

Regional Workshop on Drug Information Networks (DINs)

St. John's, Antigua & Barbuda

Student Drug Use in the Caribbean: A Critical Analysis For Policy Makers

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Comparative Analysis of Student Drug Use in Caribbean Countries

*Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica,
Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis,
St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines,
Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname*



Analysis of Results

- By far the most widely consumed substance is alcohol and this is followed by marijuana.
- Prevalence is relatively high but there is plenty of variability from country to country.
- Marijuana is the most widely used illegal substance and in most cases, its use is even more prevalent than tobacco.



Analysis of Results

- Tobacco, consumed via cigarettes, is subject to more experimentation than marijuana but has a lower rate of current use in the majority of countries.
- Other substances of note include cocaine, crack, and ecstasy.
- The results for inhalants have been the most surprising obtained so far since the prevalence rates for a number of countries were higher than expected.



Analysis of Results

- There seems to be a clear relationship between behavior problems and substance use such that most substances students with more behavioral problems report higher prevalence rates.
- The same is observed with substance use and school performance.
- Ease of access (4 to 5 of every 10 students think marijuana is easy to get, 14% on average think cocaine was easily to get)
- Perception of harm. Many students do not know the dangers of:
 - frequent misuse of prescription drugs
 - occasional or frequent use of inhalants
 - occasional or frequent use of ecstasy



Policy Implications

- Each country in this study now has some idea about what the main drugs of use are, and what the extent of use is.
- In relation to other regions, the prevalence of use of some of these substances particularly marijuana and inhalants, is relatively high.
- The age of first use estimates are fairly consistent across countries so the specific point in time where prevention programs intervene can also be fairly uniform.



Policy Implications

- The variability of prevalence and risk factors from country to country will inform the way that the prevention programs are designed and customized to each country.
- Therefore the structure and emphasis of prevention and other programs will have to be different based on the specifics of the drug patterns in the country.
- [Most indicated Risk Factors](#)



Thank You

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