



**OEA/Ser.L/XIV.2.
CICAD/doc.2836/23
December 13, 2023
Original: English**

**SEVENTY-FOURTH REGULAR SESSION
December 11-14, 2023
Washington D.C.**

**THE DEVELOPMENT
OF DRUG POLICIES WITH A GENDER PERSPECTIVE**

The Development of Drug Policies with a Gender Perspective

**Presented by Hon. Wilfred Abrahams
Minister of Home Affairs and Information
BARBADOS**

Situation Assessment

Barbados Drug Information Network (BARDIN)

- **Most Commonly Used Substances:** Alcohol, Marijuana, Tobacco & Inhalants
- **Drug Treatment:** Alcohol, Marijuana & Cocaine (crack/powdered)
 - Emergence of Non-traditional Substances
 - **BARDIN 2011 – 2021: Males > Females seeking**

sub **Gender Distribution of Persons Seeking Drug Treatment in Barbados 2019-21**



	2019	2020	2021
♀	13.2%	16.8%	18.1%
♂	86.8%	83.2%	81.9%

What are the Political & Social Attitudes Towards Drugs?

- At the political level, there has been a definite emphasis on gender and ensuring that women are treated to, across sectors, based on universal principles guiding gender inclusivity
- Socially, there is tolerance towards alcohol and tobacco use, and growing tolerance towards marijuana use. However, there is little tolerance of “harder” drugs and greater censure.



Key Ministries

- Ministry of the Public Service
- Ministry of Education, Technological & Vocational Training
- Ministry of Finance, Economic Affairs & Investment
- Ministry of Health & Wellness
- Ministry of Youth & Community Empowerment
- Office of the Attorney General

Key Departments

- Barbados Defence Force
- Barbados Drug Service
- Barbados National Standards Institute
- Barbados Prison Service
- Bureau of Gender Affairs
- Child Care Board
- Community Development Dept.
- Criminal Justice Research & Planning Unit
- Customs & Excise Department
- Division of Youth Affairs
- Financial Intelligence Unit
- Government Industrial Schools
- Government Information Service
- Immigration Department
- NCSA
- National HIV/AIDS Commission
- Probation Department
- Psychiatric Hospital
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital

Additional Ministries/Depts

- Ministry of Agriculture & Food Security – Analytic Services
- Ministry of Creative Economy, Culture & Sports
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade
- Ministry of Innovation, Science & Smart Technology
- Ministry of Labour and Social Partnership Relations
- Barbados Postal Service
- Bureau of Social Policy
- Disability Unit
- National Assistance Board
- National Sports Council
- Welfare Department

NGOs

- Faith-Based Organisations
- NGOs and CBOs
- UWI – School of Clinical Medicine & Research, Institute of Social & Economic Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences

Opportunities to be Harnessed in the Development of a New Strategy

Legislative
Reform
(Political Will)

Resource
Management

Information
Sharing
Mechanisms

Monitoring &
Evaluation

A blurred office desk with a pen holder, glasses, and a notebook. The background is a soft-focus office environment with a desk, a pen holder containing several pens, a pair of glasses, and a notebook. The lighting is bright, creating a professional and clean atmosphere.

The Development of Drug Policies with a Gender Perspective

Thank

YOU