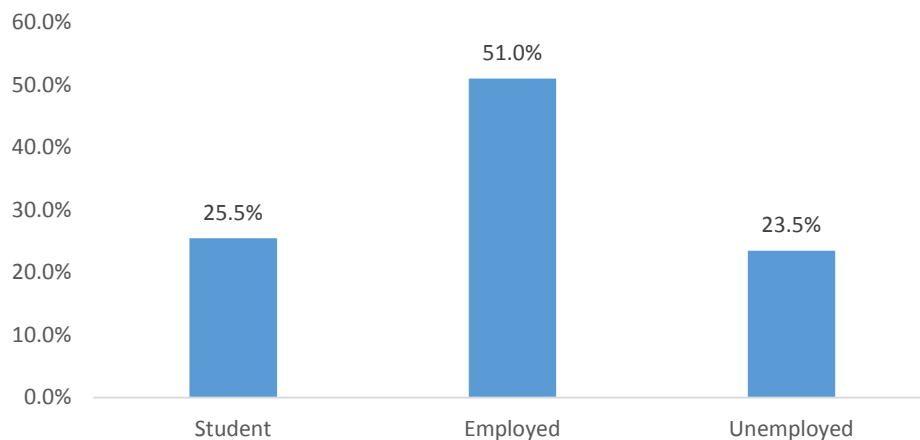
**Figure 19: Relationship Status of Persons Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at CASA during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015**



Source: Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives

With respect to employment status, approximately half of all persons seeking treatment at CASA during 2015 were employed while approximately one quarter were students and the remaining quarter were unemployed (See Figure 20).

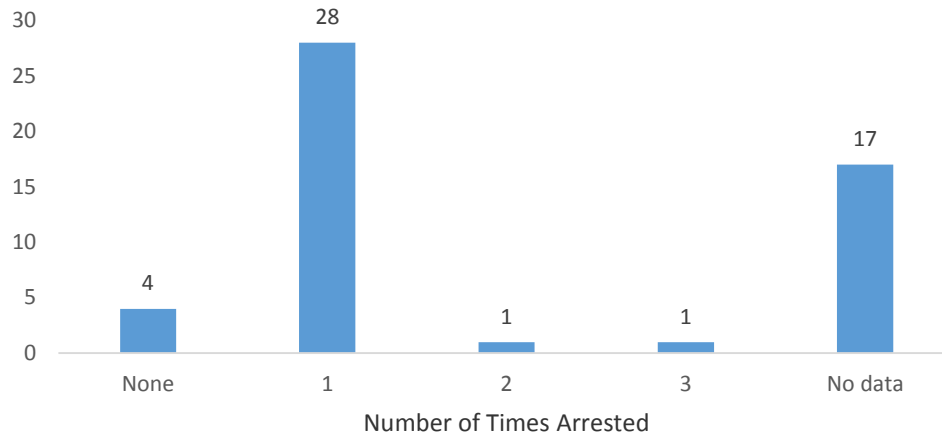
**Figure 20: Employment Status of Persons Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at CASA during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015**



Source: Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives

More than half of those seeking treatment at CASA during 2015 were arrested at least one time during their life (See Figure 21). Most were arrested once, while only 1 person reported being arrested twice and another three times (See Figure 21). There was also a small number of persons who stated that they were never arrested (See Figure 21). Raw numbers are used in Figure 21 as opposed to percentages due to the low numbers in some of the categories.

**Figure 21: Arrest History of Persons Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at CASA during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015**

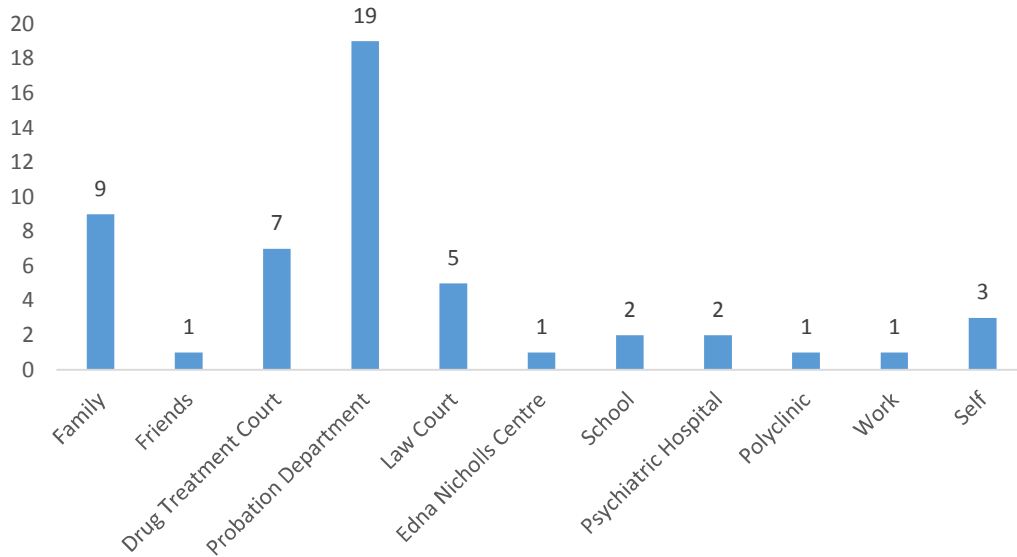


*Source: Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives*

### ***Referral Sources***

The Probation Department made the most referrals to CASA during the year 2015 (See Figure 22). This was followed by referrals from family, the Drug Treatment Court and the Law Courts. Very few referrals were received from the school system, work places, friends and the health system. There were also 3 persons who were self-referred i.e. sought treatment voluntarily. Raw numbers are used in Figure 22 as opposed to percentages due to the small numbers in many of the categories.

**Figure 22: Sources of Referral for Persons Seeking Substance Abuse Treatment at CASA during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015**

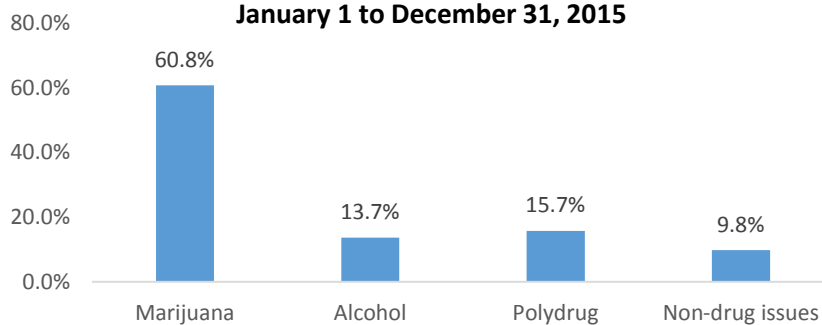


Source: Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives

**Drug Use Profile**

Marijuana was the main substance for which persons sought treatment at CASA during 2015 (See Figure 23). Fewer persons sought treatment for poly drug use and alcohol use (See Figure 23). There was also a small percentage of persons who were treated for non-drug related issues e.g. anger issues, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (See Figure 23).

**Figure 23: Substances for which Substance Abuse Treatment was Sought at CASA during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015**



Source: Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives

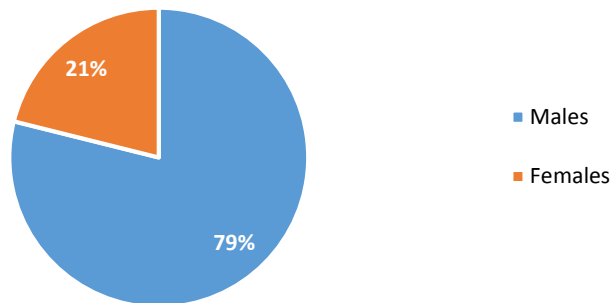


#### 4.4 Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling Programme

##### **Demographic Profile**

Seventy-one (71) persons were admitted to the Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling Programme during 2015. Figure 24 presents a gender breakdown of this data and reveals that male treatment seekers outnumbered their female counterparts.

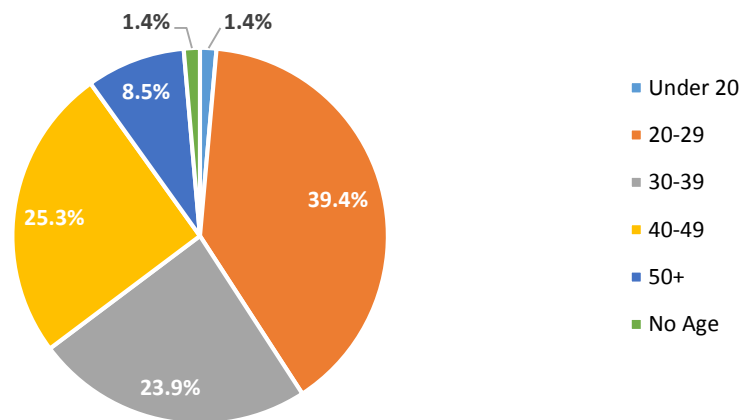
**Figure 24: Admissions to IDRC Programme by Gender for the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015**



Source: HMP Dodds

With regards to age, Figure 25 shows that the majority of inmates taking part in the IDRC programme were between 20 and 49 years. The 20-29 age category accounted for the largest proportion of treatment seekers followed by the 40-49 and 30-39 age categories respectively. The 50+ and under 20 age categories accounted for the smallest number of treatment seekers.

**Figure 25: Admissions to the IDRC Programme by Age for the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015**

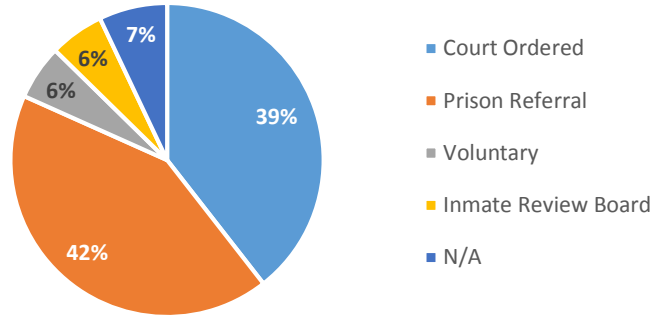


Source: HMP Dodds

### Referral Sources

Figure 26 presents the referral sources for persons admitted to the IDRC programme during 2015 and shows that prison referrals accounted for the largest proportion of admissions followed by court ordered admissions. Those who joined the programme voluntarily or were referred by the Inmate Review Board were fewer in number (See Figure 26).

**Figure 26: Referral Sources for IDRC Admissions During the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015**

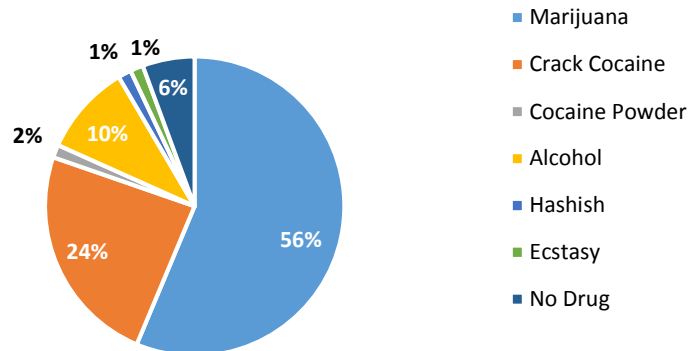


Source: HMP Dodds

### Drug Use Profile

Figure 27 shows the substances for which persons received treatment within the IDRC programme between January 1 and December 31, 2015. During this period, marijuana was the main drug motivating treatment followed by crack cocaine and alcohol. Fewer persons sought treatment for cocaine powder, ecstasy and hashish. Please note that there were also a small number of drug traffickers who took part in the programme by order of the Court. These persons were therefore not treated for any particular drug and are represented by the category “No Drug”.

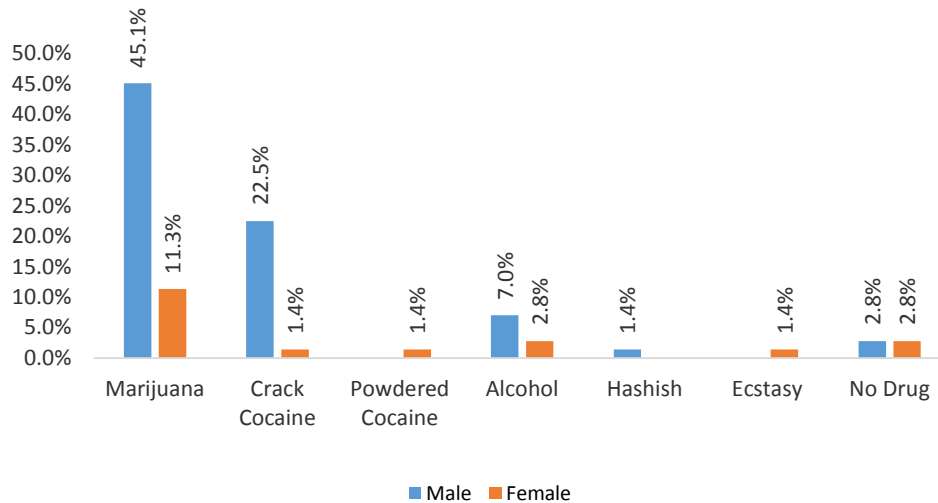
**Figure 27: Substances for which Inmates Sought Treatment in the IDRC Programme during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015**



Source: HMP Dodds

Figure 28 presents the drug treatment data by gender. The graph reveals that marijuana was the main drug motivating the need for treatment among males followed by crack cocaine, alcohol and hashish. Marijuana was also the most popular drug among females and this was followed by alcohol, crack cocaine, cocaine powder and ecstasy respectively (See Figure 28).

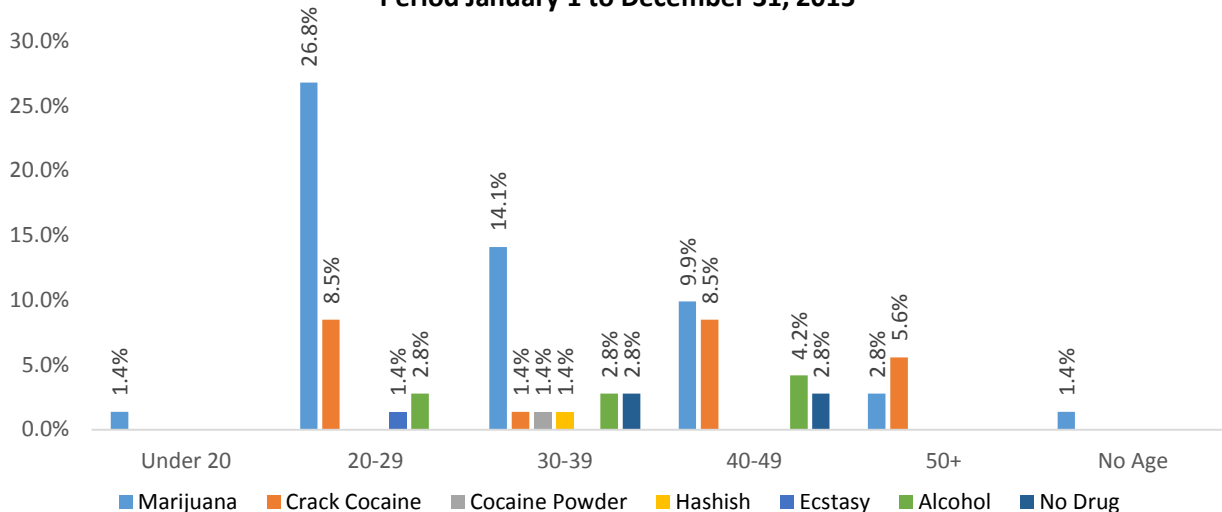
**Figure 28: Substances for Which Treatment was Sought in the IDRC Programme during 2015 by Gender**



Source: HMP Dodds

When the drug treatment data was considered by age, marijuana was found to be the most commonly used drug in all of the age groups, with the exception of the 50 and over age category (See Figure 29). For those 50 and over, crack cocaine was the main substance motivating the need for treatment (See Figure 29).

**Figure 29: Drugs for Which Treatment Sought In IDRC Programme by Age for the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015**



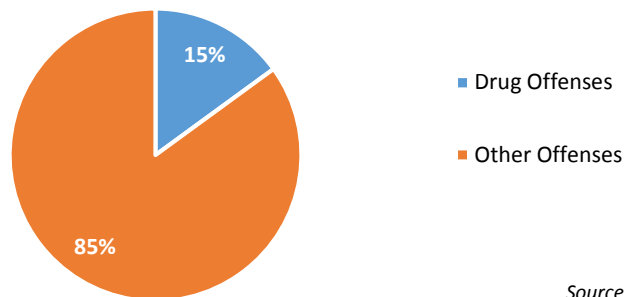
Source: HMP Dodds

## 5. Supply Control

### 5.1 Royal Barbados Police Force

The Royal Barbados Police Force (RBPF) recorded a total of 7928 offenses for the period January 1 to December 31, 2015. Figure 30 reveals that drug offenses accounted for 15% of the offenses recorded during this time.

**Figure 30: Drug Offenses vs. Other Offenses for the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015**

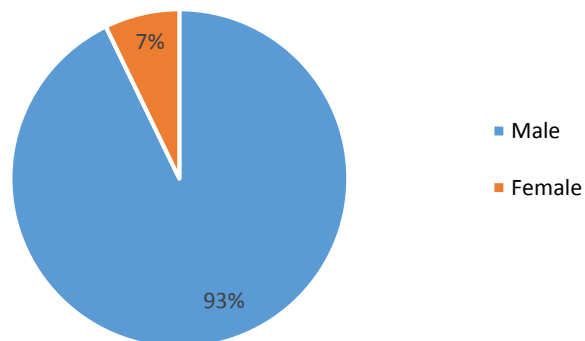


*Source: Royal Barbados Police Force*

#### ***Demographics of Persons Charged with Drug Offenses***

From Figure 31 it can be seen that the number of males charged with drug offenses far outnumbered the number of females charged with such offenses during 2015 (93% vs. 7%).

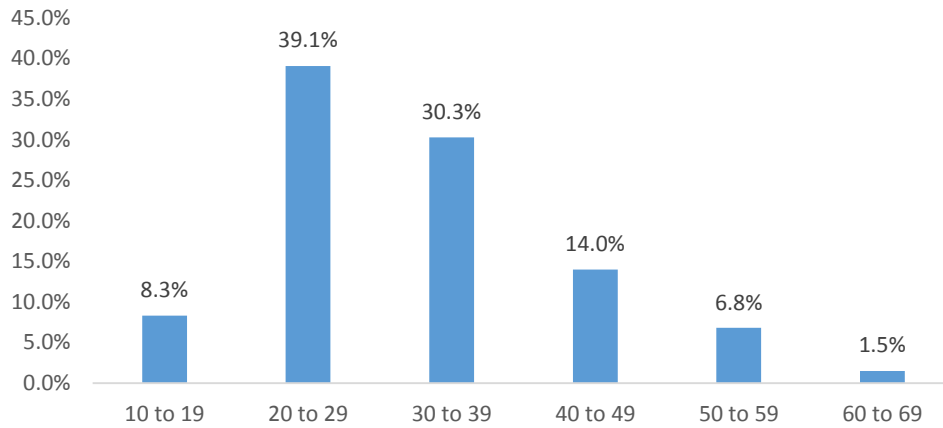
**Figure 31: Gender Distribution of Persons Charged with Drug Offenses During the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015**



*Source: Royal Barbados Police Force*

With regards to age, persons charged with drug offenses during 2015 ranged between 10 and 69 years (See Figure 32). The 20-29 age group accounted for the largest proportion of persons charged with drug offenses; and this was followed closely by the 30-39 age category (See Figure 32). Fewer persons charged with drug offenses were in the 10-19, 40-49, 50-59 and 60-69 age groups (See Figure 32).

**Figure 32: Age Distribution of Persons Charged with Drug Offenses during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015**

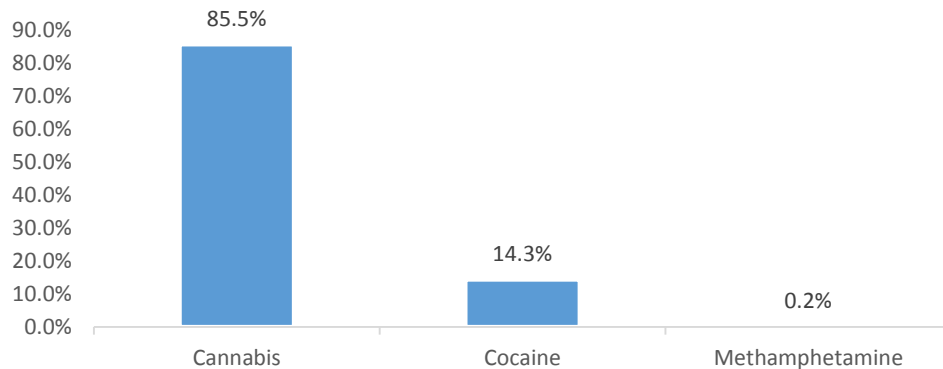


Source: Royal Barbados Police Force

***Distribution of Drug Offenses by Drug Type***

Figure 33 presents the drug offenses for the year 2015 by drug type. The graph shows that marijuana-related offenses were the most numerous. These were distantly followed by cocaine- and methamphetamine-related offenses.

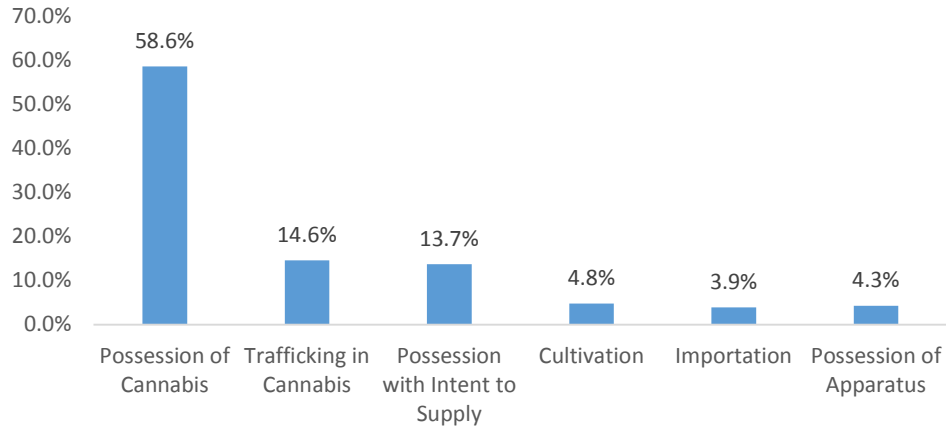
**Figure 33: Drug Offenses by Drug Type for the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015**



Source: Royal Barbados Police Force

## Cannabis Offenses

**Figure 34: Cannabis Offenses for the Period January 1 - December 31, 2015**

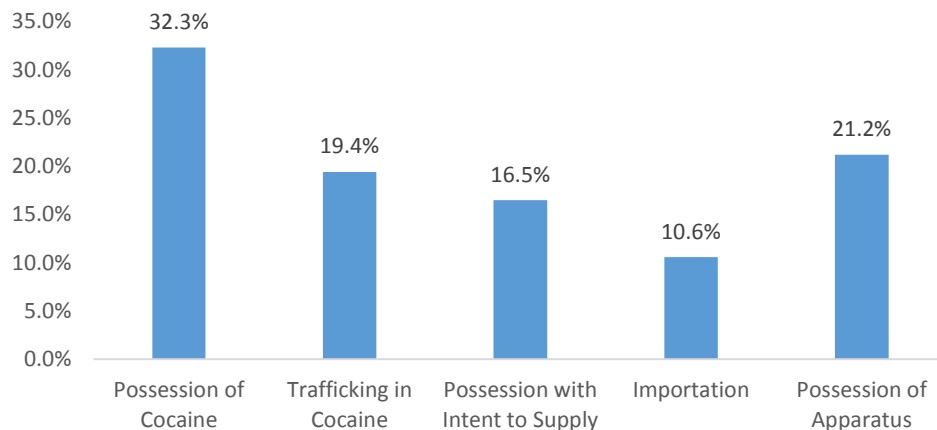


Source: Royal Barbados Police Force

The distribution of cannabis offenses recorded between January 1 and December 31, 2015 is presented in Figure 34. The chart reveals that “Possession of Cannabis” was the most common cannabis-related offense for the period (See Figure 34). This was followed by “Trafficking”, “Possession with Intent to Supply”, “Cultivation”, “Possession of Apparatus” and “Importation” respectively (See Figure 34).

## Cocaine Offenses

**Figure 35: Cocaine Offenses for the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015**



Source: Royal Barbados Police Force

From Figure 35 it can be seen that “Possession of Cocaine” was the most common cocaine-related offense during the 2015 calendar year. This was followed by “Possession of Apparatus”, “Trafficking”, “Possession with Intent to Supply” and “Importation” (See Figure 35).

### ***Methamphetamine Offenses***

Methamphetamine-related offenses for the period January 1 to December 31, 2015 were limited. There were only two such charges recorded during this time, both of which were for “Possession of Methamphetamine”.

### ***Drug Seizures***

Table 3 displays the quantities of the various drugs seized by the Narcotics Unit during 2015. The data reveals that cannabis, both compressed and in plant form, was the most commonly seized substance. Notably less cocaine was seized during the same period.

**Table 3: Drug Seizures by the Narcotics Unit for the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015**

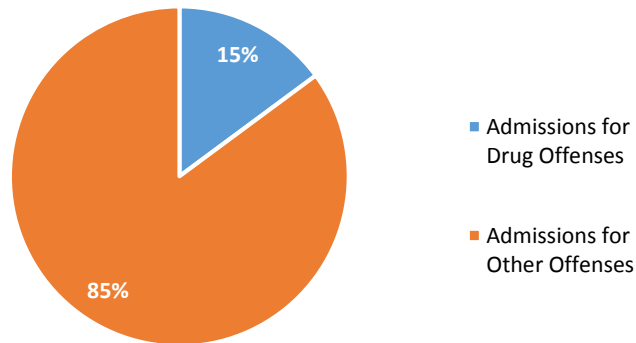
<b>Drug</b>	<b>Quantity Seized</b>
Compressed Cannabis	2937.6 Kg
Cannabis Plants	56, 416
Cocaine	139.2 Kg

*Source: Royal Barbados Police Force*

## 5.2 H.M.P. Dodds

A total of 1223 persons were admitted to HMP Dodds for various offenses during the period January 1 to December 31, 2015. Figure 36 reveals that drug-related offenses accounted for 15% of the admissions during this time (See Figure 36).

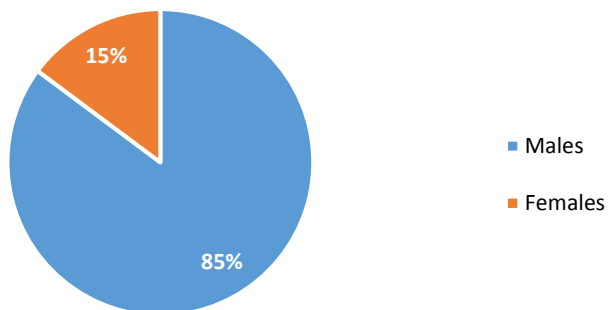
**Figure 36: Admissions to HMP Dodds for the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015: Drug vs. Other Offenses**



Source: HMP Dodds

From Figure 37 below, it can be seen that the proportion of males admitted for drug offenses during the period under review was notably larger than the proportion of females admitted for such offenses.

**Figure 37: Admissions to HMP Dodds for Drug Offenses by Gender for the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015**

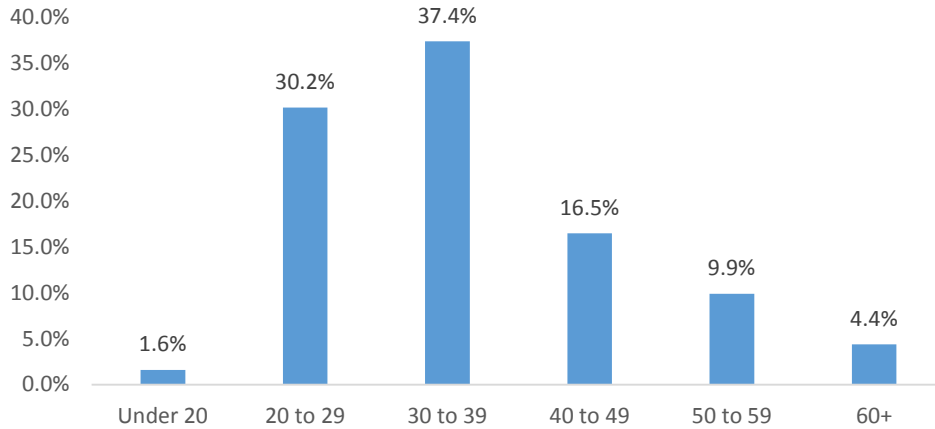


Source: HMP Dodds



With respect to age, Figure 38 shows that the 30 to 39 and 20 to 29 age categories accounted for the largest proportion of persons admitted for drug offenses. These were followed by the 40 to 49, 50 to 59, 60 and over and under 20 age categories respectively.

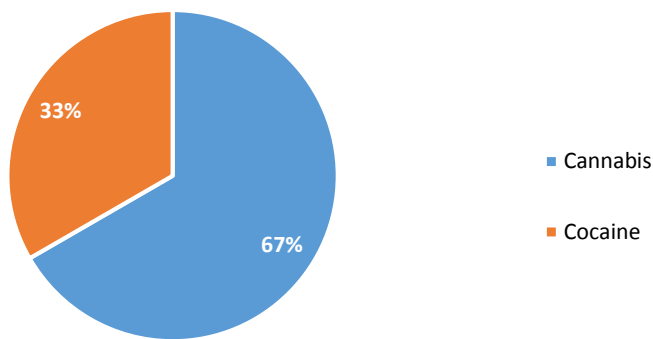
**Figure 38: Persons Admitted to HMP Dodds for Drug Offenses for the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015 by Age**



Source: HMP Dodds

HMP Dodds provided information regarding the specific drug offenses for which females were admitted to the prison during the period under review. This data is presented graphically in Figures 39 and 40. Please note that no such information was available for male inmates admitted for drug offenses.

**Figure 39: Female Drug Admissions at HMP Dodds for the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015: Cannabis vs. Cocaine**



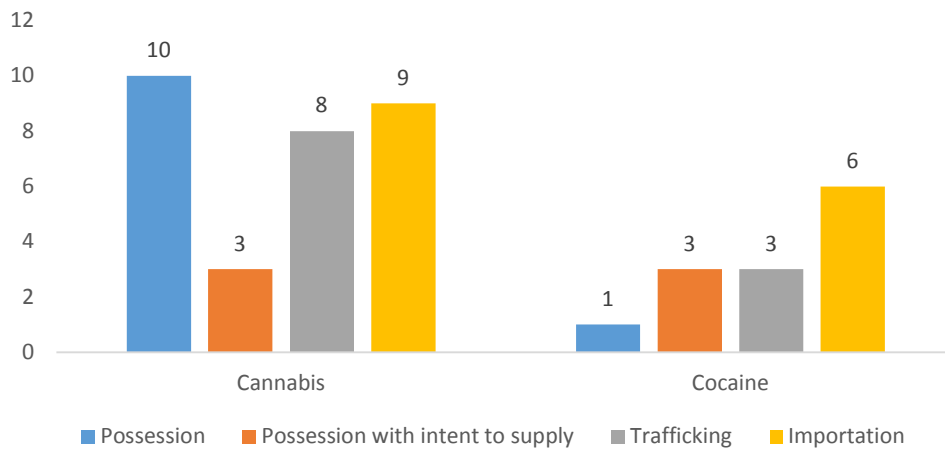
Source: HMP Dodds

Figure 39 shows that approximately two-thirds (67%) of the female inmates admitted to HMP Dodds for drug offenses during the 2015 calendar year were admitted for cannabis-related offenses. The remaining 33% were admitted for cocaine-related offenses.

Figure 40 presents the specific drug offenses for which females were admitted to HMP Dodds during the said period. Please note that raw numbers are used in this graph and not percentages. This is due to the fact that the number of females admitted to the prison for drug offenses was relatively small (N=27). As such, the numbers for each offense were also small.

From the chart, it can be seen that “Possession of Cannabis” was the most common cannabis-related offense for which females were admitted. This was closely followed by “Importation” and “Trafficking”. “Possession of Cannabis with Intent to Supply” was the least common cannabis offense. With respect to cocaine, Figure 40 shows that “Importation” was the most common offense followed by “Trafficking”, “Possession with Intent to Supply” and “Possession”.

**Figure 40: Female Drug Admissions to HMP Dodds during the Period January 1 to December 31, 2015 by Offense Type**



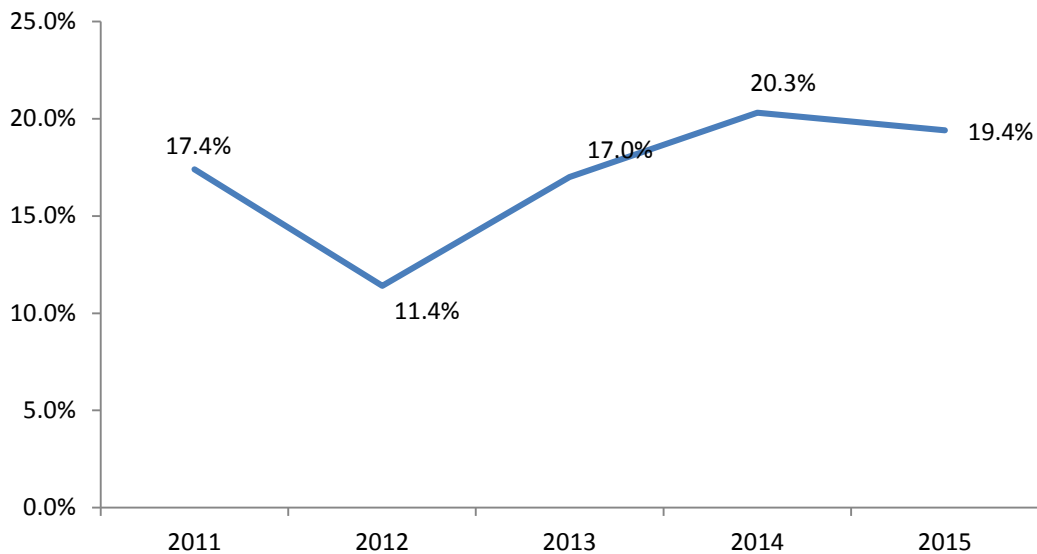
Source: HMP Dodds

## 6. Select Trend Analysis

In this section, a select trend analysis is presented for the period 2011 to 2015. In instances where data was not available for 2011, a trend analysis is offered for the years 2012 through 2015.

### 6.1 Edna Nicholls Centre

**Figure 41: Edna Nicholls Centre: Percentage of Students Testing Positive for Marijuana Use 2011-2015**

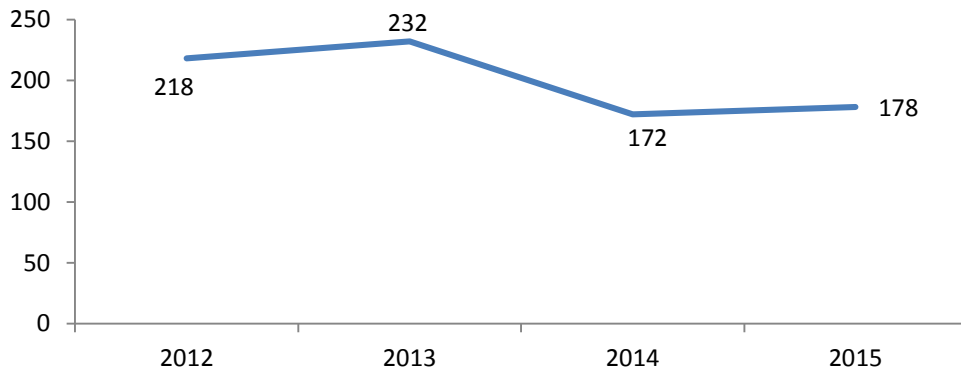


*Source: Barbados Drug Information Network*

Figure 41 shows the proportion of Edna Nicholls' students who tested positive for marijuana use or were found to have trace amounts of the drug in their system during the period 2011-2015. The percentages for the years 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2015 were somewhat similar while the percentage for 2012 was notably smaller. Given the similarities for four of the five years, it is possible that the decrease observed in 2012 was an anomaly. Further monitoring is required to determine if this is in fact the case.

## 6.2 Psychiatric Hospital

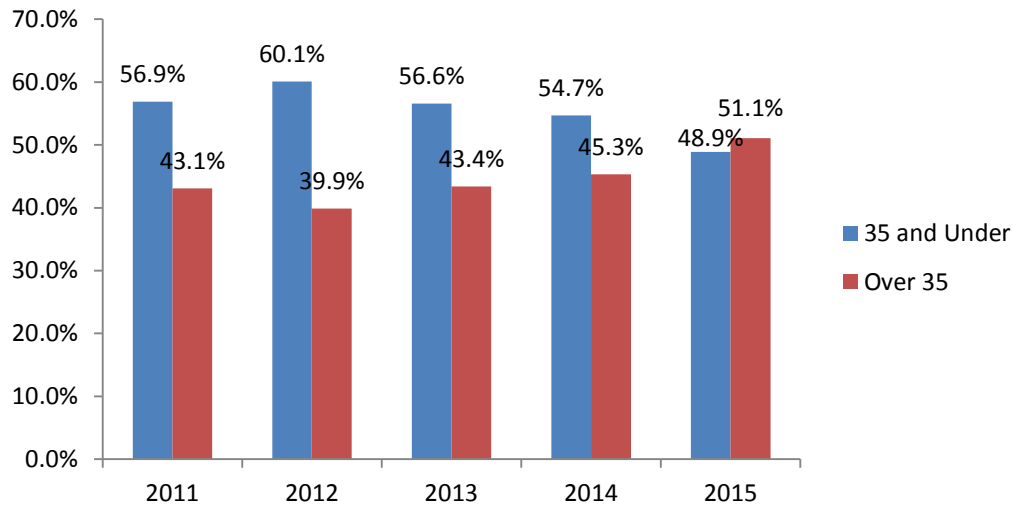
**Figure 42: Psychiatric Hospital Admissions for Substance Abuse Treatment: 2012-2015**



Source: Barbados Drug Information Network

Figure 42 displays the number of persons who sought substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital during the period 2012 through 2015. From the chart it can be seen that the largest number of persons presenting for such treatment was recorded in 2013 while the lowest was recorded in 2014. Due to the fluctuations observed, no discernable pattern can be identified at this time.

**Figure 43: Psychiatric Hospital Admissions for Substance Abuse Treatment: Age Comparisons 2011-2015**



Source: Barbados Drug Information Network

Figure 43 presents an age comparison of persons seeking substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital between 2011 and 2015. Between 2011 and 2014, persons in the '35 and under' age category consistently outnumbered those in the over 35 age group. However, the opposite was true in 2015. During this year, those in the 'over 35' group marginally outnumbered their younger counterparts.

**Figure 44: Psychiatric Hospital Admissions for Substance Abuse Treatment: Gender Comparisons 2011-2015**

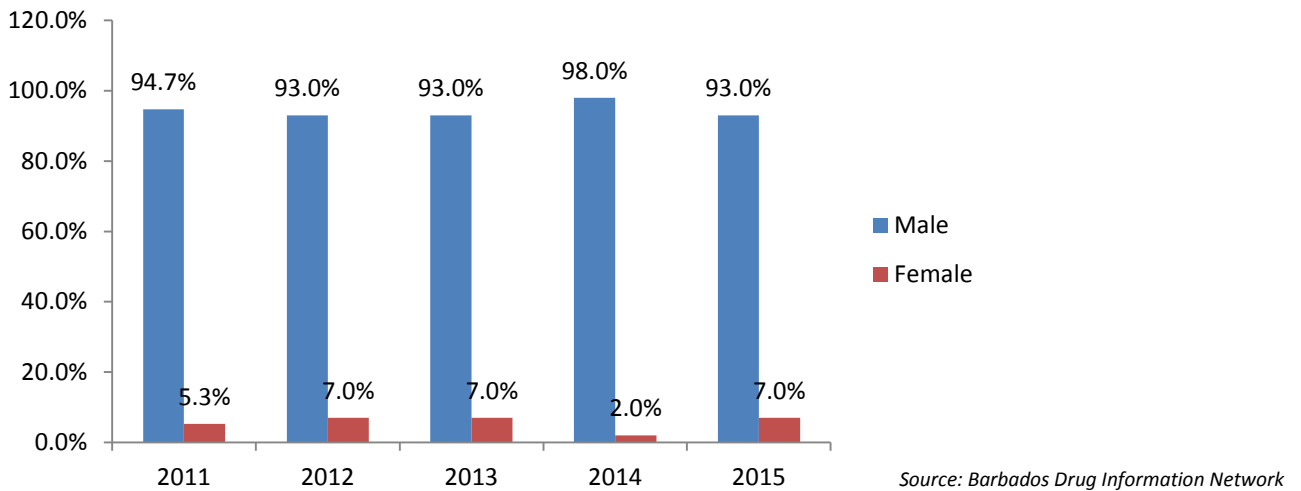


Figure 44 reveals that males seeking substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital significantly outnumbered females during the five year period under review.

**Figure 45: Psychiatric Hospital Admissions for Substance Abuse Treatment: Single Drug Use vs. Polydrug Use 2011-2015**

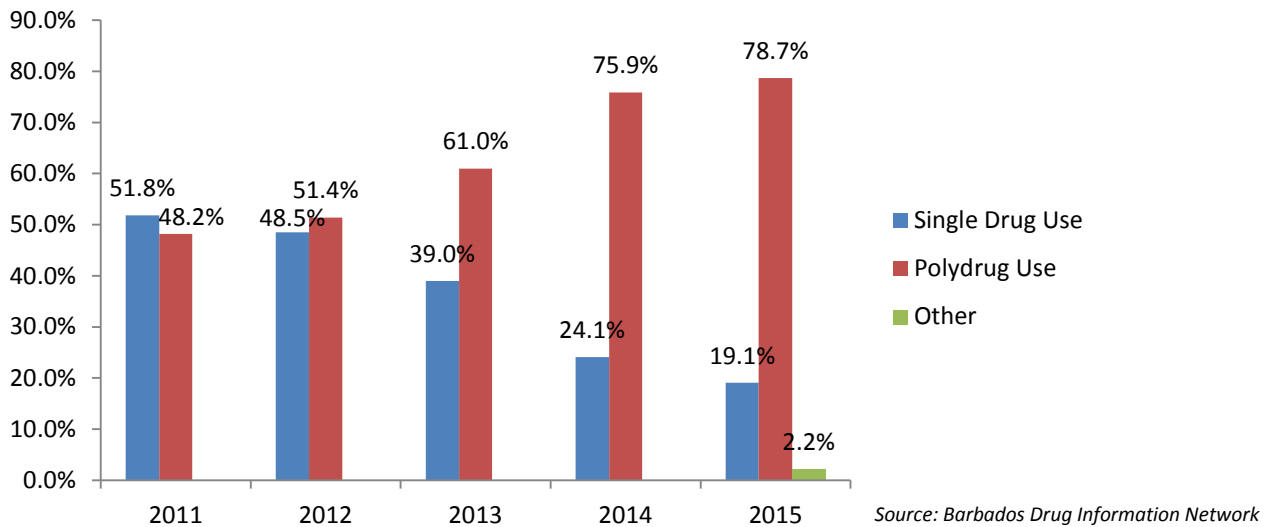
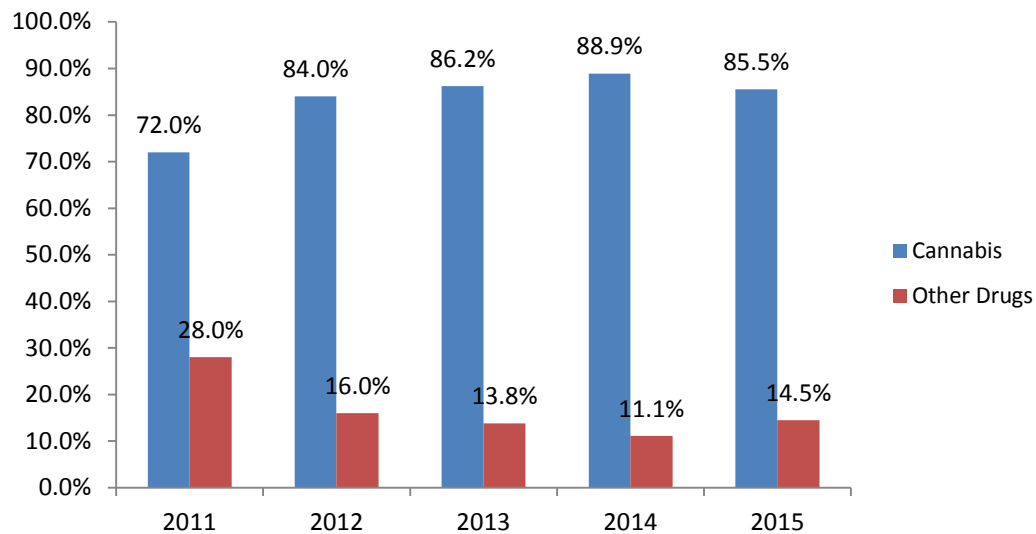


Figure 45 suggests that there continues to be an emerging poly drug use trend occurring among those presenting for substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital. From 2012 onward, the proportion of poly drug users was greater than that of single drug users. Furthermore, the percentage of poly drug users incrementally increased with each passing year.

### 6.3 Royal Barbados Police Force

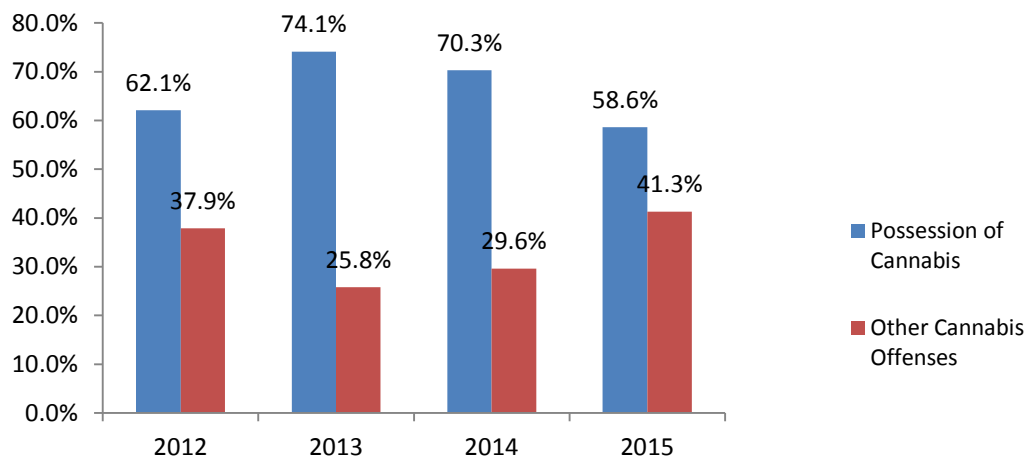
**Figure 46: Royal Barbados Police Force: Drug Offenses 2011-2015**



Source: Barbados Drug Information Network

Figure 46 compares the proportion of cannabis offenses to the proportion of “other drug” offenses for the years 2011 through 2015. From the chart, it can be seen that cannabis offenses continually outnumbered “other drug” offenses recorded by the RBPF during this period. While the number of cannabis offenses increased annually during the years 2011-2014, a slight decrease was observed in 2015.

**Figure 47: Royal Barbados Police Force: Cannabis Offenses 2012-2015**



Source: Barbados Drug Information Network

From Figure 47, it can be seen that Possession of Cannabis was the most common cannabis offense for the period 2012 – 2015. While the percentage of “Possession” offenses increased between 2012 and 2013, there was a continual decrease between 2013 and 2015; thus indicating that other cannabis related offenses were increasing. Further monitoring will be needed to see if this is an emerging trend.

## 7. Discussion

The Barbados Drug Information Network (BARDIN) provides descriptive information about the population that uses and abuses drugs, seeks treatment and is in contact with drug prevention and treatment facilities and the criminal justice system. This report is significant not only in extending our knowledge of the use and abuse of drugs and drug-related crime in Barbados, but also informs practitioners to advance the development of meaningful responses to drug problems. Several notable results on the drugs motivating treatment<sup>7</sup> and contact with the criminal justice system emerged.

Marijuana is the illegal drug of choice and continues to be the focus of attention of drug treatment providers and criminal justice professionals. The Substance Abuse Foundation (SAF) and the Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives (CASA) reported that young adults between the ages of 18 and 35 years sought treatment primarily for marijuana abuse. There continues to be an emerging poly drug use trend among those presenting for substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital. Between 2012 and 2015, the percentage of poly drug users seeking substance abuse treatment at the Psychiatric Hospital was greater than the percentage of single drug users and the majority of poly drug combinations included marijuana, alcohol and cocaine.

The NCSA, the Edna Nicholls Centre and CASA are among the leading agencies deterring the use and abuse of drugs among adolescents and young adults. The NCSA provides drug education, prevention and counselling services while the Edna Nicholls Centre and CASA provide advisory and treatment services for teenagers referred from schools and other social agencies.

Providing drug education and prevention services to teenagers is critical as the early onset of drug problems is linked to factors that influence the risk of continued use in adulthood (Flanzer, 2005; Zucker, Heitzeg, & Nigg, 2011). In particular, environments marked by lower social control, including less parental monitoring, higher peer deviance, lower parental warmth and more punitive discipline are linked to the early use of alcohol (Dick, 2011). Researchers have also found that adolescents who receive early life course interventions such as family/parent training are less likely to commit a crime and become delinquent (Cohen, Piquero, & Jennings, 2010; Piquero, Jennings & Farrington, 2010).

The BARDIN report also provides further insights into the link between drug use and crime in Barbados (Van Wormer, 2010; Campbell-Heider & Baird, 2012). Though drug offenses accounted for 15% of all crimes recorded by the RBPF during 2015; crimes involving cannabis accounted for 85.5% of drug related crimes, with "Possession of Cannabis" being the most common drug crime during the period. Also, cannabis, both compressed and in plant form, was the substance most commonly seized by the RBPF during 2015. However, of particular concern was the high proportion of young male offenders (93%) arrested for drug related offences, the majority of whom were in the 20-29 age category. The early contact of young adult males with the criminal justice system may have implications for progression into drug dependency and difficulties with finding employment because of a criminal record. Also, the

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<sup>7</sup> This refers to the drugs for which persons are seeking substance abuse treatment.

accepted use of this drug in communities may drive adversarial relationships with law enforcement. It is, therefore, necessary that efforts be made to inform young men on the harms of drug use and promote rehabilitative services which focus on alternatives to incarceration.

Similar to the police reports, 15% of admissions to HMP Dodds during 2015 were drug-related with the highest proportion being males (85%) in the 30-39 age group. Though drug dependent offenders benefit from rehabilitative services via prison referrals and court-ordered admissions, drug addiction among young adult males continues to be a concern. Seventy-nine per cent (79%) of persons who sought treatment in the Inmate Drug Rehabilitation and Counselling Programme (IDRC) in 2015 were men between 20 and 29 years. Drug addiction presents challenges for families and communities, as the ability of these young people to reduce their dependency and reintegrate into the community depends on their successful completion of treatment.

The capacity of criminal justice practitioners to reduce recidivism among persons addicted to drugs is made more challenging because of mental illness (Campbell-Heider, & Baird, 2012; Skeem, Manchak, & Peterson, 2011). The findings from the pilot of a standardised drug treatment in-take form in Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago showed that 19.3% of those seeking treatment in Barbados experienced mental illness (CICAD, 2013). Responding to the needs of offenders who are addicted to drugs is crucial to their transitioning from prison to the community and may require an investment in treatment and support services that address substance abuse and mental illness in prison and the community (Byrne, Pattavina, & Taxman, 2015).



## 8. Conclusion

Like previous BARDIN reports, the 2015 BARDIN report indicates that the primary drugs consumed and motivating treatment are alcohol, marijuana and cocaine. Marijuana continues to be the leading illegal drug of choice driving treatment in the community and prison, but patterns of poly drug use continue to show that alcohol, marijuana and cocaine are consumed in various combinations. Responses to drug use are captured in the work of agencies involved in the prevention of drug use, the treatment of substance abuse as well as efforts of law enforcement to reduce the supply of narcotics. Overall, the link between drug use and crime indicates a need for a greater investment in resources to educate about the harms of drugs and interventions that help young men lead productive lives.

Finally, BARDIN reports are primarily quantitative in design and opinions of practitioners are not included in these reports. However, the views of stakeholders can inform practical approaches to the drug situation in Barbados. To this end, future BARDIN reports will incorporate the opinion of those who work in close collaboration with the targeted population.

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