A Review of Research Conducted by National Council on Drug Abuse

SUBSTANCE USE AMONG YOUTH IN JAMAICA

A Review of Research Conducted by National Council on Drug Abuse

Uki Atkinson – Research Analyst

NCDA Research Day

November 28, 2012
“Mek Wi Protect Wi Yutes From Substance Abuse”

Uki Atkinson, Research Analyst
National surveys:

- 2001 – National Household Survey
- 2006 - National School Survey (OAS/CICAD)
- 2010 – Global School Health Survey (GSHS) – PAHO
Community Based Surveys:

- Rapid Assessment Surveys – Parish profiles
- Special Projects data – Tek it to Dem Project
- Monitoring & Evaluation for Drug Prevention Programmes
Other Data:

- Narcotics Division – Drug Seizure Reports
- Treatment Centres – EPI SIDUC
Profile of Drug Use in Jamaica

- Most commonly used drugs: alcohol, marijuana, tobacco and crack/cocaine
- Alcohol is most common drug of use and abuse among adolescents and young adults
- Narrowing of the gender gap
Patterns of Substance Use Among Youth (2006)

(N=4,536)

- Alcohol: 65.8%
- Cigarettes: 22.2%
- Marijuana: 21.5%
- Inhalants: 25.5%

National School Survey, 2006
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Age of First Use of Substances

- Alcohol - 11.71 yrs
- Cigarettes - 11.80 yrs
- Marijuana - 12.90 yrs
Alcohol Use By Age Group (2006)

National School Survey, 2006

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Alcohol Use by Gender (2006)

National School Survey, 2006

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Alcohol Use in the Caribbean (2006)
Trends – Tobacco Use (GYTS)

Ever smoked

Cigarette smokers

Other tobacco products

Global Youth Tobacco Survey

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The prevalence of use of cigarettes & other tobacco products has increased:

- Smoking before 10yrs increased from 18.7% in 2006 to 20% in 2010
- Male use of cigarettes increased from 40.8% in 2006 to 47.4% in 2010
- Needing to smoke first thing in the morning increased from 5.9% in 2006 to 13.4% in 2010
Marijuana Use by Gender (2006)

National School Survey, 2006

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Implications

- Timely research to respond to emerging problems
- Increased allocation of resources to address issues among youth
- Targeted interventions among at risk youth – Drug prevention programmes
Research in the Pipeline

- National Household Survey – 2013
- National Student Survey – January 2013
- Prison Survey - 2013
Plans

- Link with academia
- Revive JADIN
- Establish CARIDIN
Thank You