

# Barbados Drug Observatory: An Update



By: Laura Foster, Research Assistant  
National Council on Substance Abuse

## Structure of the Observatory

- The National Council on Substance Abuse (NCSA) serves as the Drug Observatory in Barbados
- The NCSA is a statutory organization which is under the aegis of the Ministry of Home Affairs
- The Research Department of the NCSA carries out the technical functions of the Observatory e.g. collection and analysis of data, report preparation, etc.

## Status & Recent Activities (2016 & 2017)

- **Evaluating programmes conducted by NCSA programme officers**
  - Project Safeguarding Today (SOFT) 2016 & 2017 (Outcome Evaluation)
  - Sports Not Drugs (Process Evaluation)
- **Acting as local coordinator for OAS/CICAD Intake Form Project**
- **Coordinating BARDIN**
  - Prepared and published 2013, 2014 & 2015 reports
  - In the process of preparing 2016 report
- **Participating in COPOLAD projects within region**
  - National reports and early warning systems

## Status & Recent Activities (2016 & 2017)

- **Conducting a Primary School Needs Assessment**
  - Aim of the Assessment: To improve the delivery of the primary school drug education programme offered by the NCSA
  - A combination of quantitative & qualitative methods were used to collect the data (interviews – focus group & individual; questionnaires) from students, teachers, principals, NCSA volunteers responsible for delivering the programme, coordinator of the NCSA primary school programme
  - Draft report recently completed
  - Results will be used to inform the revision of the primary school programme (content & delivery)

## Barbados Drug Information Network (BARDIN)

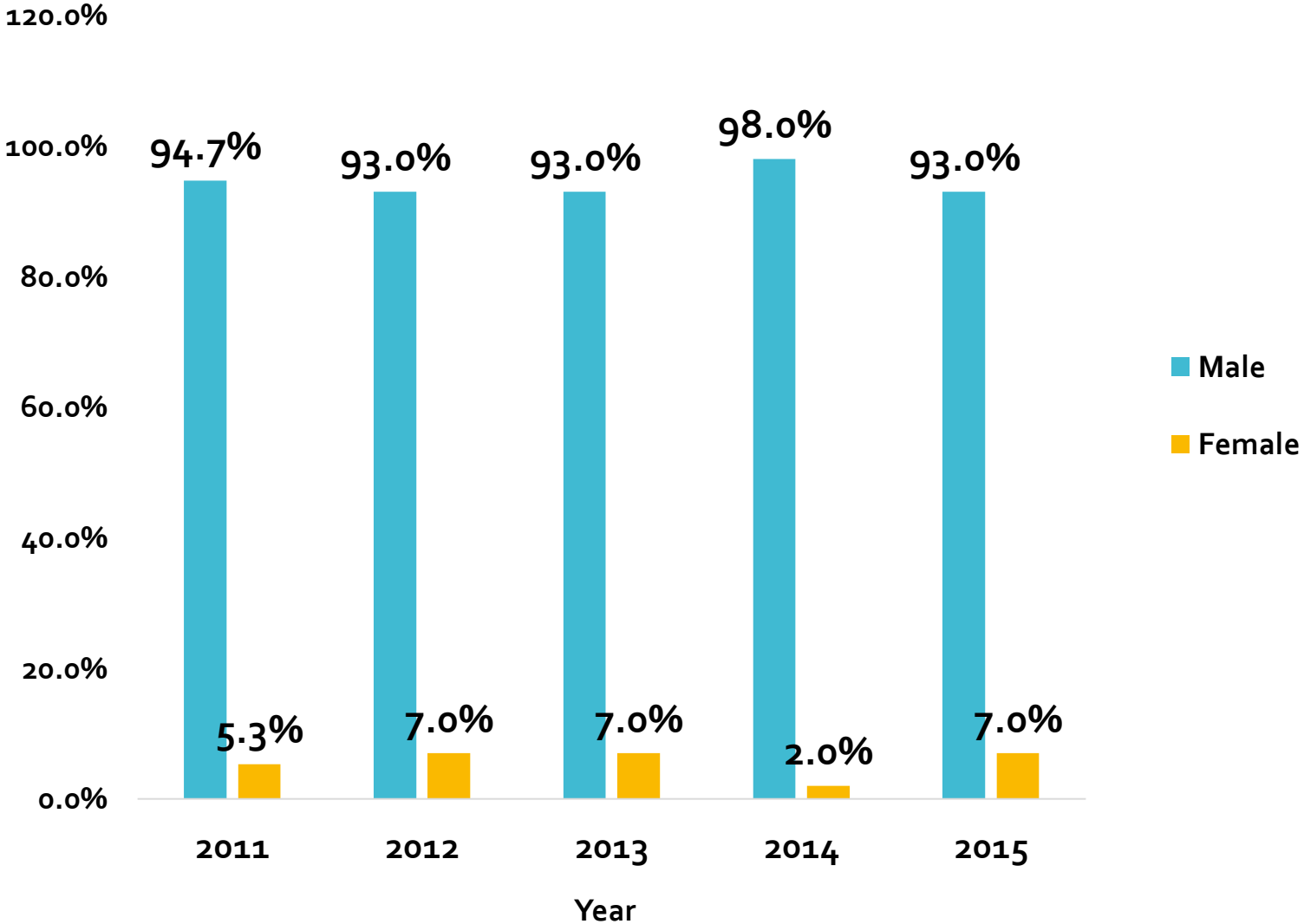
- Had many stops & starts
- Restarted in 2011 & currently an active DIN
- To date, 5 reports have been published (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015) & the 6<sup>th</sup> report is being prepared
- Published reports can be found at:

[http://www.ncsa.org.bb/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=30:research-reports-in-pdf&catid=12:research&Itemid=43](http://www.ncsa.org.bb/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=30:research-reports-in-pdf&catid=12:research&Itemid=43)

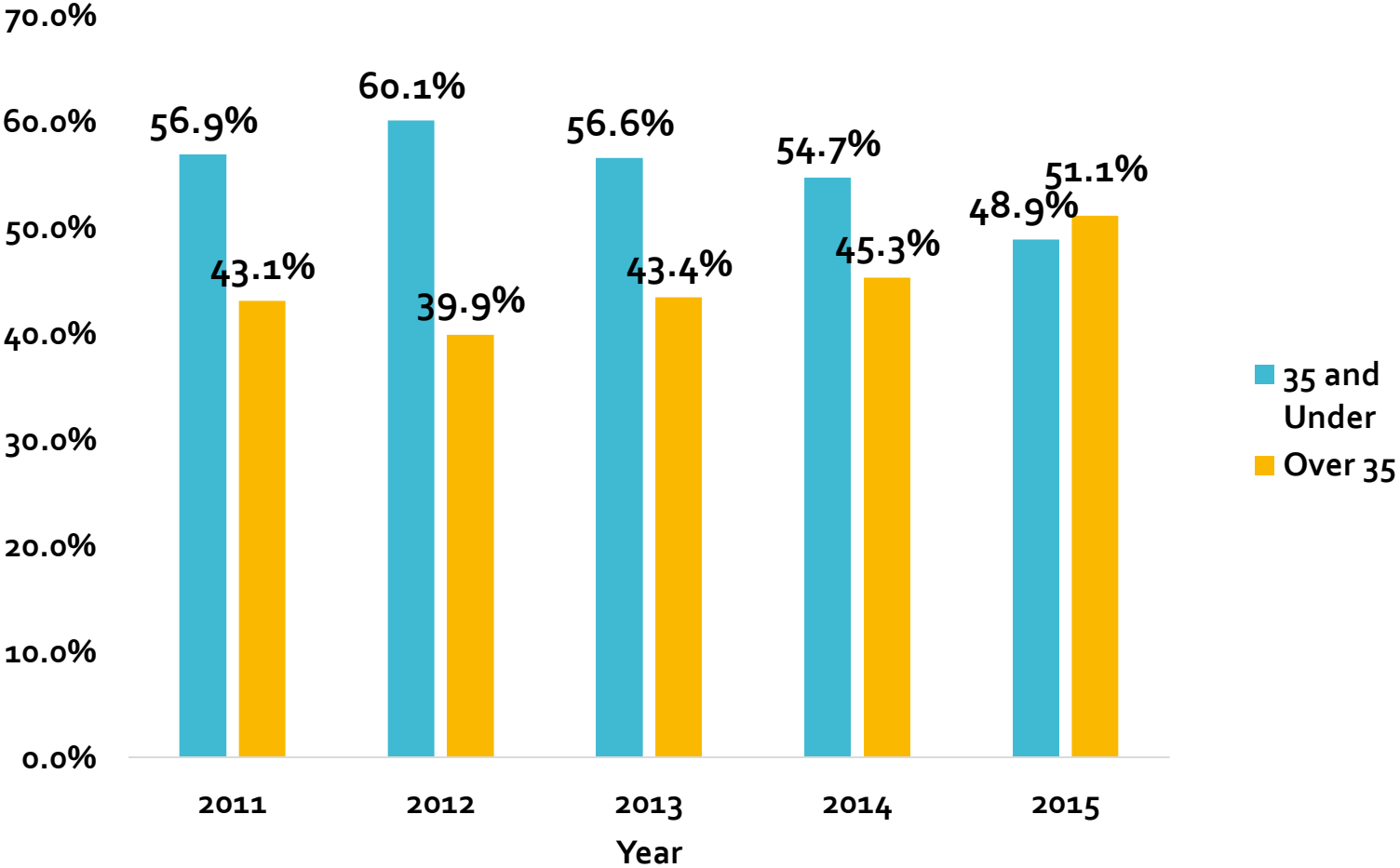
# Barbados Drug Information Network (BARDIN)

- **6 contributing agencies at present:**
  - Demand Reduction
    - National Council on Substance Abuse
    - Edna Nicholls Centre
  - Treatment Centres
    - Psychiatric Hospital
    - Substance Abuse Foundation (SAF)
    - Centre for Counselling Addiction Support Alternatives (CASA)
    - Inmate Drug Rehabilitation & Counselling Programme at HMP Dodds
  - Supply Control
    - Royal Barbados Police Force
    - HMP Dodds

# Psychiatric Hospital: Gender Comparisons 2011 - 2015

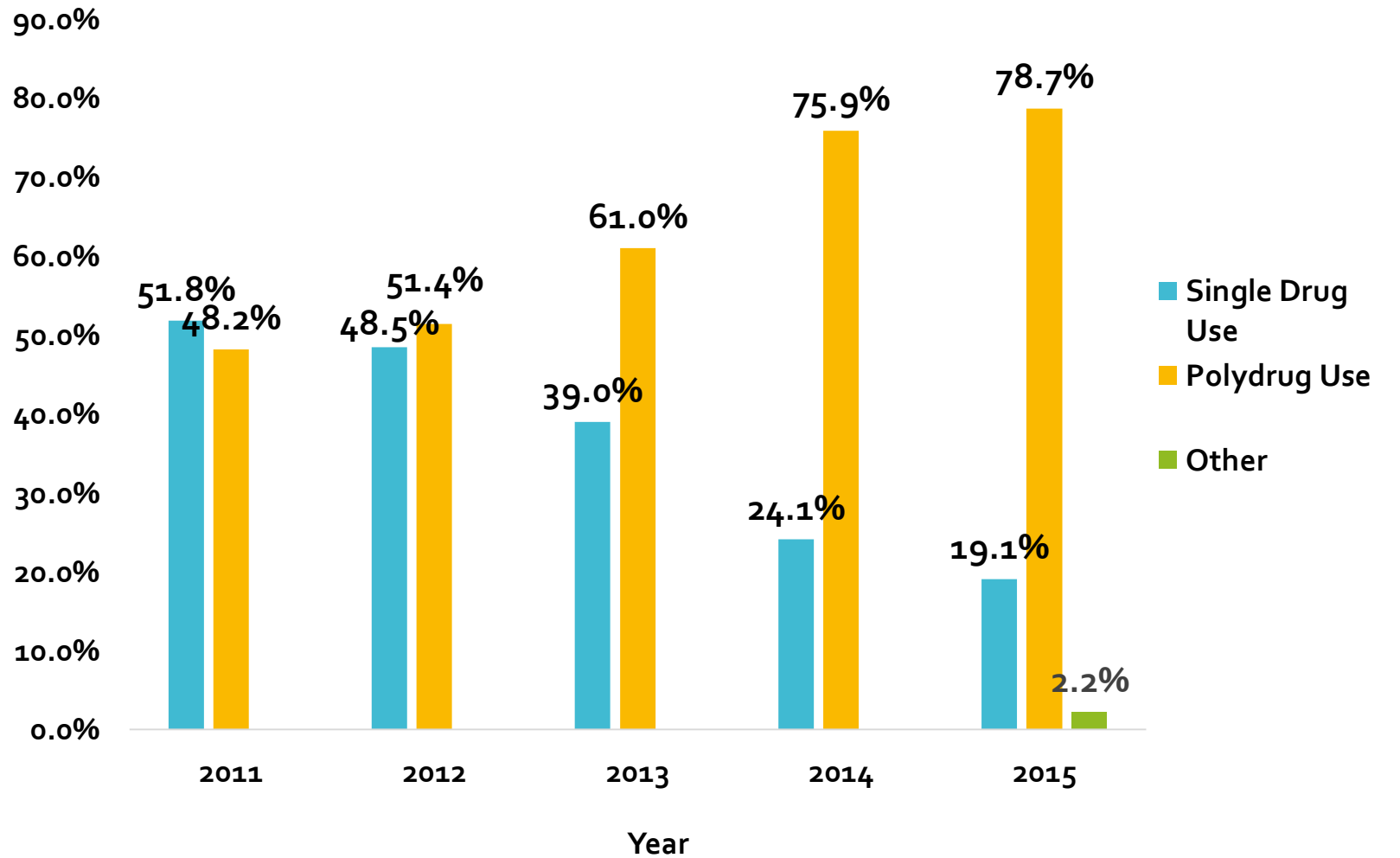


# Psychiatric Hospital: Age Comparisons 2011-2015





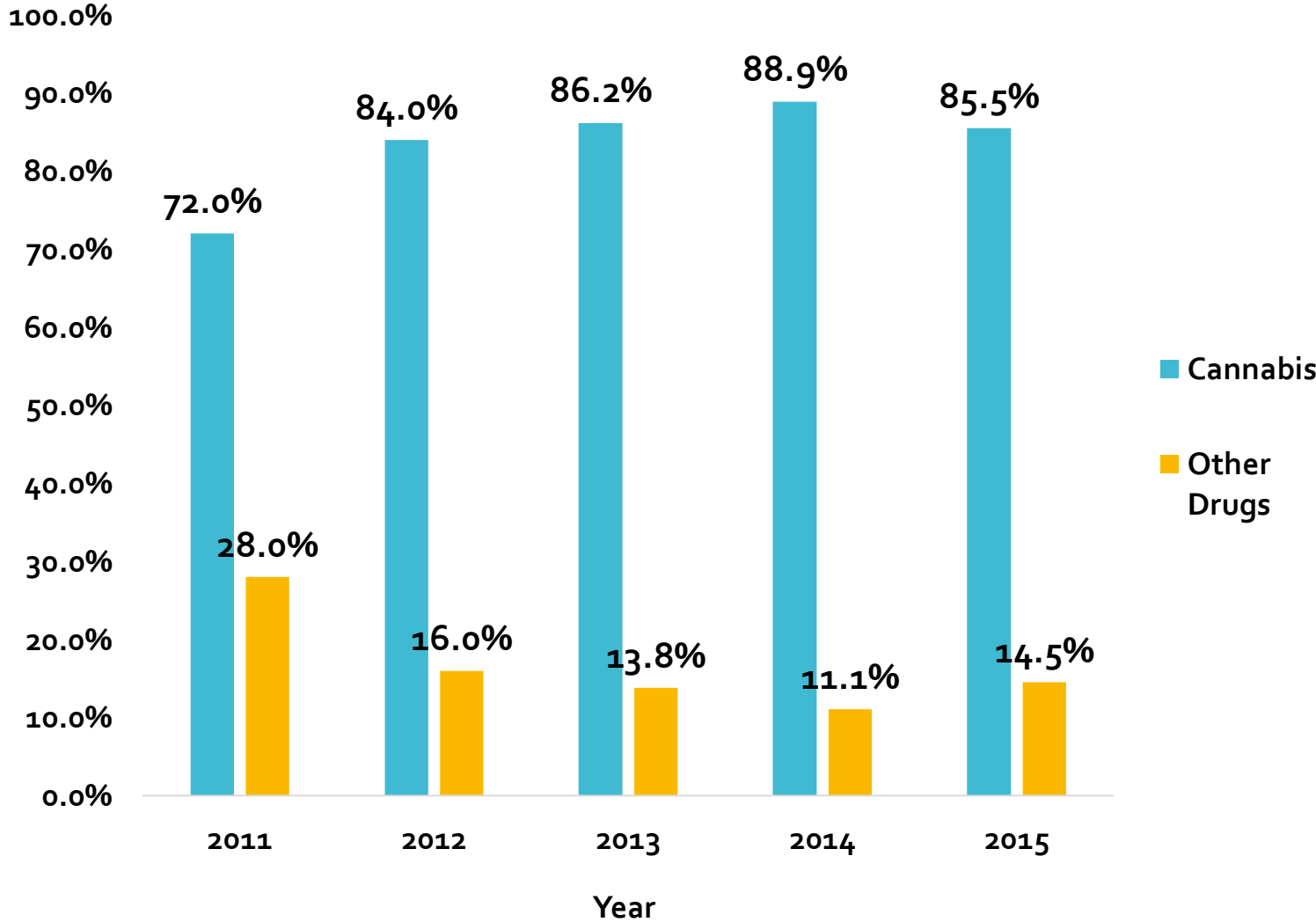
# Psychiatric Hospital: Single Drug Use vs. Poly Drug Use 2011-2015



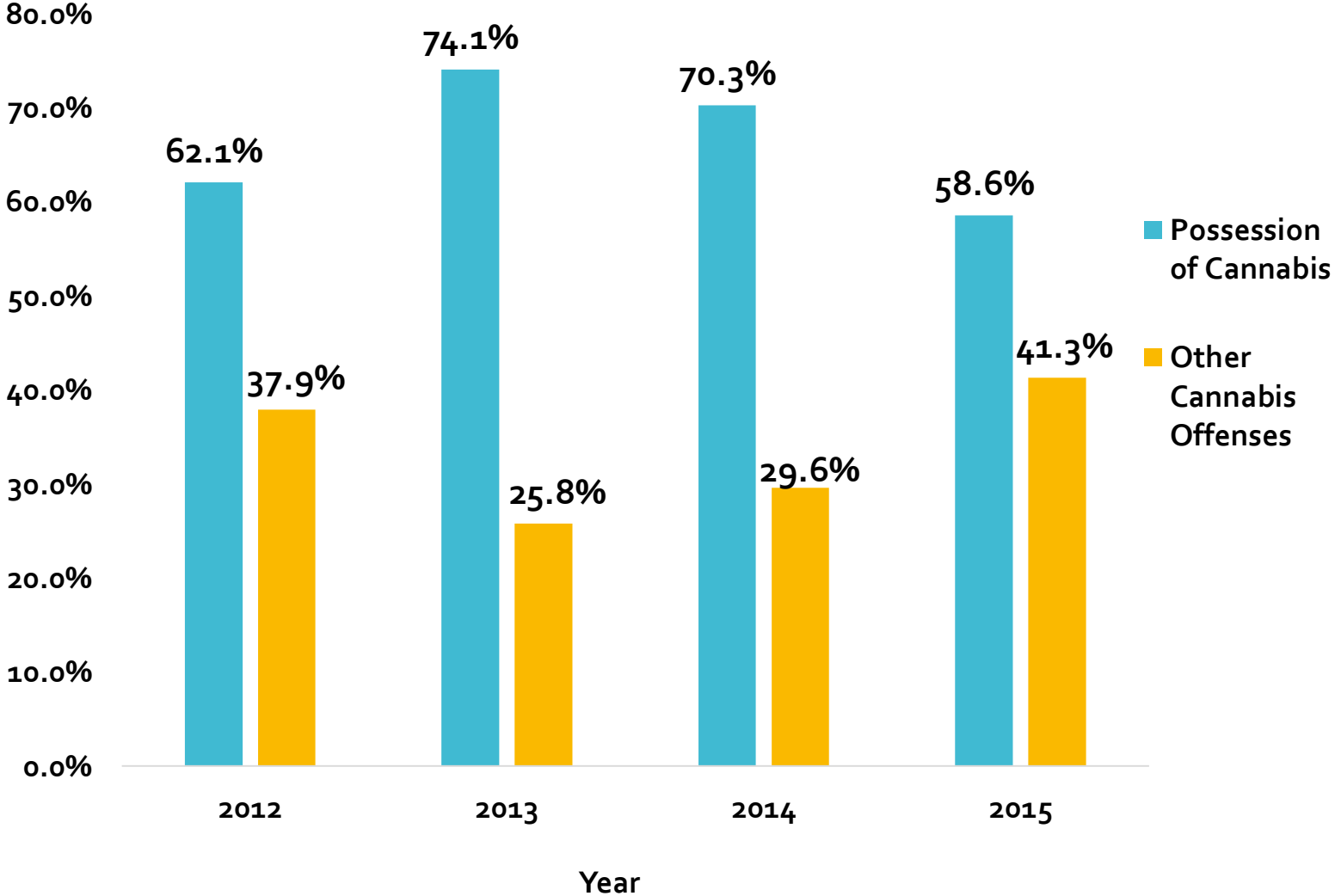
## Psychiatric Hospital: Common Drugs of Choice

- Common drugs used by persons seeking treatment for polydrug & single drug use include:
  - Marijuana
  - Cocaine (powder & crack)
  - Alcohol
  - Cigarettes

# Royal Barbados Police Force: Drug Offenses 2011-2015



# Royal Barbados Police Force: Cannabis Offenses 2012-2015



## New Drugs in Barbados

- No official reports
- Anecdotal reports of synthetic marijuana (e.g. Hydro, K2, Spice) from treatment centres and volunteers
- Anecdotal reports of mixtures involving cough syrup from volunteers and Programme Officers (cough mixture, sprite, Jolly Ranchers)

# Challenges Faced by the Observatories

- Timely submission of data/information from agencies
- Resources limit number & type of studies which can be undertaken
  - Financial
  - Human

End of  
Presentation

**Questions?**