Bahamas National Household Drug Survey

United States Embassy
Organization of American States (OAS)
Inter-American Drug Abuse Commission (CICAD)
Ministry of Health
Ministry of National Security
Department of Statistics

July 2017
Scope of the Drug Problem
Worldwide

- A quarter of a billion (5%) of adults have used drugs at least once in 2015
- 0.6 percent of global adult population suffered from drug use disorders
- Past year users:
  - 183 million cannabis
  - 17 million cocaine
  - 22 million ecstasy

Source: UNODC World Drug Report 2017
Caribbean Region

• Mainly secondary school student drug prevalence surveys

• Users in past month (current) 2010:
  – 37% alcohol
  – 5% cigarettes
  – 4% Inhalants
  – 5% marijuana
  – Cocaine and crack, less than 1% lifetime use

Source: CICAD Comparative Analysis of Student Drug Use in Caribbean Countries, 2010
Bahamas

- Again, most recent prevalence surveys were youth targeted
  - 2011 Secondary School Drug Survey; 2013 Global School Health Survey
  - Most common drug remains alcohol; about a third drank in past 30 days
  - 11%-14% ever used marijuana
  - 2%-5% smoked cigarettes in past month
Bahamas

• Last adult household prevalence survey was in 1991 (16-59 Years); percent EVER using:
  – 74% Alcohol
  – 39% Tobacco
  – 14% Marijuana
  – 6% Cocaine
  – 1% Tranquilizers
  – 3% “Pills”

• Rates higher for young males 18-29 years
Bahamas National Household Drug Survey
Methods
• Household Drug Use Prevalence Survey
• Multi-Stage sampling spearheaded by the Department of Statistics
• Six islands: New Providence, Grand Bahama, Andros, Abaco, North Eleuthera, Exuma
• Aimed for sample of 2,500
Sampling Steps

1. Used constituencies on each island as Supervisory Districts (SD)
2. Randomly chosen Enumeration Districts (EDs) within each SD
3. Systematically selected houses in each ED (e.g. every 4\textsuperscript{th} house, with a random start)
4. Randomly chosen individual 12-65 years in each selected household (Kish method)
• Approved by Ethics Committee and Cabinet
• Trained enumerators using computer tablets
• Software: Survey To Go
• Standardized CICAD questionnaire (also used in Jamaica, Guyana, Suriname)
• Persons 12-65 years eligible
• Consent Forms Used
• Conducted February to April, 2017
Questionnaire

- Questionnaire consisted of 11 main sections:
  - Demographics
  - Perceived risk of alcohol and drug use
  - Use of alcohol and drugs
    - Frequency
    - Quantity
    - Expenditure
    - Age at first use
  - Perceived use by family, friends, and neighbourhood
  - Treatment
  - Opinion of government response and future possible marijuana laws
Analysis

- Analysis reflects survey design
- Data weighted to represent population
- Used Excel, SPSS and Stata software
- Present mainly descriptive statistics today
Results
Demographics

- n = 2,533
  - Response rate of around 70%
- 52% Female
- Average age 36 years
- 94% Black; 90% born in The Bahamas
- 34% Baptist; 11% Catholic; 11% Anglican
- 56% Single, 31% Married, 6% Divorced or Separated
Socio-Economic Status

• Highest Education
  – 54% Completed High School
  – 18% College/University
  – 10% Primary School
  – 4% Vocational Training

• Employment
  – 62% Working
  – 15% Unemployed
  – 14% Students
  – 4% Retired, independent, etc.
Socio-Economic Status

• 40% head of their household
  – Most (61%) heads of households were male

• Income

![Household Monthly Income Chart]

- $400 or Less: 2
- $401-$800: 6
- $801-$1500: 18
- $1501-$2500: 26
- $2501-$3500: 21
- $3501-$5000: 16
- More than $5000: 11
Socio-Economic Status

Percent of Job Groupings

- Member of Executive Branch, senior government company staff: 7%
- Professional, scientific, intellectual: 9%
- Mid-level technical or professional: 6%
- Office worker: 14%
- Service, sales, market worker: 24%
- Farmer, skilled agriculture, fishery: 3%
- Craft, skilled worker, machinist, mechanic: 12%
- Operator of installations and machines: 3%
- Unskilled labourer: 13%
- Armed forces: 3%
- Other: 6%

Percent
Drug Use Prevalence
Perceived High Risk of Alcohol Consumption

- Drinking Alcohol Sometimes: 30%
- Drinking Alcohol Often: 69%
- Becoming Drunk: 88%
Alcohol

• 74% have drunk alcohol in their life
  – 78% Males, 71% Females

• Average age at first drink is 18 years

• 55% drank in the past year

• 43% are current alcohol consumers (drank in the past 30 days)
  – 52% Males, 34% Females
Beverage Types and Frequency

Low Alcohol Content (Beer, Guinness, Breezers)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some week days</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekends</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at All</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Beverage Types and Frequency

Medium Alcohol Content (Wine, Bailey’s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some week days</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekends</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at All</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Beverage Types and Frequency

High Alcohol Content (Whiskey, Rum, Vodka, Gin)

- Daily: 3
- Some week days: 10
- Weekends: 24
- Not at All: 62
**High Consumption**

- Around one out of five (22%) have gotten drunk at least one day in the past month.
- Approximately one out of five (19%) spent more than $50 on alcohol in the past month.
- Binge drinking, 4 (females)/5 (males) or more drinks on one occasion:

  **Binge Drinking in Past Two Weeks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Binge Drinking</th>
<th>Just Once</th>
<th>2-3 Times</th>
<th>4-5 Times</th>
<th>More than 5 Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Just Once
- Males: 13%
- Females: 20%

### 2-3 Times
- Males: 20%
- Females: 14%

### 4-5 Times
- Males: 6%
- Females: 2%

### More than 5 Times
- Males: 3%
- Females: 1%
Alcohol Problems

Selected Alcohol Drinking Consequences Occurring at least Monthly

- Unable to remember what happened night before
  - Females: 1
  - Males: 4

- Felt guilt or remorse after drinking
  - Females: 3
  - Males: 2

- First drink in morning after heavy drinking
  - Females: 1
  - Males: 2

- Failed normal tasks
  - Females: 1
  - Males: 3

- Unable to stop drinking once started
  - Females: 2
  - Males: 3
Alcohol Problems cont’d.

• 6% have injured themselves or someone else as result of drinking
  – At least 4,000 injuries a year

• 21% have driven a vehicle in past year while under influence of alcohol

• 7% had friends, relatives or a doctor concerned about their drinking

• 65% (of all persons) have relatives or friends who get drunk
  – Most know two or more
Tobacco

Perceived High Risk of Cigarette Consumption

- Smoking Cigarettes Sometimes: 61%
- Smoking Cigarettes Often: 81%
Tobacco

• 21% have smoked tobacco in their life
  – 33% Males, 9% Females

• Average age of first smoke is 18 years

• 7% are current smokers
  – 12% Males, 2% Females
  – Of current smokers, 56% smoke on a daily basis

• One out of seven smokers spend more than $50 a month on cigarettes
Who are the Current Smokers?

Percent of Tobacco Smokers who Smoked in Past Month by Age and Sex

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12-24 Years</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-44 Years</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-65 Years</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Marijuana

Perceived High Risk of Smoking Marijuana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Smoking Marijuana Sometimes</th>
<th>Smoking Marijuana Often</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>53</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Marijuana

- 13% have smoked marijuana in their life
  - 20% Males, 7% Females
- Average age of first marijuana smoke is 17 years
- 3% smoked marijuana in the past year
- 3% are current marijuana smokers
  - 5% Males, 1% Females
Who are the Current Marijuana Smokers?

Percent of Males and Females who Smoked in Past Month

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12-24 Years</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-44 Years</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-65 Years</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Marijuana Smoking Habits

• Marijuana smokers smoked an average of 17 days in the past month
  – Of these, 40% smoke on a daily basis
  – A monthly average of 11 joints

• Four out of ten spent more than $50 in past month
  – Joint costs an average of $7

• 43% of last joint (lifetime users) was “very strong/strong”
Method of Obtaining Marijuana (Last Time)

- Bought it: 33%
- Traded it: 2%
- Free/Shared: 50%
- Grew it: 4%
- Other: 5%
- Don't know: 2%
- No response: 4%
- Traded it: 2%
- No response: 4%
Inside public building (store, restaurant) 5%
Outside on school property 12%
Inside a home, apartment, dorm 5%
Outside in public area (parking lot) 34%
Other place 24%
Don't know 4%
No response 16%
Marijuana Abuse

Signs of Marijuana Abuse Occurring in Past Year

- Smoked when alone: 26%
- Smoked marijuana before midday: 16%
- Friends/Family said you ought to reduce use: 14%
- Driven vehicle while under influence: 9%
- Tried to reduce or stop without success: 7%
- Memory problems: 1%
- Problems such as arguments, fights, accident, bad grades: 1%

Percent “Fairly/Very Often”
Marijuana as “Medicine”

- Many persons have used marijuana other than smoking:
  - Pastries, candies, sweets, etc. (7%)
  - Teas, juices (3%)
  - Oils, butter, wax, etc. (1%)

- 2% have used it for a medical condition, including:
  - Asthma
  - Flu
  - Back problems
  - Headaches
  - General sickness
  - Pain
  - Stress
  - Diabetes
  - Calms them
Marijuana Policies

Opinions for Marijuana Laws and Policy

- Allow marijuana to be grown in limited amounts for households: 14%
- Allow small amounts of possession for personal use: 22%
- Allow marijuana to be used for religious purposes: 25%
- Allow tourists to use marijuana for medicinal purposes with permit: 47%
- Allow marijuana to be used for medicinal purposes: 56%
- Allow marijuana to be cultivated for scientific research: 59%
- Allow marijuana addicts who commit crimes to be put in program instead of prison: 62%

Percent “Completely Agreeing/Agreeing”
Cocaine

Perceived High Risk of Cocaine Use

- Using cocaine sometimes: 87%
- Using cocaine often: 92%
- Using crack sometimes: 88%
- Using crack often: 91%
Cocaine

- 1% indicated ever using cocaine
  - 2% males, 0.4% females
  - Average age of first use is 25 years
  - 0.05% are current users of cocaine

- Around 1% have ever used crack cocaine
  - 1% males, 0.5% females
  - Average age is also 25 years for first use
  - 0.03% are current users
Emerging Drugs
• Inhalants (glue, paint, varnish, gasoline)
  – 0.3% are lifetime users

• Grabba
  – 3% have used in their life
  – 22 years, average age of first use

• Beady/Bidi
  – 5% have used
  – 20 years, average first use age
• E-Cigarettes (hookah pens)
  – 2% lifetime users
  – 20 years

• Hookah Pipes (tobacco water pipes)
  – 2% lifetime users
  – 21 years

• Lean (sizzurp)
  – 2% lifetime users
  – 20 years
• Prescription Drugs (all less than 1%)
  – Tranquilizers 0.4% lifetime users
  – Stimulants 0.4%
  – Pain-Killers 0.6%
Drug Access

Percent with “Easy” Access to Illegal Drugs

- Marijuana: 49%
- Cocaine: 19%
- Ecstasy: 13%
- Crack Cocaine: 16%
Drug Access cont’d.

• Four out of ten (42%) have friends/ family members who take illegal drugs
  – Most know two or more

• 36% had a chance to try an illegal drug
  – Eight out of ten two or more times

• One out of ten (10%) answered “maybe” or “yes” they are curious to try an illegal drug
Drug Access cont’d.

Percent Offered Illegal Drugs at Least a Year Ago

- **Marijuana**: 14.7%
- **Cocaine**: 1.3%
- **Ecstasy**: 1%
- **Crack Cocaine**: 0.8%
Drug Use Problems

Users Experiencing Selected Consequences of Drug and Alcohol Use

- Driven a vehicle: 6.0
- Money problems: 4.6
- Arguments and fights: 4.3
- Memory loss: 3.0
- Trying in vain to stop: 2.6
- Performing poorly on test: 2.2
- Domestic problems: 2.1
- Police trouble: 1.8
- Taking advantage of someone sexually: 0.9
- Being taken sexual advantage of: 0.5
- Thinking about suicide: 0.3
- Attempting suicide: 0.1
- Self-inflicting injuries: 0.0

Percent “Sometimes/Fairly/Very Often”
Treatment
• 2% ever received treatment
  – Of these, a third within the past year
    • 9% for only alcohol
    • 66% for only drugs
    • 19% both alcohol and drugs
  – Most admitted in a rehabilitation centre
    • Average of 4 months

• 2% felt the need for treatment who did not get treatment
  – Not ready to stop using (most popular)
  – Don’t know where to get treatment
  – No transportation
  – Could not afford
  – Negative effect on job
Workplace Alcohol and Drug Policies

- 48% reported NO existence of special regulations at their job controlling substance use among employees
- 63% did NOT receive information about drug and alcohol prevention and use
- 63% reported NO programs for employees with substance use problems
Neighbourhood Activities

Users Experiencing Activities in Their Community

- Young persons loitering: 14
- Drug dealing: 8
- Taking drugs in public place: 7
- Shootouts and firearms violence: 5
- Breaking and entering: 5
- Armed robberies, muggings on street: 3
- Graffitti scribbling, property damage: 2

Percent “A Great Deal”
Perceptions of Drug Situation and Government Response

• Most (70%) believe drug use in The Bahamas has increased

• Around two out of three (64%) believe the drug situation will get worse

• 37% believe the drug issue is among important concerns of the government

• 3% know of drug prevention programs in their community

• 12% know the name of the country’s drug control agency

• 9% know the name of the country’s national drug prevention agency
Summary

Percent of Males and Females Who Ever Used

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Substance</th>
<th>Males</th>
<th>Females</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crack Cocaine</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tranquilizers</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Compared with 1991...

Percent of Selected Drugs Ever Used – Comparison with 1991 Prevalence Survey

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>1991</th>
<th>2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marijuana</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tranquilizers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Males are still more likely than females to use drugs

The most prevalent drugs continue to be:
- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Marijuana

Levels of alcohol and marijuana use remain the same

Compared with 1991...
Compared with 1991...

- Declining use of drugs:
  - Tobacco
  - Cocaine
  - Tranquilizers

- Cocaine use appears to be very low in the current survey
Implications

• While use of these drugs (TOBACCO, COCAINE, TRANQUILIZERS) appear to be declining, ongoing prevention messages need to be maintained and continuously strengthened.

• Workplace policies regarding drug and alcohol abuse need to be established and/or strengthened.
Implications

• There appear to be emerging drug trends
  – Bidi (5%)
  – Grabba (3%)
  – Lean/Cough syrup, Hookah Pipes, E-cigarettes (each 2%)

• While use of fairly new drugs are at a minimal level, due vigilance is needed to identify gateways and monitor any shifts in trends.
Implications

• With the relative ease of access to marijuana, there is an urgent need to increase drug prevention education about marijuana abuse and its long-term harmful health effects.

• Places where drugs are purchased are key locations to target when launching prevention messages.
Implications

• Vulnerable groups (e.g., those with friends and family who use drugs or neighbourhoods where drugs are used) need to be targeted for education and prevention.

• Abuse of prescription drugs does not appear to be a problem. However, as worldwide concern increases about prescription drug abuse, we must remain vigilant about local patterns of use.
Recommendations...

- These will come from the workshop discussions
Thank you!