



BARBADOS

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Information and knowledge-sharing on policies dealing with the reduction of drug demand



Overview of the NCSA

Our mandate is based on drug demand reduction in schools and the wider community.

The Organisation is managed by a Board of Directors and a team of trained staff who coordinate and implement specific programmes and projects for various target audiences in Barbados.

Impacts of COVID19 and resulting economic contractions forced us to take a new approach to programming.



All Our Efforts Are Buttressed by Aggressive Public Education Outreach

It is important to stay in the public's eye - People can only access the services they are aware of. We believe that if they feel like they "know us", individuals will be more likely to reach out if and when they need help.



The National Workplace Wellness Policy for Barbados 2019

Key Priorities and Objectives- Harmful Substance Use Priority A4 - Harmful Substance Use

A4.1 Providing necessary information, awareness and education on harmful substance use (illicit drug use, cigarette smoking, excessive alcohol use, pharmaceutical drug addiction, etc)

A4.2 Providing relevant opportunities, resources and support systems for individuals seeking to alleviate harmful substance use

A4.3 Adopting and implementing appropriate programmes, interventions to alleviate and address harmful substance use in an employee-friendly and collaborative manner

A4.4 Reinforcing and maintaining efforts towards the alleviation of harmful substance use

The Barbados Strategic Plan for Health 2017-2022

- Cited as a major component of the reform of mental health (p28)



Drug Education Through Technology (DETT)





Prevention

A national prevention system must be grounded at the community level.

Prevention efforts must encompass the range of settings in which young people grow up

Research

- ✓ Bardin
- ✓ Barriers to Treatment
- ✓ Participation in OAS/CICAD 4-Country study on NPS
- ✓ Preparing to launch workplace survey in Public Sector
- ✓ Preparatory work on Household Survey

Our initiatives are
Evidence-Based

The more we know,
the more we can help!



Prevention

for school-aged population (4-16 yrs)



- Developed badge-work for uniformed groups including Barbados Boys' Scouts, Girl Guides and Brownies
- Continued delivery of the Drug and Life Skills Programme at Secondary Schools



Prevention In Communities

Community Prevention has included outreach to -

- NGOs
- CBOs
- Faith-Based Organisations
- Facilitating Requests for Interventions
- Polyclinic Outreach
- Sports Not Drugs Programme



Treatment

Along the continuum of drug demand reduction, The NCSA provides an ongoing counselling service and is an integral part of the Juvenile Court system.





Technical Assistance

Barbados continues to benefit from technical assistance through agencies/projects like CICAD and COPOLAD in initiatives such as:

Technical Assistance

- Promotion and facilitation of the establishment of national Early Warning Systems (EWS) in CELAC countries
- Capacity-building for the elaboration of first national country report on drugs
- Adaptation and validation of quality and evidence-based criteria in Drug Demand Reduction activities
- Bi-regional meetings to enhance the exchange of best practices: Drugs Policy and criminal justice reform: alternative treatment to prison for drug offences



Technical Assistance

- Sustainable capacity building and exchange of best practices in the field of prevention and control of chemical precursors' diversion for the production of illicit drugs
- Establishing a National Drug Observatory: COPOLAD provided technical assistance to enhance the development of well-established National Drug Observatories (NDOs), in order to serve as a useful tool for evidence-based policy-making
- Promoting Regulatory Frameworks or Legislative Developments in the Field of Precursor Control





In Conclusion

It is clear that the drug challenge has changed and in order to combat and minimize the problem of drug addiction, we must continue to adopt strategies, policies and programmes for both the control of supply and reduction of demand for drugs.



THANK YOU!

Lean on the NCSA