INCREASE IN ADMISSIONS FOR DRUG-RELATED MEDICAL PROBLEMS

An analysis of drug-related statistics, for first half of 2013, compared to similar period for 2012, indicate an increase in the number of persons admitted to treatment centres for problems derived from the consumption of drugs. A total of two hundred and sixty-six (266) patients were admitted to the Rathdune Psychiatric Unit, Carlton House and the General Hospital, for 1 January to 30 June 2012; this number increased to three hundred and twenty-seven (327), for 1 January to 30 June 2013. This increase represents a 22.93 percent increase.

Some of the key findings of the analysis were:

- Increase in the percentage of patients admitted for medical problems associated with the consumption of alcohol and marijuana respectively.
- 66.67% of the patients admitted to the General Hospital encountered mental and behavioral disorders due to use of cannabinoids.
- 15.79% increase in the number of males admitted to Rathdune; 171 persons during the period 1 January to 30 June 2012, to 198 during the period 1 January to 30 June 2013.
- 35.71% decrease in the number of females admitted for treatment, from 1 January to 30 June 2012, to 9 persons during the period 1 January to 30 June 2013.
- 12.50%, and 30.36%, in the number of patients admitted to the General Hospital for medical problems associated with the consumption of drugs, in the age ranges of 35 to 39 years, and 40 years and above, respectively.
- 34.67% increase in the number of admissions to the General Hospital, St. George’s, for drug-related problems.

The detailed analysis of the drug-related statistics for the for first half of 2013, compared to similar period for 2012, can be obtained from the Drug Control Secretariat.
The Caribbean, including Grenada has witnessed several calls in the latter half of 2013, for the decriminalization or legalization of cannabis. The Government of Grenada has stated unequivocally on numerous occasions that it would not legalize or decriminalize cannabis. Grenada signaled its commitment to the international efforts to control marijuana and other drugs when it acceded to the following conventions: United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol; United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971; United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988. Each of these Conventions have been signed by over 180 nations. It took over seventy (70) years of negotiations to achieve these international Conventions.

Grenada is also party to several other regional and international treaties, in the area of drug control and firearms, which seeks to control drug trafficking, proliferation of firearms, and related crimes. Grenada cannot simply abrogate its international obligations.

The Drug Abuse (Prevention and Control) Act, 1992, states that the use, possession, cultivation, import and export of cannabis is an offence, punishable by fines and or incarceration.

JAPAL ATTENDS BIENNIAL MEETING IN ST. LUCIA

The 5th Biennial Meeting of the Officer, Grenada, delivered a Caribbean National Observatories report on the Grenada Drug Epidemiology Network November 12-13, 2013. The (GREN) meeting brought together practitioners from OAS/CICAD mem- The presentations made and discussed states working in the area of cussions held around the table substance abuse and related disci- shared much light as to the pre- lines. Some of the member sent drug situation and emerging states attending the workshop trends among member states, as were inclusive of The Bahamas, well as the need for new inter- Belize, Barbados, Trinidad and ventions and a more comprehen- Tobago, Guyana, Cayman Islands sive look at existing policies and and Jamaica.

Several presentations were made by and a wide range of topics covered in the areas of supply and demand reduction. These included:

- Co-morbidity between Psychological Distress and Drug Abuse in Patients in Treatment Centres, in seven Latin American Countries and one in the Caribbean: Implication for Policies and Programmes.
- Primary Data Collection: Studies and surveys.
- Legal Status of Marijuana in the Americas.
- Prison Survey Results of Antigua and Barbuda.

Presenters also shared on the status of the Drug Information Networks (DIN’s) in their respective territories. Dr. Cecilia Younger, Professor at St. Georges University (SGU), presented a draft report of the 2013 Grenada Secondary Schools Drug Prevalence Survey. Mrs. Elizabeth Japal, Assistant Drug Control Officer

Elizabeth Japal, Assistant Drug Control Officer, At Biennial Meeting, St. Lucia, November 2013
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2013 IN PHOTOS

Ziggie Malyniwsky (CICAD Official) & Sean Henry (Grenada Official) at Seminar on Precursors, Grenada, January 2013

Angela Crowdy & Karen Sanjines (CICAD Officials), On Mission To Grenada, 28 March 2013

Dave Alexander (Grenada), Attends Plenary Session of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism (MEM), Dominican Republic, 21 November 2013

Cecilia Younger & Elizabeth Japal, at Caribbean Observatories Meeting, St. Lucia, 2013
IN THE NEWS

The Tenth Annual Meeting of the Grenada Drug Epidemiology Network and the National Observatory on Drugs was scheduled to be held 6 December 2013, based on the 2013, has been postponed to the second half of January 2014. The meeting was due to the analysis of the 2013 Secondary Schools Survey on Drug Prevalence. The policy briefs examined issues such as: Experimental Drug Use Prevention 2013; Details about the Meeting Policy, Transaction, would be provided in the March edition of The Newsletter. Students at the St. George’s University (SGU) presented policy briefs based on the analysis of the 2013 Secondary Schools Survey on Drug Prevalence. The policy briefs examined issues such as: Experimental Drug Use Prevention 2013; Details about the Meeting Policy, Transaction, would be provided in the March edition of The Newsletter.

SGU MPH Students Present Policy Briefs On Drugs, 30 October 2013

THANKS!

The Drug Control Secretariat expresses its thanks to all local, regional and international Officials and Organizations which supported the implementation of the national drug control program in 2013. Special recognition must be made of the CICAD and the St. George’s University (SGU), which made significant technical and financial contributions to the program. We wish to compliment Dr. Cecilia Younger, Professor of Biostatistics at SGU, for her tremendous technical assistance in the design, implementation and analysis of the 2013 Secondary Schools Drug Prevalence Survey. Your support contributed immensely to our successes in 2013.

We look forward to your continued support in 2014.

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