



**REPORT:
SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF
GRENADA DRUG
INFORMATION NETWORK
&
NATIONAL OBSERVATORY
ON DRUGS,
10 DECEMBER 2010**

**REPORT:
SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE GRENADA DRUG INFORMATION NETWORK &
NATIONAL OBSERVATORY ON DRUGS (GREN DIN/NOD)
10 DECEMBER 2010**

Chairperson: Mrs. Elizabeth Japal, Assistant Drug Control Officer, Drug Control Secretariat.

Prayer: Reverend Dr. Thomas Welch, Pastor, People's Church, Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies, St. Paul's, St. George's.

Remarks: Mr. Dave Alexander, Drug Control Officer, Drug Control Secretariat.
Mr. Alexander Officially welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a brief overview on the status of GREN DIN.

Remarks: Ms. Ann Marie Marecheau, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education

In her remarks, the Permanent Secretary noted that GREN DIN has resulted in the achievement of three significant objectives:

- i. Establishment of procedures to collect drug-related statistics;
- ii. Development of a national action plan to improve recording, exchange and comparability of data between agencies; and
- iii. Development and strengthening of communication among institutions, which collect drug-related data."

The Permanent Secretary also noted that GREN DIN was being used by the Organization of American States/Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (OAS/CICAD), as a model for data collection the Caribbean.

Reports:

The following reports were presented, discussed and adopted.

- i. **Report: Sixth Annual General Meeting of the Grenada Drug Information Network (GREN DIN) 4 December 2009:** Mr. Dave Alexander, Drug Control Officer, Drug Control Secretariat.

Copies of the Report were distributed to participants at the Meeting.

- ii. **Accomplishments of the Grenada Drug Information Network (GREN DIN), 2010,** Mrs. Elizabeth Japal, Assistant Drug Control Officer, Drug Control Secretariat.

The chart below outlines the accomplishments of GREN DIN

ACCOMPLISHMENT OF GRENDIN, 2010

Review and amend all GRENDIN Indicators	Six Indicators were revised. They are: Admissions to Rathdune Psychiatric Unit; Admissions To Carlton House; Admissions To the General Hospital; Criminal Deportees; Scope Of The Mechanisms For The Control Of The Diversion Of Pharmaceutical Products And Controlled Chemical Substances; Seizures, Arrests, Court Cases.
Prepare proposals for implementation of a Secondary Schools drug prevalence survey	This matter is pending. A significant factor is the unavailability of funding for such survey.
Strengthen the online component of GRENDIN.	Continuous update of the webpage; eighteen (18) documents have been posted under the GRENDIN section of the web page: www.gov.gd/ncodc.html
Identify and develop new GRENDIN Indicators	One new Indicator was developed, 'Tests For Presence of Controlled Drugs', in collaboration with the Produce Chemist Laboratory. The objective of the Indicator is to determine the number of tests conducted for the presence of controlled drugs.
Provide support to local, regional and international data collection programmes, Institutions and agencies	Ongoing; technical assistance was provided to Dominica and St. Lucia and can be provided to other islands upon request.
Seek technical assistance and training in the area of data collection and analysis.	St. George's University continues to provide much assistance in the area of data analysis. (Training has not yet been accessed.)
Increased collaboration with relevant Departments, such as the Central Statistics Office.	Increased collaboration is in progress. Two of the Departments with which such collaboration have occurred are the Produce Chemist Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Probation Unit of the Ministry of Social Services.
Develop a mechanism for the certification/validation of GRENDIN Statistical Reports of Indicators.	This matter was discussed with the Ms. Beryl Ann Clarkson, head of the Central Statistics office of the Ministry of Finance. One of the key challenges identified is the conducting of the verification process. Further discussion is required.
Produce four (4) GRENDIN Fact Sheets; one Fact Sheet per quarter.	Accomplished.
Seek technical support from the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) to strengthen GRENDIN.	The Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) has indicated that it intends to conduct a workshop for established drug information networks in the region. Grenada would be invited to participate.
Develop a GRENDIN logo.	This matter is outstanding.

Implementation of unaccomplished activities would be pursued in 2011.

- iii. **Status of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM):** Mr. Dave Alexander, Drug Control Officer, Drug Control Secretariat.

The following is a summary of the presentation:

- The Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM) was established by the Inter American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) based on recommendations made at the **Second Summit of the Americas** in 1998. MEM commenced in 1999.
- MEM is a tool through which the anti-drug efforts of the 34 Member States of the OAS are evaluated.
- MEM** was created to increase coordination, dialogue and cooperation among the 34 OAS Member states to deal with the drug issue with greater efficacy.

FIFTH EVALUATION ROUND (2007 – 2009)

- Consists of fifty (50) Indicators. These Indicators are in the areas of :
 - ✓ **INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING** (4 Indicators)
 - ✓ **DEMAND REDUCTION** (12 Indicators)
 - ✓ **SUPPLY REDUCTION** (13 Indicators)
 - ✓ **CONTROL MEASURES** (21 Indicators)
- The Questionnaire of Indicators was completed and submitted to CICAD in September 2009.
- Publication of the Country and Hemispheric reports of the 5th Evaluation Round: Due December 2010

RECOMMENDATIONS ASSIGNED TO GRENADA BY THE MEM

- During the First to Fourth Evaluation Rounds (1999 to 2006) of the MEM, forty-one (41) recommendations were assigned to Grenada by the MEM.
- Recommendations presented in these reports are intended for implementation by the country. These recommendations are geared toward strengthening the national drug control programme.

Feature Presentation: Dr. Wendy Crawford Daniel, Associate Professor at the school of Arts and Science, Department of Public Health, St. George's University, made the feature presentation at the Meeting, on the topic, "**Results of Study on Linkage Between Drugs and Crime Among Inmates at Her Majesty's Prisons, Grenada, 2010**".

The following is a summary of the presentation:

A pilot study which examined issues involving the relationship between drugs and crime, among inmates at Her Majesty's Prisons, Grenada in July 2010, reveals linkages between the use of drugs and crime committed by inmates prior to incarceration. The target for the survey was the prison population which consisted of convicted and remand prisoners. The sample size was 104 (72 convicted and 32 remand prisoners), which represented 25 % of the prison population. Among the respondents, 90.38 % (94) were male and 9.62 % (10) female.

The findings revealed that forty percent (40%) of the crimes committed by the respondents occurred

under the influence of drugs. The results also revealed that the drug with the highest intoxication that resulted in crime was alcohol. Another finding was sexual assault, physical assault, and malicious damage were the crimes committed under the influence of drugs. Further, the most prevalent drug used by the respondents was marijuana, followed closely by tobacco.

In determining the role of drugs in the crime committed by remand and convicted prisoners, they were asked whether the crime they committed and for which they are imprisoned was related to drug and whether the crime was committed under the influence of drugs. Thirty-three percent (33 %) of the respondents acknowledged that the crimes committed were related to drugs and twenty-five percent admitted to have been under the influence of drugs when their crimes were committed.

Of the prisoners whose crimes were committed under the influence of drugs (25 %), more than half (13%) were committed under the influence of alcohol. Marijuana (6%), cocaine (4%) and crack (2%) were the other named drugs influencing the perpetrators of the crimes.

Nineteen percent (19 %) of the twenty-five percent prisoners whose crimes were committed under the influence of drugs stated that the crimes would not have been committed if they were not under the influence of drugs. Eight percent of respondents stated that the crime would still have been committed even if they were not under the influence of drugs.

The type of drug activities for which prisoners were incarcerated ranged from drugs for personal use to marketing and selling drugs. Eleven percent of respondents claimed that their drug activity violated drug laws. Eleven percent reported that their drug activity involved the production, selling and trafficking of drugs and another twelve percent claimed their crimes were linked to the drug market. Fewer, (7%), claimed that their crimes were linked to drugs for personal consumption.

Respondents were also asked to evaluate the impact of their crimes and imprisonment on their family. The aspects of their lives most affected by the prisoners' crimes were their social, economic and their familial relationships. Twenty-six percent of the respondents said that their drug use had a significant impact on their family's economic situation. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the respondents reported that their crime and imprisonment has a significant impact on their family relationships.

The objectives of the study were inter alia: Determine the prevalence rate of psychoactive substance use among the adult (18 year old and above) prison population; Analyze the link between criminal behavior and psychoactive substance use of the identified prison population; Determine the link between criminal behavior and drug use; Establish the impact of drug use on the prison population, individual and family environments. It was conducted by Dr. Wendy Crawford-Daniel, Associate Professor, St. George's University, Grenada. Funding was provided by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD).

Attendance: Twenty nine (29) Officials attended the Meeting.

Vote of Thanks: Mrs. Elizabeth Japal, Assistant Drug Control Officer.

Adjournment: The Seventh Annual Meeting of GRENDIN/NOD was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.

***Drug Control Secretariat
10 December 2010***