

# Improving National Drug Strategies and Action Plans Saint Lucia



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# Current situation in Saint Lucia

## Current state of affairs- Development of a National Drug Strategy

- Currently in the process of reviewing/developing a new NADS for the period 2020-2024

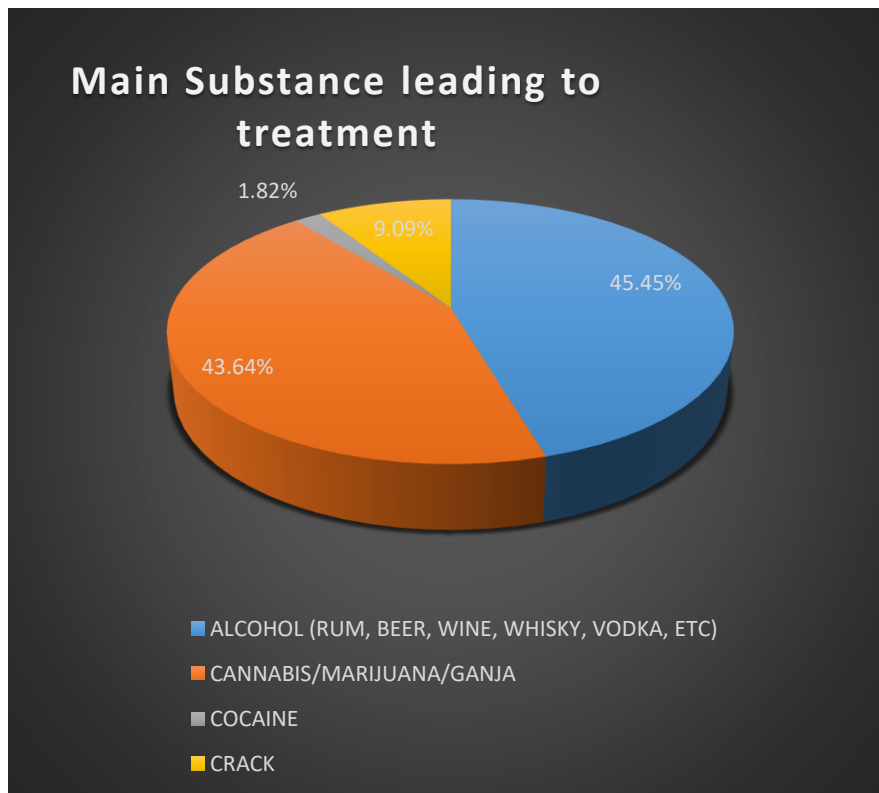
## Actions taken so far for the development of a new strategy?

- Preparation of reviewing/developing NADS after attending meetings
- Commencement of Assignment
- Completion of training from OAS/CICAD
- Preparation of Stakeholders' meeting before the submission of the first draft.



# Situation Assessment

## Main drug consumed



## Description

- Poly drug use noted (Copolad DRUG REPORT, 2018)
- Alcohol is recorded as the drug most often abused and leading to treatment (45.45%) with Marijuana being the second (43.64%).



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# Purpose of strategy and action plan

- Identify and address gaps in the existing framework regulations and to foster and promote other efforts to prevent or delay use;
- Seek to discourage the initial use of drugs; (currently 9-11 yrs)
- Facilitate effective treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of substance abusers at the micro, mezzo and macro levels through program implementation;
- Suppress the flow of illicit drugs into and out of the island;
- Prevent the manufacturers and traffickers of narcotic drugs from benefiting from their illegal initiatives.



# Framework to align strategy and plans

## Adequacy of legal framework

Drug prevention and misuse act has to be revised to factor in new and emerging drugs

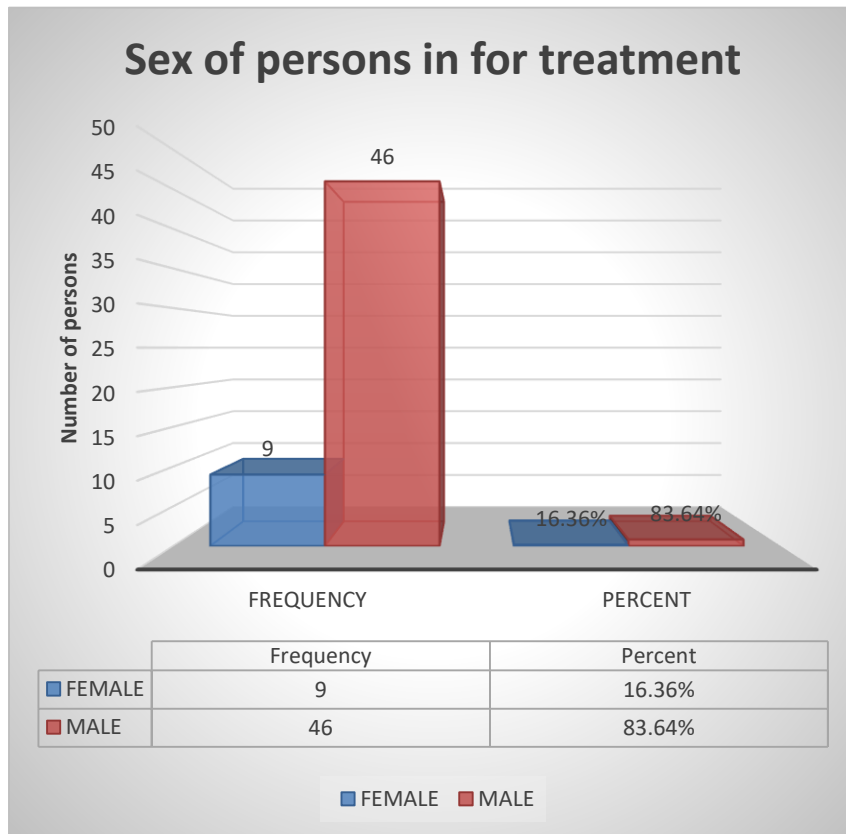
## Policy framework

- The policy framework needed to ensure effective implementation of the Program is then outlined, followed by a presentation of the strategies most likely to ensure the attainment of the program's objectives.
- The continuous effort for all stakeholders to pursue all avenues and utilize all available resources to deal with the issues of substance misuse and other illegal activities.
- All government agencies will be mandated to actively participate in the implementation of the NADS (MOU's).



# Gender based consideration (2015-16)

## Current Situation



## Concern

- Research in the area of Gender issues and an explanation to these records of admissions



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# Relevant Actors (Stakeholders)

**Main Public Institutions, NGO's, Private sector agencies, etc. relevant to the drug strategy**

- Department of Health and Wellness ( Turning Point and SAACS)
- Customs and Excise Department
- Ministry of Education
- Royal Saint Lucia Police Force-(Marine Unit and Drug Squad)
- Ministry of Home/Legal Affairs-Judicial system
- Drug Free Clubs, NGO's
- Financial Intelligence Unit



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# Training and Support

- Between 2017 to present, there has been training by OAS/CICAD, CARICOM and COPOLAD the Drafting of National Drug Strategies and Action Plans (OAS/CICAD)
- OAS/CICAD offered details on the incorporation of Logistical Model in support of Action Plan as it relates to the NADS.





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# Country Priorities for the new Strategy

## Short Term 2020-2021

- Strengthen Alcohol Policy
- Develop a surveillance system and alert systems
- Strengthen tobacco policies
- Increase peer involvement and training

## Medium Term 2020-2022

- Expand services throughout the country
- Expand alternative justice measures for youth
- Improve training and support for service providers
- Evaluate the drug strategy

## Long Term

- Increase treatment spaces and options 2020-2024



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## Next steps in the development of the strategy

- Analysis of main issues/cause and effect of drug use
- Analysis of the availability of drugs and the types
- Analysis of the sociocultural factors that may be associated with drugs (supply and use)
- Follow the hemispheric guide
- Engage stakeholders e.g. DIN



# Resources

EXISTING RESOURCES	NEEDED RESOURCES
DIN-Police, Ministry of Health, Education, Equity etc.	Research officer for reports and analysis-drug prevalence among adults and adolescents
Willingness, drive and interest	Specific funding for human resources and capacity ( Drug Treatment Court, ongoing training and other areas to be strengthened)
NGO's (women and girls issues)	Greater buy-in from higher levels (policy makers, finance Department, Politicians)



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# Main Challenges to the Development of a New Strategy

- Buy-in from all stakeholder levels
- Lack of resources-financial and Human Resources
- Lack of communication among Regional and International bodies i.e. the sharing of pertinent information which would guide on strategies which can work and those that may be relevant to each other.
- The ability to follow up due to a lack of man power



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# Response to perceived challenges

## way forward

- Revisiting/strengthening/building of relationships and partnerships;
- Continuous engagement with regional and international bodies for technical support and guidance;
- Recommitting to the efforts placed in the sensitization of substance abuse prevention especially among youth.



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# References

- Monroe, W. (2017). COPOLAD Country Drug Report.
- Royal Saint Lucia Police Force. (2016). Police Drug Situation Report.



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