The Annual Report of the Grenada Drug Information Network (GRENDIN), for 2011, was recently published. The report provides an overview of statistical data collected regarding illicit-drug consumption and related activities in Grenada for the preceding year. Data was reported for the following: treatment admissions, arrests, school or other surveys, number of criminal deportees, firearms forfeited in drug trafficking arrests, number of persons sentenced to prison for drug related offenses, number of drug tests administered, and drug seizures by the Royal Grenada Police Force. Detailed analyses are provided for the following data sets: overall arrests, student arrests, seizure of drugs, incarceration, and the 2008 Global School-Based Student Health Survey. Also presented is an overview of GRENDIN’s accomplishments for the year 2010.

The report also presents qualitative data from an evaluative study conducted on the implementation of the pedagogical materials generated at the 2005 workshop, namely the, ‘Manual of Lesson Plans on Drug Prevention for Pre-School and Kindergarten Children in Grenada’. The manual was designed to support Pre-School and Kindergarten teachers with detailed lesson plans designed to facilitate the integration of drug-prevention content into the existing Grenadian early-education curriculum.

In the area of drug trends and data, the report shows that the drug of primary concern in Grenada is marijuana, which correlates with the majority of arrests and convictions (for possession). It also indicates that the majority of arrests for drug trafficking in Grenada are for cocaine.

Three key recommendations are highlighted in the GRENDIN report:

- Methodology for reporting drug-related data needs to be optimized.
- The factors influencing student drug use/experimentation should be examined and dressed.
- At-risk students should be evaluated to determine the extent to which drug use impacts academic performance.

The Drug Control Secretariat wishes to thank all Officers who contributed to the production of the GRENDIN Annual Report. Special thanks to Dr. Cecilia Hegamin-Younger, Professor, St. George’s University, and Mr. Pernell Clarke, Specialist, Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), Washington, D.C., who worked assiduously in the preparation of the said report.
The trafficking of narcotic and psychotropic drugs has been of concern for many years. The rise and rapid expansion of new technologies, specifically the Internet, has created new challenges for law enforcement Officers, regarding the sale and trafficking of drugs via the internet. The Internet is used in the illegal trafficking of controlled substances; licitly produced pharmaceutical controlled substances, and counterfeit controlled substances represented as legitimate pharmaceuticals.

There is no evidence of the trafficking of drugs via the internet in Grenada. However, Grenadian authorities have begun to prepare themselves for such a situation. A number of steps have been taken in this regard: The Drug Control Secretariat commenced public awareness programs to inform the general public about this matter; Eleven law enforcement officers have participated in two regional seminars to develop necessary skills to trace and detect such transactions.

Grenada must be commended for its proactive stance on this matter. As indicated earlier, while there is not such evidence of the trafficking of controlled drugs, licitly produced pharmaceutical controlled substances, or counterfeit pharmaceuticals, in Grenada, the authorities are taking necessary action to deter the commencement of such practice.

CICAD recognizes the country’s participation in regional training activities relating to the prevention and control of pharmaceutical products and other drugs via the internet.

CICAD notes that the Royal Grenada Police Force (RGPF) has established a policy that firearms be marked on import to Grenada.

CICAD notes that there has been no progress to accede to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, 2003, a reiterated recommendation from the Fourth Evaluation Round, 2005-2006.

CICAD recognizes Grenada’s participation in the MEM process and encourages the country to continue with its efforts to implement the outstanding recommendations.

The reports on all member states can be found at the website www.cicad.oas.org
PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAMS

Officers of the Drug Control Secretariat, in collaboration with the Lions Club of St. Georges, the Grenada Cadet Corps, and the Scouts, conducted a series of public education programmes, to sensitize students and young people about the negative effects of drugs, with emphasis on alcohol. This was done through use of print and electronic media and also school visits, between January to March 2012.

Drug Control Officers and members of the Health and Wellness Committee of the Lions Club of St. Georges, visited schools throughout the island and addressed students about the negative consequences of drugs.

Meanwhile, sessions were held with the Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) of the Cadet Corps; addressing topics such as ‘Drugs and their Effects on the Human Body.’ The NCO’s would later conduct sessions on similar issues with members of their Cadet Corps Units.

A session was also held with the Scouts, as part of their celebration of Founder’s Day, 18 March 2012; the theme for the celebrations being, ‘Healthy Body, Healthy Mind, Healthy Environment.’

These public awareness programs would continue during April to July 2012, as part of the Drug Control Secretariat’s annual initiative to prepare primary school students for entry into Secondary Schools, later in 2012. These programs would provide the students with appropriate knowledge and skills to resist drugs and violence.
IN THE NEWS

Law enforcement Officers from Grenada are now better able to deal with issues involving the sale of drugs via the internet. Six Officers from the Royal Grenada Police Force, Customs, Financial Intelligence Unit and the Pharmacy Unit participated in a regional seminar, ‘Investigating the Sale of Drugs Over The Internet’, held 16 to 19 April 2012, in Barbados. Issues addressed at the seminar included: internet basic principles, investigation of electronic mail and other investigative methods. The seminar is part of technical assistance being provided by the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD). Five Officers from Grenada benefitted from similar training in 2009, in The Bahamas.

Seven (7) persons (4 males; 3 females) were arrested and charged for financial crimes during the period January to March 2012. Three (3) persons were tried and convicted for these offences. In addition, sixty-seven (67) reports of suspicious transactions were reported to the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU), by financial institutions. Meanwhile, six (6) persons were investigated in cases of laundering money derived from drug trafficking, and EC $ 35,305.00 was seized from these persons.

Grenada Tobacco Free Initiative Working Group (GTFWG), convened a one-day meeting, 21 March 2011, to discuss proposals for formulation of legislation to regulate tobacco and tobacco products in Grenada. Members of the GTFWG include Officers from various Ministries and the NGO’s. Issues discussed to be included in the legislation included: smoke-free environments; ban on tobacco advertising; tobacco product sales; prevention and control of illicit trade. The meeting was facilitated by Dr. Tomo Kanda, Advisor on Chronic Diseases, at the PAHO Office for the Eastern Caribbean. Dr. George Mitchell, Senior Medical Officer in the Ministry of Health, is the Chairman of the GTFWG, which was established by Cabinet in 2011. Grenada signed the World Health Organization Convention on Tobacco Control in 2007.

Three new pieces of legislation were recently enacted aimed at strengthening Government’s mechanism to deal with financial crimes, terrorism and related matters. These legislation are:

- Proceeds Of Crime Act, No. 6, 2012;
- Financial Intelligence Unit Act, No. 14, 2012;
- Terrorism Act, No. 16, 2012.

Meanwhile, Part III of Schedule I of the Drug Abuse (Prevention and Control) Act 1992, was amended by S.R.O.16, Drug Abuse (Prevention And Control) (Amendment) Order, 2011. The order repealed Part III, of the Act, which lists chemicals under control, provides an expanded list of chemicals under control.

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Dr. Tomo Kanda, PAHO Advisor

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